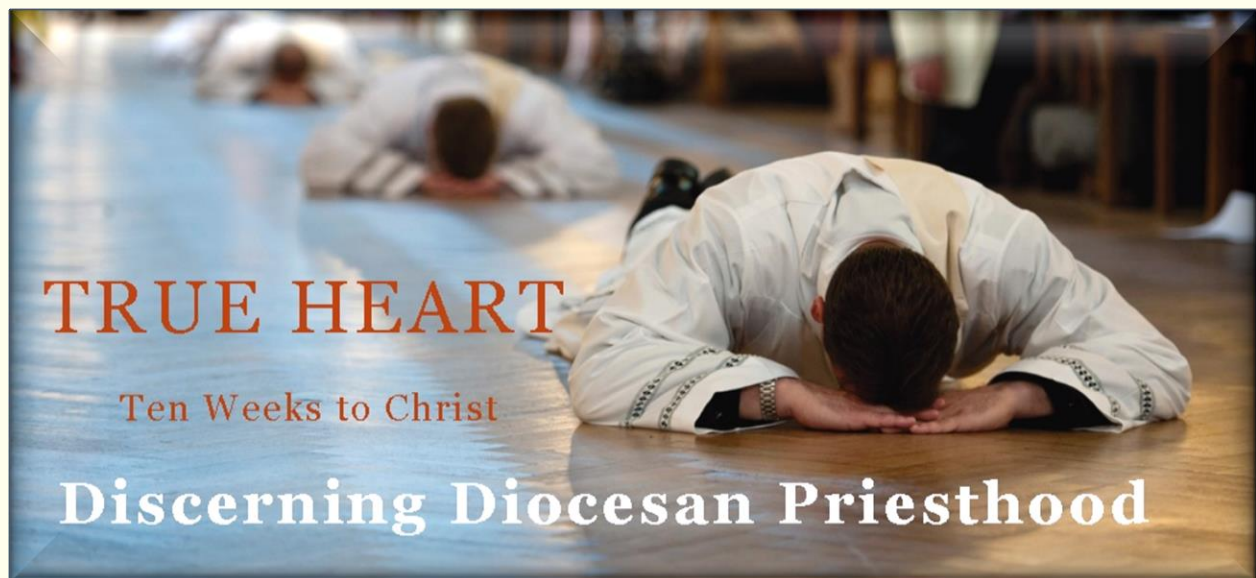


**HOW TO PERSONALIZE  
TRUE HEART  
DISCERNING DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD  
TEN-WEEK ON-LINE COURSE  
FOR YOUR DIOCESE**



Make Your Life A Sacred Story

## GOAL

To give vocation directors a program that builds an Archdiocesan-wide culture of accompaniment and support for fostering diocesan priestly vocations. At the core of the program are pastors, as cohort leaders. [Studies](#) show that 70% of current diocesan priests were invited by another diocesan priest to consider the vocation. TRUE HEART offers pastors a powerful and strategic way to mentor young men to foster those friendships. Also, with pastors leading men, a vocation director as overall coordinator, can be present across the diocese in a way never before possible. Also with TRUE HEART, vocation directors can run multiple cycles per year, reaching large numbers of young men in any diocese who have ever thought of being a diocesan priest with a program, support tools and friendships to help him decide. It is SSI's recommendation that at least two programs be run annually so that men know the program is constantly available. Those who work in men's ministry know that men are overlooked in much of the Church's A goal can be for a diocese to ensure every young man has the opportunity to grow spiritually, meet other engaged Catholics and develop a discerning community of men to accompany each other with a pastor. [Read the ARTICLE in the Seattle Archdiocesan NW Catholic.](#)

## THE COURSE

SSI took three years with major tests in both Latin America and the United States to build out the structure of the TRUE HEART course platform. The version of TRUE HEART is designed to help dioceses accompany men on a discernment path for a focused ten-week period.

[THE COURSE](#) for Discerning Diocesan Priesthood is on SSI's School Page for Teachable, our on-line platform for the course. [CLICKING THE LINK](#) will take you to the course page and you can see a sample of the curriculum and how the course is structured.

**The richness of the Ignatian methodologies employed by TRUE HEART will help men:**

- 1. Learn to pray with Scripture,**
- 2. Use Ignatian Imaginative/Contemplative exercises,**
- 3. Learn principles of Ignatian discernment,**
- 4. Learn how to be silent in the course of each day to allow the Spirit room to work,**
- 5. Learn how to examine one's conscience**
- 6. Provide an opportunity for a whole-life confession**

7. Promote Eucharistic Adoration for prayer times
8. Promote belief in the Real Presence with course lessons from Fr. Robert Spitzer
9. Participate in an 8-hour all-night prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament where each man can commit his life to Christ. This event is the capstone event for the 10-week course and is centered on Christ truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

## TESTING

Sacred Story Institute concluded two major tests of the program (Spring and Fall of 2023) with about 30 participants each time. Currently, the program is completely accessorized and ready for use by any diocese or vocation team.

### [WATCH FR. JUSTIN RYAN](#)

Seattle Archdiocesan Vocation Director, talks about TRUE HEART.





