

# The Program of Priestly Formation

Presented by the Secretariat of Clergy,  
Consecrated Life and Vocations



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# Prayer for Healing

Almighty and most loving God,  
through your Son  
your compassion brought healing to  
many.

We ask for your healing once more  
for all who have been profoundly  
wounded by abuse,  
especially those who have been  
hurt by your ministers.

In your goodness,  
we ask for the grace  
to be a source of healing  
to all who have been abused  
and to be ever vigilant  
in protecting all your people.

Grant, we pray,  
our prayers for healing and  
forgiveness,  
for we ask them through your Son,  
Christ our Lord. Amen



# Cardinal DiNardo Statement – 8/1/18

- ▶ “The accusations against Archbishop Theodore McCarrick reveal a grievous moral failure within the Church. They cause bishops anger, sadness, and shame; I know they do in me. They compel bishops to ask, as I do, what more could have been done to protect the People of God. Both the abuses themselves, and the fact that they have remained undisclosed for decades, have caused great harm to people’s lives and represent grave moral failures of judgement on the part of Church leaders.
- ▶ These failures raise serious questions. Why weren’t these allegations of sins against chastity and human dignity disclosed when they were first brought to Church officials? Why wasn’t this egregious situation addressed decades sooner and with justice? What must our seminaries do to protect the freedom to discern a priestly vocation without being subject to misuse of power?



- ▶ Archbishop McCarrick will rightly face the judgement of a canonical process at the Holy See regarding the allegations against him, but there are also steps we should be taking as the Church here in the United States. Having prayed about this, I have convened the USCCB Executive Committee. This meeting was the first of many among bishops that will extend into our Administrative Committee meeting in September and our General Assembly in November. All of these discussions will be oriented toward discerning the right course of action for the USCCB. This work will take some time but allow me to stress these four points immediately.
- ▶ First, I encourage my brother bishops as they stand ready in our local dioceses to respond with compassion and justice to anyone who has been sexually abused or harassed by anyone in the Church. We should do whatever we can to accompany them.

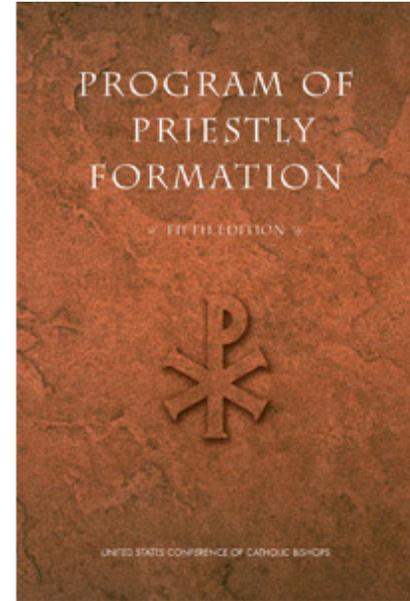


- ▶ Second, I would urge anyone who has experienced sexual assault or harassment by anyone in the Church to come forward. Where the incident may rise to the level of a crime, please also contact local law enforcement.
- ▶ Third, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will pursue the many questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick's conduct to the full extent of its authority; and where that authority finds its limits, the Conference will advocate with those who do have the authority. One way or the other, we are determined to find the truth in this matter.
- ▶ Finally, we bishops recognize that a spiritual conversion is needed as we seek to restore the right relationship among us and with the Lord. Our Church is suffering from a crisis of sexual morality. The way forward must involve learning from past sins.
- ▶ Let us pray for God's wisdom and strength for renewal as we follow St. Paul's instruction: 'Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect' (Romans 12:2)."



# Program of Priestly Formation

- ▶ 5<sup>th</sup> edition 2006
- ▶ Normative document for priestly formation in the United States
- ▶ Document of the USCCB
- ▶ *Recognitio* renewed by the Congregation for the Clergy in 2015



# The Application Process

- ▶ Autobiography
- ▶ Medical assessment
- ▶ Psychological assessment
- ▶ Interviews
- ▶ Background checks



# The Applicant

- ▶ Overall personal balance
- ▶ Good moral character
- ▶ Love for the truth
- ▶ Proper motivation



# Houses of Formation

- ▶ College seminary
- ▶ Pre-theology
- ▶ Theology



# Dimensions of Formation

- ▶ Intellectual
- ▶ Spiritual
- ▶ Pastoral
- ▶ Human



# Human Formation

- ▶ Affective maturity
- ▶ Self-awareness to self-knowledge to self-gift
- ▶ Gradualism
- ▶ Integration



# Relational Skills

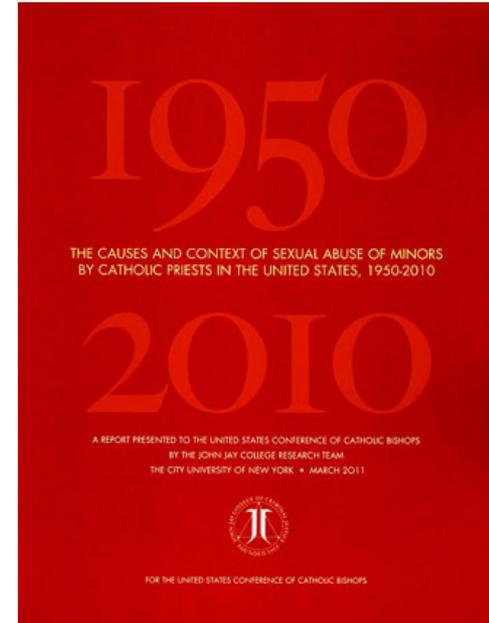
- ▶ Pastoral charity
- ▶ Boundaries

*Done right, healthy boundaries are comfort food for the soul.*



# Continuing Education

- ▶ John Jay College *Causes and Context Study*
- ▶ *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*
  - Article 12
  - Article 17



# Questions?



# Contact Us

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