THE INSTITUTE FOR SEMINARY FORMATORS 2017

The USCCB and Seminary Formation
USCCB Structure

- **Officers**
  - Cardinal Dinardo, President
  - Archbishop José H. Gomez
  - Archbishop Dennis N. Schnurr, Treasurer
  - Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, Secretary

- **4 Management Committees**
- **16 Programmatic Committees**
- **14 Subcommittees**
- **4 Task Forces**
Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations (CCLV)

Committee
- Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Chairman
- Archbishop Samuel Aquila
- Archbishop John C. Wester
- Bishop Earl Boyea
- Bishop Arturo Cepeda
- Bishop James F. Checchio
- Bishop Thomas Daly
- Bishop Michael F. Olson
- Bishop Charles C. Thompson

Secretariat
- Fr. Ralph O’Donnell, Executive Director
- Fr. Luke Ballman, Associate Director
The CCLV Committee Mandate

Diaconate

Priestly Life and Ministry

Consecrated Life

Vocations and Priestly Formation
CCLV Consulting Organizations

- **Clergy**
  - NADD
  - NFPC
  - NOCERCC
  - ANSH
  - Vicars for Clergy

- **Vocations**
  - NCDVD
  - NRVC
  - SERRA

- **Consecrated Life**
  - CMSM/CMSWR/LCWR
  - US Association of Consecrated Virgins
  - US Conference of Secular Institutes
  - Vicars for Religious
CCLV Collaborative Organizations

Clergy
- Treatment Facilities
  - St. Luke Institute
  - St. John Vianney Center
  - Guest House

Priestly Formation
- CMSM Formation Committee
- IPF
- NACTS
- NACS
- Sulpicians

Consecrated life
- Commission on Religious Life and Ministry
Seminary Enrollment 2016–2017

- **College:**
  - 1,395
  - 1,248 (2004-2005)*
  - 1,460 (2010-2011)**

- **Theology:**
  - 3,405
  - 3,114 (1997-1998)*
  - 3,723 (2011-2012)**

* = Lowest

** = Most recent higher enrollment
Seminary Enrollment Trends: 1968-2016

- Theologate
- College Seminary
- High School Seminary
USCC Guidelines for Receiving Pastoral Ministers

- To assist with, developing, reviewing and implementing diocesan & seminary policies & procedures
- Provides basic principles in 7 sections
- Presentations available on line
CCLV Guidelines on the Use of Psychology in Seminary Admissions

- To assist with, developing, reviewing and implementing diocesan & seminary policies
- Provides basic principles
  - Psychology
  - Canon Law
  - Civil Law
- Webinar for psychologists
The PPF and You.
Program of Priestly Formation
5th ed. > 6th ed.

- Schedule
  - Recognitio expires November 2020

- Change of Competence
  - From Congregation for Catholic Education to the Congregation for Clergy
  - *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis: The Gift of the Priestly Vocation* (December 8, 2016)

- CCLV Working Group
  - To be completed for a vote by Nov. 2019.
Prescriptive norms for the admission and formation of all seminarians in the United States (diocesan and religious, Latin & Eastern Churches) (Cf. 6)

- Not suggestions, but canonically binding norms
Sources of the PPF 5th Ed.

- Vatican II
- *Lumen gentium*
- *Christus Dominum*
- *Presbyterorumordininis*
- *Optatamtotius*
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- *Pastores dabo vobis*
- *Seminary Visitations*
Sources for the PPF 6th Ed.

- New documents from Rome
- Consultation with collaborative organizations
- NCDVD
- NACS
- NACTS
- RECTORS
- Causes / Context
- New Ratio: “The Gift of the Priestly Vocation”
Structure of PPF

Introduction & Conclusion with 7 Sections
- Nature & Mission of Priests
- Life of Priests
- Vocations & Admissions
- Formation
- Seminary Governance, Administration and Faculty Administration
- Ongoing Formation
- Addendum on readmission
Format of PPF

- Narrative Overview
- Specific Norms
Format of PPF

- Narrative: PPF ns. 32-41
- Norms: PPF ns. 42-67
Discernment of Vocations

A divine and ecclesial dialogue

Various Responsibilities in the Church for Vocations

Church, family, bishop, presbyterate, vocation director, seminary, seminarians
Vocations & Admissions: Narrative

- Admissions Process
- Purpose
- Principle of gradualism
- Minimum standards
- Modern context
- Responsibility of bishop & vocation director
- From admissions to formation
- Thresholds of sexuality
Vocations and Admissions: Norms

- Develop/review policy and follow it
- Both the diocese and seminaries have admissions processes (n.39)
- Benefit of doubt — Church (n.42)
- Seminary not the place for therapy
- Obligation of applicant to give evidence of a vocation
Pre-theology

Two years for all four dimensions of formation, not just philosophy (n. 60)

Screening process

Interviews

Letters of reference

Records (cf. 63, 64, 66)

Medical & Psych evals. (n.47, 52 & 65)

Criminal background checks
Vocations and Admissions: Norms

- Vocation Directors must give results of a complete screening process in a timely manner to seminaries (n. 48)
- Culturally diverse applicants
- Bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution
Vocations and Admissions: Norms

- Guidelines for psychologist
- Confidential but shared information
- Dysfunctional family background
Vocations and Admissions: Norms

- Open & frank discussion of life experiences
- Evidence of having lived in continence for two years
- Evidence of or inclination toward criminal sexual activity with minor
- Candidates with same-sex experiences and/or inclinations
Vocations and Admissions: Norms

- Right to privacy & sharing of sensitive information with formation personnel
- Debt, college and otherwise
- Sense of entitlement
- Recent converts
Requirement to consult all previous formation programs (n. 61)

2-year period after dismissal from previous formation program (n. 62)

Purpose of these procedural norms:
- Full disclosure
- Confidential exchange
- Consultation
Readmission of Former Sems: Norms & Addendum A

- Requirement of a written statement at the time of departure from bishop or rector that relevant information will be shared if the former seminarian attempts enrollment in another diocese or seminary
- If dismissed, no application for two years
Diocesan & seminary application forms must include a question about previous applications / acceptance / rejection / dismissal

At time of reapplication, seminarian must permit release of all relevant information

Contact in written form, and if possible, oral interviews
Written notes of interview maintained in applicant’s permanent file.

A record of calls or inquiries received regarding a former seminarian should be maintained.

Even if an institution or person responsible is not contacted, all relevant information should be disclosed.
If the bishop accepts a former seminarian, he must write a formal letter to the seminary where he is sending the seminarian, copying the bishop(s) or major superior(s) of any previous diocese / religious institute.

- Applicant has been evaluated according to Addendum A
- Including interviews with prior officials
- It is his prudential judgment that the applicant is now fit for studies
- No admission without this letter
Rev. Ralph B. O’Donnell
Executive Director
Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations
www.usccb.org/priestlyformation