

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

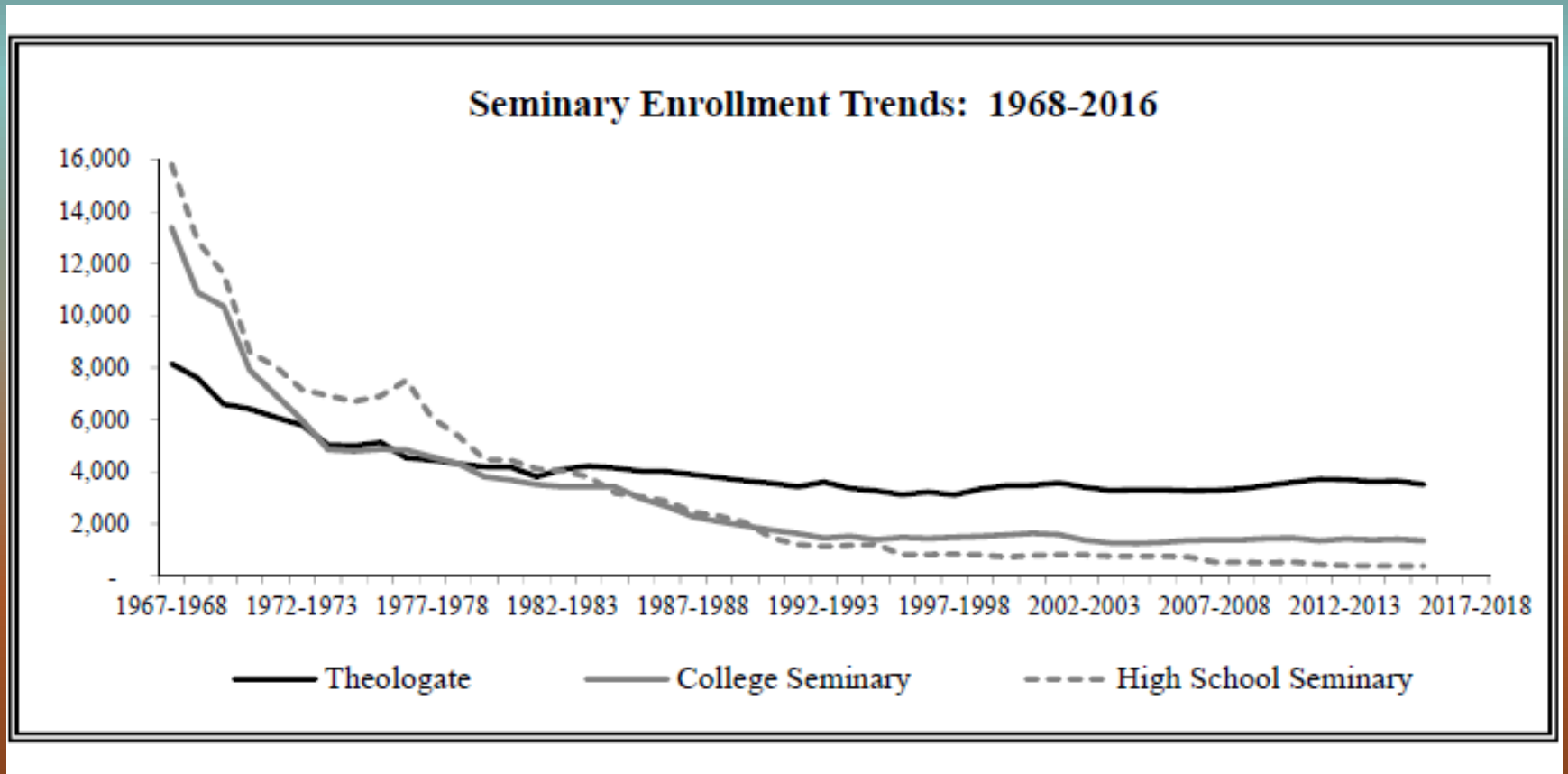
Seminary Enrollment 2016-2017

▣ College:	1,395
	1,248 (2004-2005)*
	1,460 (2010-2011)**
▣ Theology:	3,405
	3,114 (1997-1998)*
	3,723 (2011-2012)**