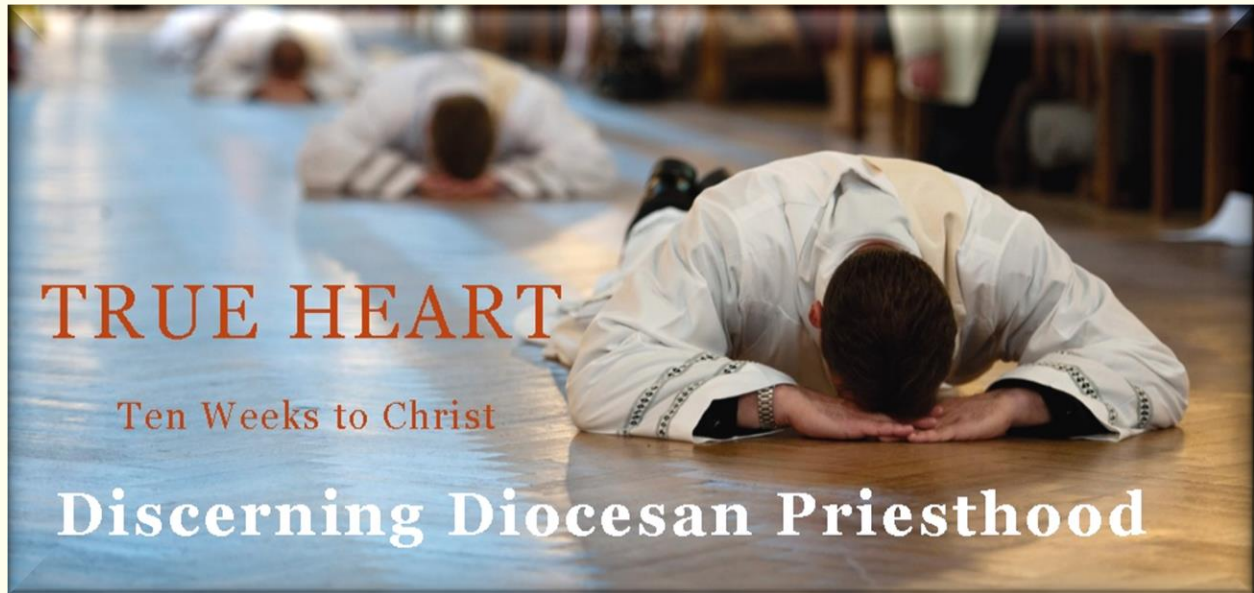


The First All-Night Vigil Group – Spring 2023



The Second All-Night Vigil Group – Fall 2023

# THE POWER OF PASTOR TESTIMONIAL VIDEOS IN TRUE HEART COURSE DISCERNING DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD



One of important features of the 10-week TRUE HEART curriculum are the priest testimonial videos.

These are in the curriculum M-F with one video each day. Each week is a single priest answering five short questions and each day's video takes one of the questions.

This structure allows participants to see and experience aspects of vocational discernment from local clergy.

The five questions are available on the next page with Seattle pastor, Fr. Carlos Orosco, answering them.

See the questions and he linked video responses on the following page.





1. What was the first experience you remember that opened you to the idea of a vocation as a diocesan priest?

[Sample Video-Fr. Carlos](#)

2. What experience solidified your desire to be a diocesan priest?

[Sample Video-Fr. Carlos](#)

3. What was the greatest consolation of your years in seminary training?

[Sample Video-Fr. Carlos](#)

4. Describe an experience of a “vocational crisis” prior to ordination that made you wonder if you had made a mistake and how you resolved it?

[Sample Video-Fr. Carlos](#)

5. What has been the single greatest grace of your life as a diocesan priest?

[Sample Video-Fr. Carlos](#)

## **THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO CUSTOMIZE TRUE HEART FOR YOUR DIOCESE.<sup>1</sup>**

1. First – The current bishop or vocation director can do a short 1–2-minute video. We will provide the specifications. This video can stand at the top of the curriculum to welcome the men from your diocese to the TRUE HEART journey.
2. Second – The current vocation director can do a short 1-2-minute introduction to each week of the 10-week journey, giving a short preview and an encouragement to stay engaged.
3. Third – The diocese can coordinate with SSI on the creation of a complete set of young and senior priest video testimonies. We will provide the specifications for filming and editing that can be done locally by the diocese. We will platform the videos on a unique version of TRUE HEART for your diocese.
4. Fourth – Any combination of the above options.

**CONTACT FR. BILL WATSON, S.J. FOR INFORMATION:**

**[admin-team@sacredstory.net](mailto:admin-team@sacredstory.net) 206-302-7630**

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<sup>1</sup> The cost associated with having your own unique course is a one-time fee of \$250. Any option that includes the platforming an entire set of priest testimony videos unique to the diocese would be a one-time fee of \$500.



## **SACRED STORY INSTITUTE PROGRAMS:**

Holiness cannot be measured but spiritual, holistic growth can. Fr. Watson's doctoral work sought to define six categories that could be measured with the goal of developing programs for SSI to help dioceses, faith communities and individuals invest in effective evangelization methodologies. Programs must demonstrate they are effective. All of SSI's programs have been researched for at least two years prior to launch, proven effective for spiritual growth and are holistic in approach. This approach can be understood through these 5 short videos:

STATISTICS DRIVEN:                      <https://vimeo.com/708022573>

REAL HOLINESS:                        <https://vimeo.com/708023076>

OUTCOMES BASED:                    <https://vimeo.com/708022766>

RESEARCH FOUNDATION:        <https://vimeo.com/708022706>

SANCTITY FOCUSED:                <https://vimeo.com/704942929>