

# Update From Allen Hall Diocesan Seminary

As the new programme year began in September, Allen Hall seminary in Chelsea has once again, seen an abundance of candidates. The latest intake of seminarians, discerning their vocation, is the highest it has been in many years.

So great has the intake been, that we have even found ourselves converting offices into bedrooms to make room. No fewer than 24 new men have joined us, mostly, of course, from Westminster Diocese, but from other dioceses around the country too, as well as from religious orders and from as far afield as Guyana in South America. In total, we have 32 men on track in various stages, studying towards priesthood.

This is greatly encouraging for us all and makes for a vibrant and diverse community. Heartening for all of us, too, have been the improvements that we have been able to make to the building thanks to the Growing in Faith campaign.



Our old library, with its leaking roof and collapsed ceiling, has been simply but beautifully renovated. Our entrance hall and ground floor, more or less untouched for 30 years, with its old industrial flooring stained and with holes, now has a dignity worthy of the building and what we do here.

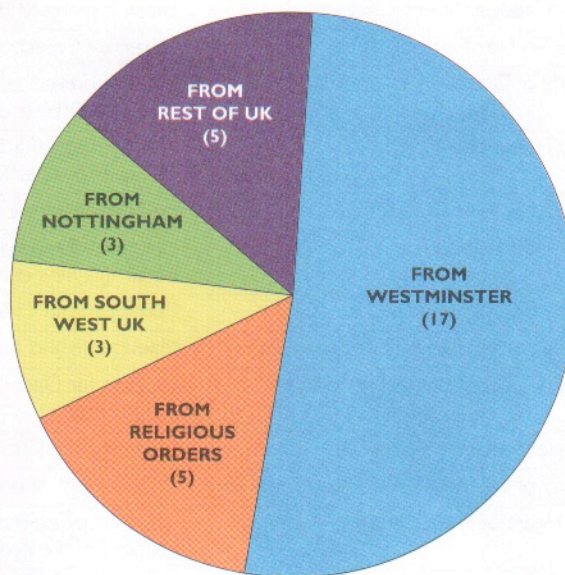
The chapel renovation will be complete by December, when our first ever permanent altar will be consecrated by Cardinal Nichols.

Finally, we have begun the planning process to replace our rotting portakabin-style classrooms, which are practically unusable as the cold and wet weather of winter approaches. This process involves approval after consultation with the borough, other authorities and neighbours, and we also need to measure the cost-effectiveness of repair versus demolition and procurement of modern pre-fabricated structures available.

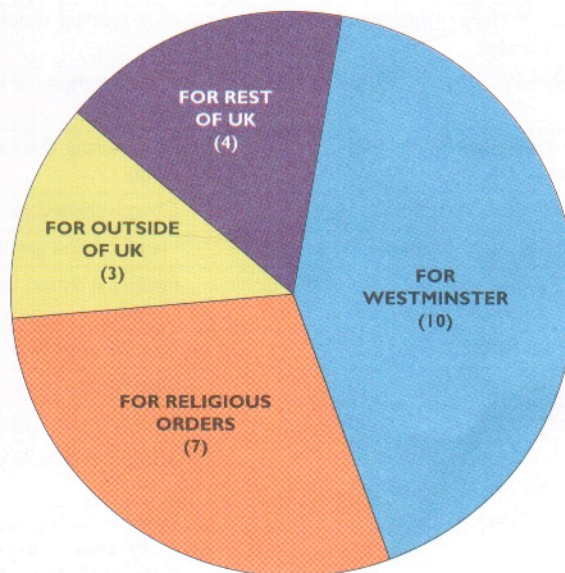
There will always more to do in an old building such as this, gradually bringing the fabric and our facilities up to modern standards, for example, we shall shortly have to replace our ageing boilers. Many other finishes, and the furnishings, need attention and upgrading.

We are always moved by the depth of support that we receive from the parishes and people of the Diocese, and are enormously encouraged and grateful.

Currently in Residence (33)



2015-16 Admissions (24)



## Ordinations in 2015

- Five new Priests
- Six new Deacons