* = Lowest

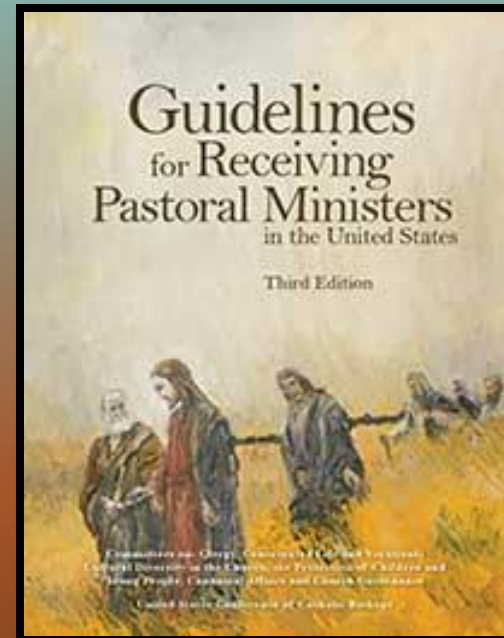
** = Most recent higher enrollment

Seminary Enrollment Trends

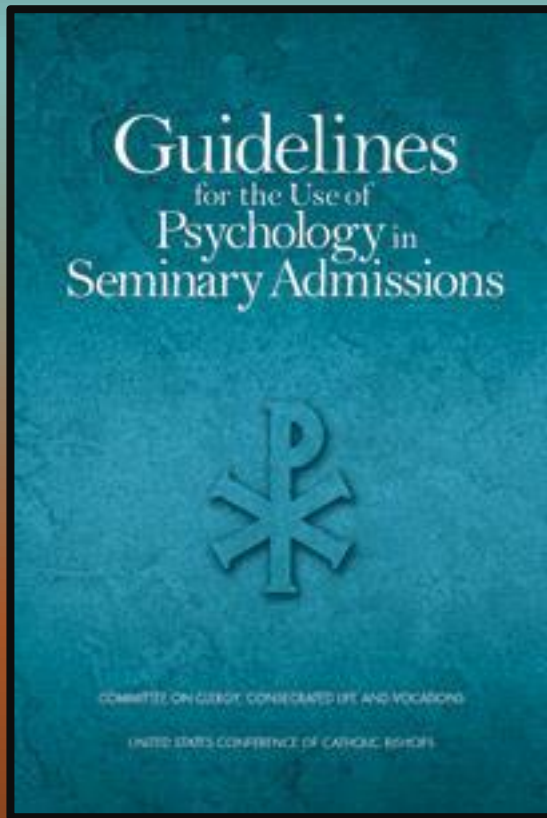


USCC Guidelines for Receiving Pastoral Ministers

- ▣ To assist with, developing, reviewing and implementing diocesan & seminary policies & procedures
- ▣ Provides basic principles in 7 sections
- ▣ Presentations available on line

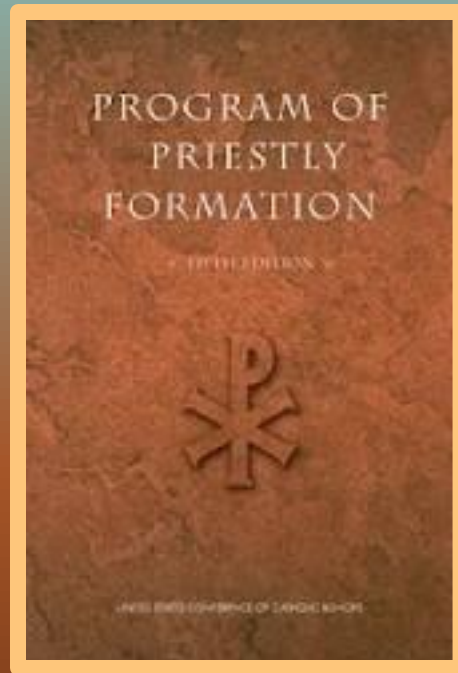


CCLV Guidelines on the Use of Psychology in Seminary Admissions



- ▣ 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.

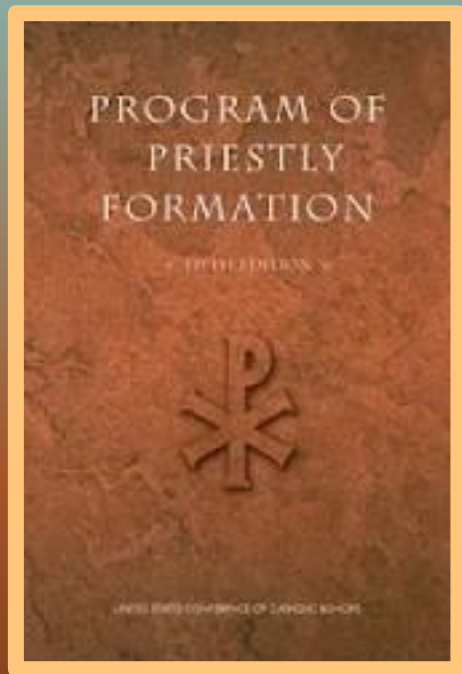


Program of Priestly Formation

5th ed. > 6th ed.

