The USCCB & Vocations

Rev. Ralph O’Donnell
Executive Director
Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations
Order of Presentation

Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations

CCLV Secretariat

Program of Priestly Formation, 5th edition
USCCB Structure

• **Officers**
  • Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, President
  • Archbishop José Gomez, Vice President
  • Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, Treasurer
  • Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Secretary

• 4 Management Committees
• 17 Programmatic Committees
• 17 Subcommittees
• 2 Task Forces
Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations (CCLV)

• **Committee**
  - Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.Ss.R., Chairman
  - Bishop James Checchio, Chairman-elect
    - + 6 Bishops
    - Bishop Thomas Daly

• **Consultants (5)**
  - Mrs. Rose Sullivan, NCDVD

• **Secretariat**
  - Rev. Ralph O’Donnell, Executive Director
  - Rev. Luke Ballman, Associate Director
  - Rev. Daniel Hanley, Associate Director (as of Dec. 15, 2019)
  - Ms. Casey Brusnahan, Staff Assistant
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

• **Priestly Formation**
  - NACS
  - NACTS
  - IPF

• **Consecrated Life**
  - CMSM
  - CMSWR
  - LCWR
  - USCSI
  - Vicars for Religious
CCLV Collaborative Organizations

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

- **Vocations**
  - J.S. Paluch
  - Labouré Society

- **Consecrated Life**
  - Commission on Religious Life and Ministry
CCLV Committee Strategic Priorities (2017-2020)

• Foster a Stronger Culture of Vocations in Youth / Young Adult and Campus Ministry

• Increase the Ethnic Diversity of New Vocations, especially among Hispanics
CCLV Annual Projects

- **Vocations Events**
  - National Vocation Awareness Week – Nov. 3-9, 2019
  - World Day of Prayer for Vocations – May 3, 2020
  - World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests – June 19, 2020

- **Surveys**
  - Ordination Class
  - Profession Class
  - Post-Ordination Survey of Permanent Deacons
CCLV Online Resources

www.usccb.org/vocations

www.usccb.org/priesthood

www.usccb.org/diaconate

www.usccb.org/consecratedlife
State of Vocations

- Seminary Enrollments
- Culture of Vocations
- CCLV Surveys
  - Profession Class of 2018
  - Ordination Class of 2019
  - A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate (2018-2019)
Seminary Enrollment Trends (1968-2019)
Seminary Enrollment (2018-2019)

• **College**
  • 1,289 (2018-2019)
  • 1,248 (2004-2005)*
  • 1,460 (2010-2011)**

• **Pre-Theology**
  • 845 (2018-2019)
  • 712 (2017-2018)
  • 704 (2016-2017)

• **Theology**
  • 3,369 (2018-2019)
  • 3,114 (1997-1998)*
  • 3,723 (2011-2012)**

*Lowest enrollment
**Most recent higher enrollment
Personal Encounter: A Key to Promoting a Culture of Vocations
“Persons always live in relationship. We come from others, we belong to others, and our lives are enlarged by our encounter with others. Even our own knowledge and self-awareness are relational; they are linked to others who have gone before us: in the first place, our parents, who gave us our life and our name. . .The same thing holds true for faith, which brings human understanding to its fullness. Faith’s past, that act of Jesus’ love which brought new life to the world, comes down to us through the memory of others — witnesses — and is kept alive in that one remembering subject which is the Church.”

Lumen Fidei n. 38
CCLV Recent Surveys

• Profession Class of 2018

• Ordination Class of 2019

• Permanent Diaconate Study (2018-2019)
Ordination Class of 2019: Encouraging Trends for Vocation Awareness

• 53% were active in a parish youth group
• 30% were active in College Campus Ministry or Newman Center
• 53% served as a Lector
• 75% participated in Eucharistic Adoration
• 47% active in Bible Study/ Prayer Group
• 16% participated in World Youth Day
• 52% attended a Come and See Weekend
### Encouragement

#### Profession Class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Both %</th>
<th>Women %</th>
<th>Men %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish priest</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
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<tr>
<td>Father</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Parishioner</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher/Catechist</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Minister</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Minister</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
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#### Ordination Class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Both %</th>
<th>Religious %</th>
<th>Diocesan %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher/Catechist</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Religious Sister</td>
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## Discouragement

### Profession Class

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<td>Mother</td>
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<td>Teacher</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priest / other clergy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colleague/coworker</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priest / other clergy</td>
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<td>Someone else</td>
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<td>&lt;1</td>
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The PPF & Vocations Ministry

www.usccb.org/priestlyformation
Program of Priestly Formation, 5th Edition

• Prescriptive norms for the admission and formation of all seminarians in the United States (diocesan and religious, Latin & Eastern Churches) (Cf. 6)

• Approved by the body of Bishops and granted renewal of recognitio by the Congregation for the Clergy in 2015
Sources of the PPF

- Vatican II
  - *Lumen gentium*
  - *Christus Dominum*
  - *Presbyterorum ordinis*
  - *Optatam totius*
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- *Pastores dabo vobis*
- Seminary Visitations
PPF, 6th edition


• Consultation with Collaborative Organizations

• CCLV Committee drafting process for the PPF 6th edition
Structure of the 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
Vocations & Admissions

• Narrative: nos. 32-41

• Norms: nos. 42-67
Vocations & Admissions: Narrative

• Discernment of Vocations
  • A divine and ecclesial dialogue

• To Nurture & Support Vocations
  • Church, family, bishops, 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 & Admissions: Norms

• Develop/review policy and follow it
• Both the diocese and seminary have admissions processes (no. 39)
• Benefit of doubt—Church
• Seminary not the place for therapy
• Obligation of applicant to give evidence of a vocation
Vocations & Admissions: Norms

• Pre-theology
  • Two years for all four dimensions of formation, not just philosophy (no. 60)

• Screening process
  • Interviews
  • Letters of reference
  • Records (nos. 63, 64, 66)
  • Medical & Psych Evaluations (nos. 47, 52, 65)
  • Criminal background checks
Vocations & Admissions: Norms

• Vocation Directors must give results of a complete screening process in a timely manner to seminaries (no. 48)

• Culturally diverse applicants

• Bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution
Vocations & Admissions: Norms

• Guidelines for psychologist

• Confidential but shared information

• Dysfunctional family background
Vocations & 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 & Admissions: Norms

- Right to privacy & sharing of sensitive information with formation personnel
- Debt, college and otherwise
- Sense of entitlement
- Recent converts
Readmission of Former Seminarians: Norms & Addendum A

- Requirement to consult all previous formation programs (no. 61)

- 2-year period after dismissal from previous formation program (no. 62)

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

- Diocesan & seminary application forms must include questions about previous applications / acceptance / rejection / dismissal

- At time of reapplication, seminary must permit release of all relevant information

- Contact in written form, and if possible, oral interviews
Readmission of Former Seminarians: Norms & Addendum A

• 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
Readmission of Former Seminarians: Norms & Addendum A

• 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 w/o this letter
Guidelines for Use of Psychology in Seminary Admissions

- Suggested Components of a Psychological Assessment
- Contraindications for Use by Psychologists
- Desired Qualities of the Psychological Professional
- Privacy/Confidentiality/Record Keeping
- The Guidelines are available for purchase and in readable form on USCCB.org.
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