



### **Diocese of Victoria Welcomes New Seminarian**

**Victoria**—Bishop Brendan Cahill, of the Diocese of Victoria, will be at Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, in Hostyn, on Sunday, December 16, 2018 at the 8am Mass, to receive Richard Barfield into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. Bishop Cahill will accept him as the newest seminarian for the Diocese of Victoria. Barfield is a married, ordained minister, in the Church of the Nazarene, USA, and served as a Chaplain in the US Army for 17 years. He has felt the call to the Roman Catholic Church and the Roman Catholic Priesthood since 2012.

Bishop Cahill said, “I received the permission from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome, to receive Richard Barfield as a seminarian, in September. In their reply, I was instructed to require at least a three-year period of formation for Richard. He and his family will live in Hostyn and assist Rev. Daniel Kahlich, pastor at Holy Rosary, while attending St. Mary’s Seminary, in Houston.”

Married priests are rare in the Roman Catholic Church, but there is a provision in Canon Law that allows married clergy from certain Christian denominations to convert and become priests. How exactly does this work?

- After proper examination of a candidate by his Catholic bishop and with the permission of the Holy Father, he would be accepted as a seminarian and begin formation, which would include a year as a Catholic transitional deacon and then as a priest.
- If the former minister were single at the time of his ordination as a Catholic deacon and then priest, he would indeed take the vow of celibacy.
- If the married former minister were ordained as a Catholic deacon and then priest, he would be exempt by a special favor from the Holy Father of making the promise of celibacy; however, if he later became a widower, then he would be bound to a celibate lifestyle and could not remarry.
- The promise of celibacy is waived as a favor to those married clergy, given their particular circumstances and their desire to unite with the Catholic Church. However, the Holy Father has repeatedly affirmed the discipline of celibacy on Roman Catholic clergy of the Latin Rite.

The Diocese of Victoria welcomes him and his family to the diocese. Please continue to pray for all the seminarians and those in religious formation.