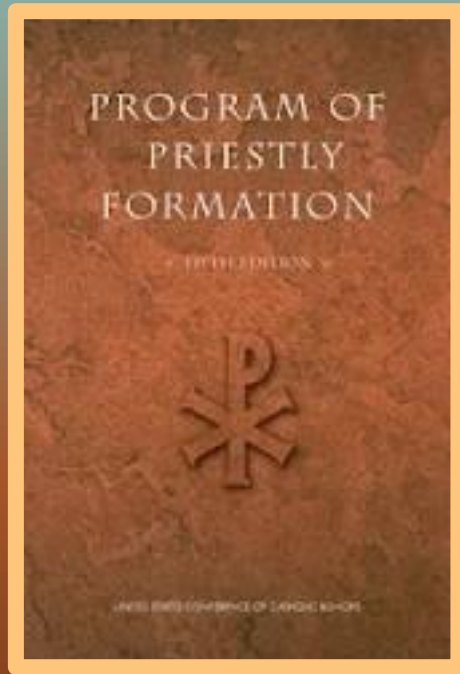
- ▣ Schedule
 - Recognitio expires November 2020
- ▣ Change of Competence
 - From Congregation for Catholic Education to the Congregation for Clergy
 - *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis:*
The Gift of the Priestly Vocation (December 8, 2016)
- ▣ CCLV Working Group
 - To be completed for a vote by Nov. 2019.

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)
- ▣ Not suggestions, but canonically binding norms

Sources of the PPF 5th Ed.

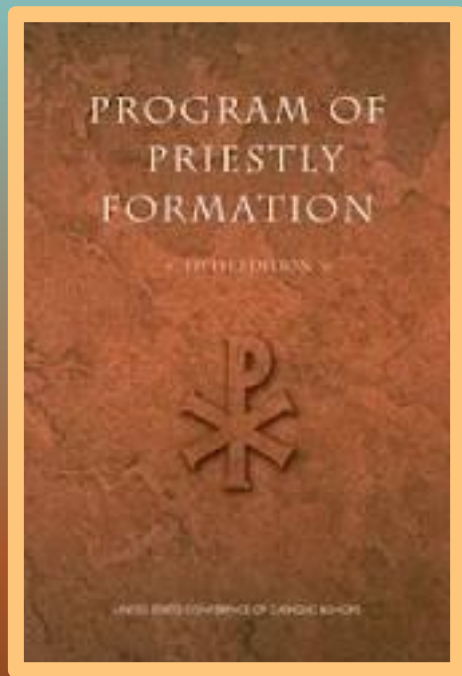


- ▣ Vatican II
- ▣ *Lumen gentium*
- ▣ *Christus Dominum*
- ▣ *Presbyterorum ordinis*
- ▣ *Optatam totius*
- ▣ *Ratio fundamentalis institutionis sacerdotalis* (1970 / revised 1985)
- ▣ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- ▣ *Pastores dabo vobis*
- ▣ Seminary Visitations

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”

