This paper examines the secular reasons of college seminarians for entering diocesan priestly formation in two dioceses in Visayas and Mindanao. The perceived division between the spiritual and secular is problematized in order to bring out the complexity of drivers for considering priestly vocation. Results from self-administered questionnaire of 40 respondents show that some of the stereotypes of priests documented 50 years ago still prevails at present and are reflected in the secular reasons for entering priestly formation. Reasons cited by respondents are categorized into themes revolving around social recognition, social involvement, social influence, and social vehicle for mobility. These reasons are connected to, and have even reinforced, “spiritual” reasons for undertaking priestly formation. Thus, secular reasons are equally important in understanding the entrance of young Filipinos to diocesan priestly formation, as well as for promoting priestly vocation among prospective candidates.

Keywords: Diocesan priestly formation, spirituality, religiosity, secular reasons, diocesan and religious priests
The Calling: A Seminarian Is Installed as Lector (Photo By: John Harvey Bagos)