

More youths seek religious vocation

CALGARY (CP) — A growing number of disillusioned youth are seeking a more meaningful life through religious vocations, a religious education teacher says.

"The tide has turned ... and there's a growing interest," said Rev. Fred Cahill, who teaches religion at a local high school.

He said many young people are reluctant to talk about their interest in a religious vocation for fear of being misunderstood.

"It's like marriage," he said. "They're a little cautious until they see that the path is fairly clear."

Doug Pruden, 17, who is thinking of becoming a Roman Catholic priest, said the materialistic values of society turned him toward the church.

"I was looking at things to do and I saw what they all had in common—money," he said. "And I looked at the people around me—their lives weren't meaningful or content."

Only 12 priests have

been ordained here in the last 10 years, but 11 men from the Calgary diocese now are studying in seminaries. This compares with two or three a decade ago.

Rev. William Trienkens, a high school chaplain, said he actually gets worried when a young man says he wants to become a priest.

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