Prot. N. 20153344

His Excellency
The Most Rev. JOSEPH E. KURTZ
Archbishop of Louisville
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops,
3211 Fourth Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017-1194
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Your Excellency,

I hasten to thank you for your kind letter of 16 September last, whereby you present a request for the renewal for a further quinquennium of the recognitio of the Program of Priestly Formation, the Ratio Nationalis for priestly formation in the United States of America.

I recall the consideration of this question in the course of Your Excellency’s recent visits to this Congregation with the Presidency of the Episcopal Conference. In accord with the approach generally agreed upon in that context, the Congregation notes that the matter has been duly considered by the various bodies associated with Seminary formation with an interest in the question, as outlined in the letter of His Excellency, the Most Rev. Michael Burbidge, Bishop of Raleigh, Chairman of the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. This Dicastery is in agreement with the wisdom of extending the recognitio for a further quinquennium, during which the document in question can be revised with the customary thoroughness in the light of the revised Ratio Fundamentalis when this document is published.

This Congregation, therefore, is pleased to grant the aforementioned request, and, with this letter, hereby approves ad alterum quinquennium the fifth edition of the Program of Priestly Formation.

I avail myself of the occasion to renew my sentiments of highest esteem and best wishes, as I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Beniamino Card. Stella
Prefect

* Jorge Carlos Patrón Wong
Archbishop-Bishop Emeritus of Papantla
Secretary for Seminaries