

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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SEVEN NEW SEMINARIANS AND A NEW WEBSITE FOR THE ARCHBISHOP'S SEMINARY

Earlier this week, seven young men started out on the period of formation for the Diocesan Priesthood at the Archbishop's Seminary in Rabat. These join the other 30 young people who are already undergoing formation towards priestly ordination in its several phases at the institution.

Within this new group of seminarians, two belong to St Sebastian's parish, Qormi, two come from Mosta whilst three hail from Dingli, Naxxar and Kalkara, their average age being 21 years.

In view of the start of a new year at the Archbishop's Seminary, which coincides with that which Pope Benedict XVI has dedicated to priests, the Archbishop's Seminary is revamping its website that can be logged into using the address www.seminary.org.mt

Through this web-portal, the Seminary would like to offer:

1. a view into the life of the Seminary as regards to the formation that is continuously being given
2. assistance to individuals interested in exploring the calling being put to them by God
3. a venue facilitating dialogue and hospitality in accordance with the Seminary's mission as a living part of the Church and a way to improve its formative initiatives.

At this moment in time, the Seminary is also launching the *Friends of the Seminary* group. This umbrella organisation incorporates all the persons making up its "extended family" whose services include prayer, support in the kitchen, the general upkeep of the Seminary chapels and financial backing.

The rector of the Archbishop's Seminary, Fr Jimmy Bonnici, commented that "As fire cannot but burn, the Church would be failing itself if it did not communicate. This communication is not limited to information – before anything else, it communicates life."

He went on to say that "these initiatives are part of a programme to implement the Seminary's goal as explained in the website: *To grow as a Christian community that contributes towards the formation of persons of integrity and faith who offer themselves to serve in the contemporary Church as presbyters.*"

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