One of the major challenges facing the church today is how to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life effectively. Scouting can help in this area. Such programs as the one described below can be most productive. This seminary “live-in” should become an integral part of the Catholic committee’s vocational effort, and should be conducted annually in each Scouting council with help from the diocesan vocations director and selected members of Serra. Arrangements should be made for boys of Scout age to visit a minor seminary and boys of Explorer or high-school age to visit a major seminary.

The basic concept of this program is that a group of Scouts or Explorers interested in the priesthood or religious life or wanting to know more about it as a possible career are brought to a seminary for a weekend of orientation, dialogue, and participation. They mingle freely with the seminarians, asking questions as they go through the routine of a typical seminary day including participation in recreation and sports as scheduled. Sometime during the weekend, informal discussions should be held with seminarians, priests, and members of Serra emphasizing that the life of a priest does have meaning in the eighties.

The whole weekend should be scheduled in “low-key” with no fast talking, hard-selling vocation pitches. The atmosphere should be enjoyable and relaxed.

There should be no cost to the Scout or Explorer participating in this program. Recommend that funding be provided by the diocese, or through local Serra Clubs, Knights of Columbus, or other voluntary sources.

PROPOSED WEEKEND PROGRAM
(Revise to Fit Seminary Schedule)

Friday Evening: Arrive-Get Settled-Orientation

Saturday: Mass-breakfast-get acquainted-attend classes (if scheduled-lunch-free time-sports-dialogue-supper-free time-discussion period-cracker barrel

Sunday: Mass-breakfast-questions and answers-lunch-good-byes-depart

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION MATERIAL

Present a true picture of the priest – what he is and what he does. He is another Christ. He makes himself available to his parishioners. He is also an educator, a technician, a developer of projects to help people help themselves.

Mass
Confession
Convert classes
Administrator
Teacher
Missionary work
Marriage instruction
Visits the sick and shut-ins
Counsels teenagers and others
Gets involved in social-action projects
Concern for the poor and oppressed
Many, many other areas of involvement
Youth ministry

Show that the church needs leaders now-men and women who are willing to go out to the highways and byways and marketplace, to turn people from unhappy ways of indifference and despair toward productive lives filled with meaning and love.

Show young people of today that the church is changing, that the priesthood and religious life are a solid vehicle for bringing their innate goodness and God’s love to all people.

Some people do a lot of talking. The priesthood might be your chance to be a real revolutionary-to turn words into work, ideas into action.

The accent is on relevance. The church needs men and women who want to use their lives to help others. To this kind of dedication, the church hopes to add a strong spiritual formation to give the lives of generous young souls a Christian point and perspective. The hoped-for result is a priest, sister, or brother who will bring God’s message of love to others by serving and helping them as well as by a strong Christ-rooted personal witness.

Find the right direction for your life and help others find the right direction for theirs. We’re looking for hardcore human beings to serve as priests.

Don’t keep the faith – share it.

Who’s going to bring the Blacks and Whites together? You can, as a priest, if you are big enough for the job.

Don’t think the trouble with God id God. The trouble with God is people. If you have something to say about God, we’ll give you a lifetime to say it—as a priest.

Cover seminary entrance requirements, how to apply, obligations, curriculum, tuition costs, and other items of interest.