

Should You Enter the Priesthood

James S. Gordon

Upbeat

V. 4, n.2, 1971

The decision of a young Orthodox Christian to enter the field of the priesthood is not an easy or impulsive one. The commitment to Christ upon entering the seminary is indeed a serious one. Many people will look to you, and ask you for guidance and help when you may not have the appropriate answer to offer them. In making your decision to enter into this field, you must approach it with fervor, open-mindedness and above all, deep and undeniable faith. Many moments throughout your years at the school, you will have to reach back for that faith and come up with a strong will and a reinsured love for God.

Many young men feel they have had a calling to serve the church in some capacity, so they begin considering the priesthood. They all too often become “scared off” by the social pressures, language barriers, and religious expectations that will affect their lives. Half the battle of taking the “one step closer to God”, is by assuring yourself before you depart for the seminary, that you will do the very best you can and you will strive to make the correct decision in accordance with the teachings of your Orthodox faith.

Before I left for the seminary, my priest told me something I would never forget. He said that there would be times when you’ll be depressed, upset and ready to quit and go home. He told me if this happened, to pack my bags and prepare to leave. Then, before I made my final decision, to wait 24 hours and clearly reflect upon the decision. I accepted this advice and surprisingly enough, used it on more than one occasion. I would recommend this measure to anyone that has any type of major decision to make in life. Wait it out, think it over, and if you still feel the same way, you have made the right decision!

I cannot truthfully discuss the reasons on why I chose to study for the priesthood. Many people have asked me why I have made the choice. The answer; I did not really know why, and if I did, I don’t think I’d continue. It is my sincere belief that “many are called, but few are chosen.” We all will know when we are called, but only He knows if we will be chosen to serve Him.