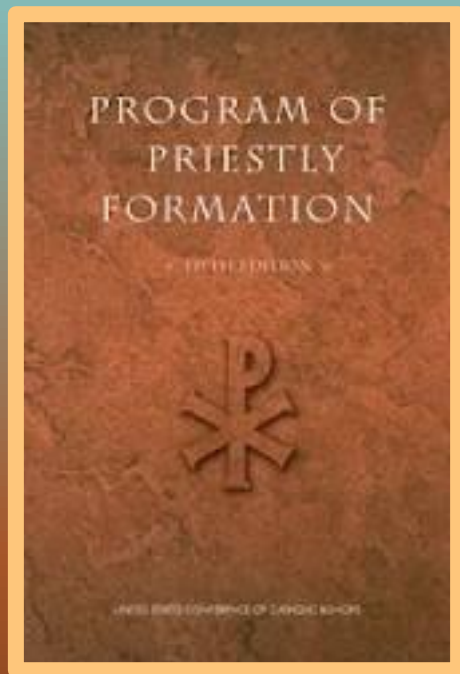
Structure of PPF



Introduction & Conclusion with 7 Sections

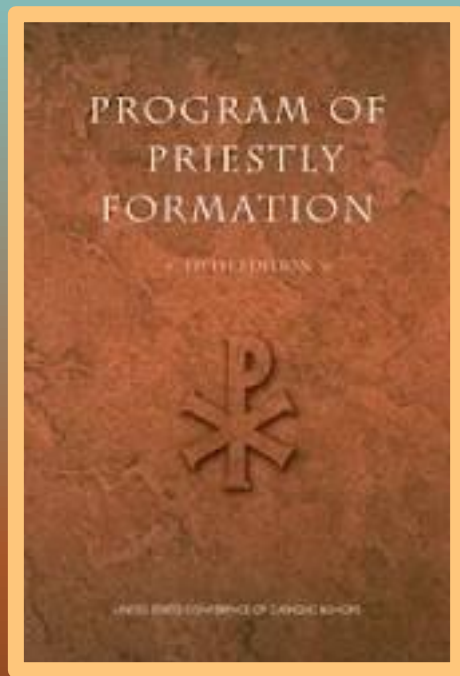
- ▣ Nature & Mission of Priests
- ▣ Life of Priests
- ▣ Vocations & Admissions
- ▣ Formation
- ▣ Seminary Governance, Administration and Faculty Administration
- ▣ Ongoing Formation
- ▣ Addendum on readmission

Format of PPF



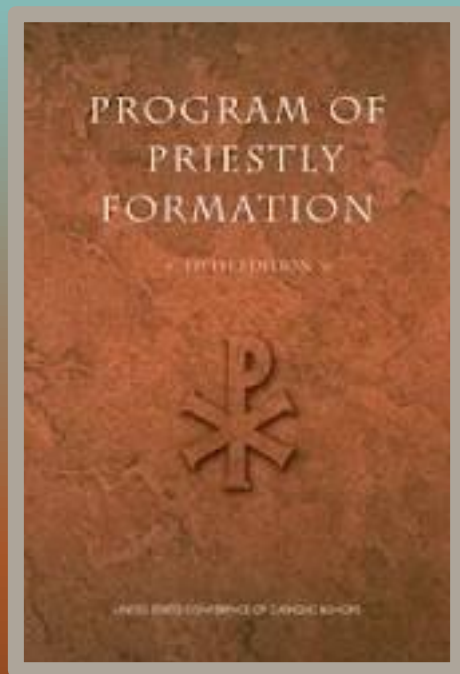
- ▣ Narrative Overview
- ▣ Specific Norms

Format of PPF



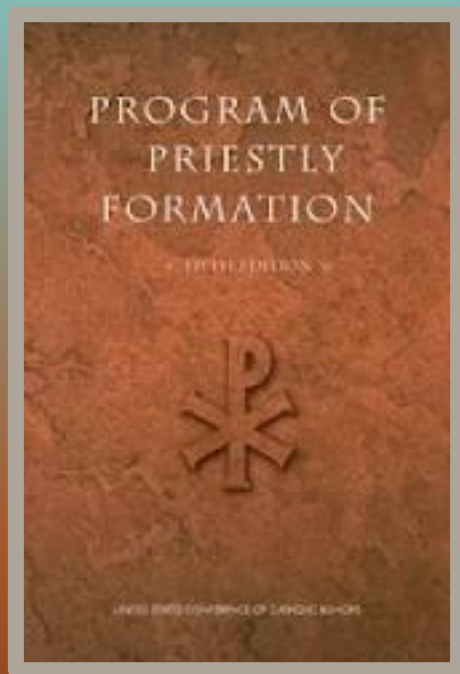
- ▣ Narrative: PPF ns. 32-41
- ▣ Norms: PPF ns. 42-67

Vocations & Admissions: Narrative



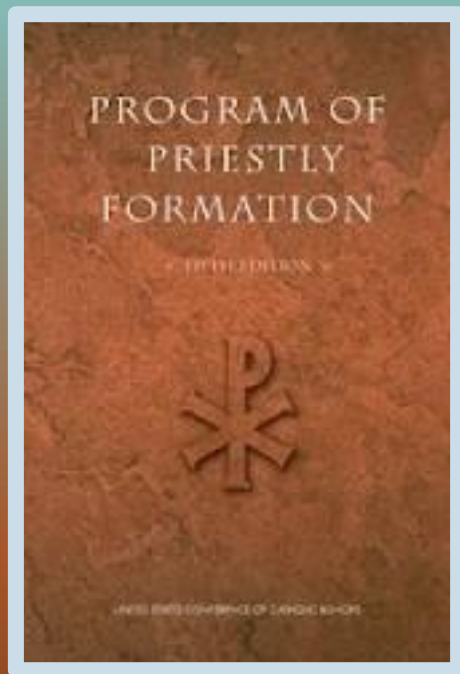
- ❑ Discernment of Vocations
- ❑ A divine and ecclesial dialogue
- ❑ Various Responsibilities in the Church for Vocations
- ❑ Church, family, bishop, presbyterate, vocation director, seminary, seminarians

