

Diocesan Vocations and Support Services Collection, 15 May 2011

This collection is for the financial support of students studying for the priesthood and for the running of the various services that are provided at diocesan level for parishioners, parishes and priests.

Vocations. This year the diocese has four seminarians in Maynooth College: 1 from Laragh, 1 from Lurgan and 2 from USA. The diocese has to meet the tuition and accommodation costs. It costs €100,000 for this item alone.

The Permanent Diaconate. Five applicants are in their first year of preparation for the permanent Diaconate in Kilmore. The diocese pays for the cost of seminars and courses.

The Education Secretary provides advice and administrative services to primary school principals and boards of management in every parish throughout the diocese.

The Safeguarding Children Office provides courses to parishes and priests in safeguarding children and monitors practice in parishes to ensure that high standards of safety are maintained.

Adult Faith Formation team provides courses in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre and in parishes and pastoral areas to various groups involved in pastoral activities such as: pastoral councils, pastoral areas, readers, Eucharistic ministers. The courses include liturgy and faith formation.

Marriage Tribunal Services. This is based in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre. The service is available for parishioners who require marriage annulments.

Youth Ministry. Training for parish groups. Organising the Pope John Paul II Award. Organising participation in the World Youth Day.

Financial Services. An accountant is available to parish finance committees for advice and support. Currently finance committees are being assisted to maintain high standards of openness and accountability for compliance with charity legislation.

Diocesan Office. Provides administrative services relating to property and finance, marriage dispensations and marriages abroad, communications and website, circulars, pastoral letters, archives, professional advice, office supplies, maintenance etc.

Inservice and professional support for priests. Retreat, spiritual direction, theology course, further studies and occasional speakers.

National Services

Support to the various agencies of the Catholic Bishops' Conference including **Accord**, which provides marriage preparation courses and counselling, **Cúra**, which provides support for those who have crisis pregnancies, support for emigrants etc.

Please support the Collection generously