



Divine Word Missionaries

His Mission is Our Mission

Do You Feel Called To Be A Catholic Priest?

A journey through discernment and formation will be life changing. You will explore your inner most self while reaching out in faith to God to discover God's plan for you.

Do you know the differences between *religious priests* and *diocesan priests*?

Religious Priests

Often called order priests, religious priests can be assigned to any location and any ministry where their religious congregation is present. They profess vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience to their community. Their ministries support the charism of their individual congregation.

Diocesan Priests

Diocesan priests are responsible primarily to the bishop of a particular diocese, a specific geographical region of the church. Within this region, the priest usually serves in a parish, though he may be involved in other ministries like administration, communications, teaching and hospital or prison chaplaincy. Diocesan priests do not profess vows but promise chastity and obedience to their bishop.

Both religious and diocesan priests primarily perform sacramental ministry in addition to other ministries as they are assigned.

"For Divine Word Missionaries, interculturality is fundamental in our community life and it is a gift and a witness that we can also offer the world and the Church."

Fr. Akizou Kamina, SVD

CONTACT

His mission is our mission...is it yours?
Let's find out together!

 **800-553-3321**

 svdvocations@dwci.edu

 svdvocations.org

Journey to Priesthood

Your journey to become a Divine Word Missionary priest begins with discernment and formation, a process of personal reflection, prayer, and instruction.

 PRAY	 SELF-REFLECT	 ASSESS YOUR TALENTS
 TALK WITH OTHERS	 SEEK SPIRITUAL DIRECTION	 ENTER RELIGIOUS FORMATION

What Is Discernment?

Discernment is a personal and spiritual journey that allows you to discover and respond to God's call.

What are the Steps to Becoming an SVD Priest?

PRE-NOVITIATE FORMATION	Participate in prerequisite undergraduate education and early spiritual formation
NOVITIATE	Spend a year in prayer, reflection and study of consecrated religious life and the charism of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) with a special focus on discernment
FIRST VOWS	Profess temporary vows of poverty, chastity and obedience as a member of the Society of the Divine Word
THEOLOGY STUDIES	Live at the Divine Word Theologate in Chicago and study at the Catholic Theological Union while living together in community and working toward a Master of Divinity
CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION	Spend the summer after your first year of theological study participating in a program of Clinical Pastoral Education, which is generally in a hospital setting
CROSS-CULTURAL TRAINING PROGRAM (CTP)	Spend one to three years, after completing two years toward your Master of Divinity, embarking on a missionary assignment to experience what life will be like as a Divine Word Missionary and participating in a ministry that grounds you in your missionary vocation
CONTINUED STUDIES	Return to the Divine Word Theologate in Chicago to complete your Master of Divinity
PERPETUAL VOWS	Profess perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience as a Divine Word Missionary
ORDINATION	Participate in your Diaconate ordination and spend several months assisting in parish ministry as a transitional deacon before being ordained to the priesthood

CONTACT

Are you ready to speak to a Vocation Director?
We'd love to hear from you!

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Next Steps

If you want to learn more about Divine Word Missionaries or becoming a religious priest, **follow these steps:**



1 Call or Email Us

Directors are here to walk with you on your religious journey. Call 800-553-3321 or email svdvocations@dwci.edu.

2 Visit svdvocations.org

Learn more about the history, mission and charism of Divine Word Missionaries. Read member profiles to learn about their vocation stories and the variety of their ministries.

3 Visit dwci.edu

Explore the Divine Word College website to learn more about academics, admission, student life, and more.

4 Complete an Online Assessment

Visit [Vocation Match](#) to complete an online assessment to help pair your interests with various religious communities.

5 Learn About Other Available Options

If you're a young, Catholic man looking to learn more about priesthood and seminary formation, becoming a Catholic Missionary, or discernment, explore our other guides:

- [Brotherhood](#)
- [Seminary](#)
- [Missionary](#)
- [Discernment](#)

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