

# REACHING OUT WEDNESDAYS

## Topic: Acceptance of HIV Positive Men

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The applicable norm in the USCCB Program of Priestly Formation, 5th edition, is #65: "The admission process by the diocese or religious community must include a thorough physical examination to ensure that applicants possess the good health necessary for seminary training and priestly ministry. This exam should include HIV and drug testing."

Diocese of Fall River: We ask the men who apply here to get tested for HIV. The Diocese would not necessarily reject the application of a man who is HIV positive. However, the Diocese would want to know what provisions it might need to make for the eventual care required if the man's condition became acute and he needed involved medical care, etc.

Archdiocese of Cincinnati: We do not accept HIV positive candidates in Cincinnati.

Diocese of Fresno: We screen for this and other STDs as part of the physical required for acceptance as a seminarian. I have not had the case arise of a positive result and so have not developed a response.

Diocese of Phoenix: We test for HIV but have never had one test positively.

Diocese of St. Augustine: The Diocese of St. Augustine does request HIV testing in the mandatory medical examination of our applicants before acceptance. Should the seminarian be HIV positive, he would not be accepted.

Diocese of Norwich: In our diocesan application for sponsorship one of the requirements is a full medical report/check up be received. Within the form that we have an applicant give to their doctor there are two areas through which the HIV virus and knowledge of if a candidate has HIV can be discovered. Listed below are those two items; first a general question regarding serious diseases or illnesses one is aware of in their medical history, the other is a list of Required laboratory tests of which a copy of the results is to be attached.

1. Have you ever had any serious diseases or illnesses? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
If yes, please give date (s), duration and remaining effects, if any.
2. Laboratory studies (Please attach full copy of results)
  1. CBC
  2. Chemistry Profile (e.g.,SMA)
  3. Blood Examination
  4. Syphilis Serology
  5. Hepatitis Serologies
  6. HIV Anitbody
  7. Urinalysis

Archdiocese of Boston: We require the test and at this point a positive result would most likely indicate a negative acceptance.