Vocations & Admissions: Narrative



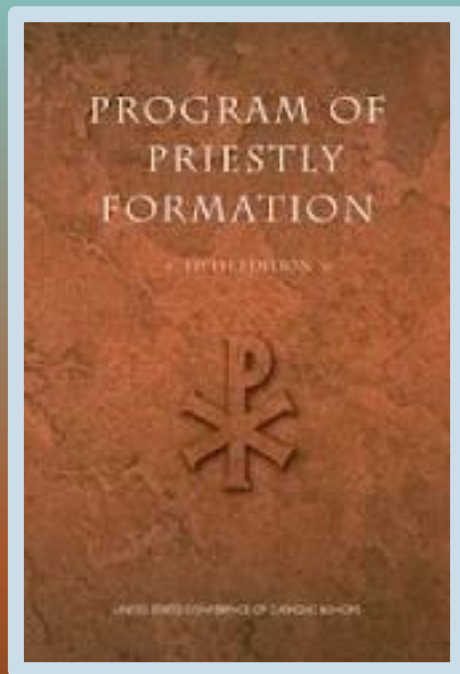
- ▣ Admissions Process
- ▣ Purpose
- ▣ Principle of gradualism
- ▣ Minimum standards
- ▣ Modern context
- ▣ Responsibility of bishop & vocation director
- ▣ From admissions to formation
- ▣ Thresholds of sexuality

Vocations and Admissions: Norms



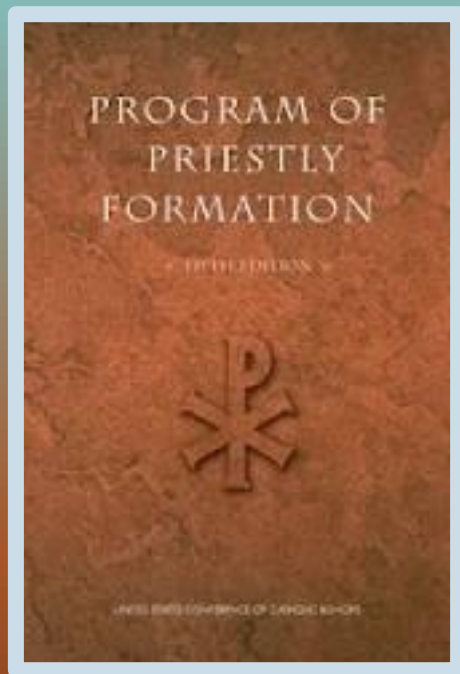
- ❑ Develop/review policy and follow it
- ❑ Both the diocese and seminaries have admissions processes (n.39)
- ❑ Benefit of doubt — Church (n.42)
- ❑ Seminary not the place for therapy
- ❑ Obligation of applicant to give evidence of a vocation

Vocations and Admissions: Norms



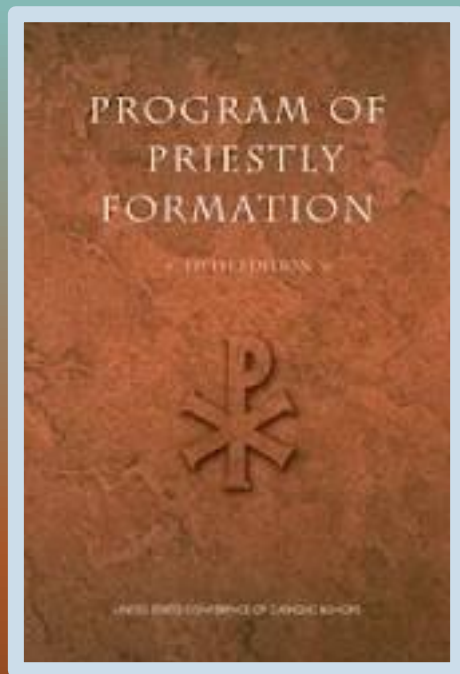
- ▣ Pre-theology
- ▣ Two years for all four dimensions of formation, not just philosophy (n. 60)
- ▣ Screening process
- ▣ Interviews
- ▣ Letters of reference
- ▣ Records (cf. 63, 64, 66)
- ▣ Medical & Psych evals. (n.47, 52 & 65)
- ▣ Criminal background checks

Vocations and Admissions: Norms



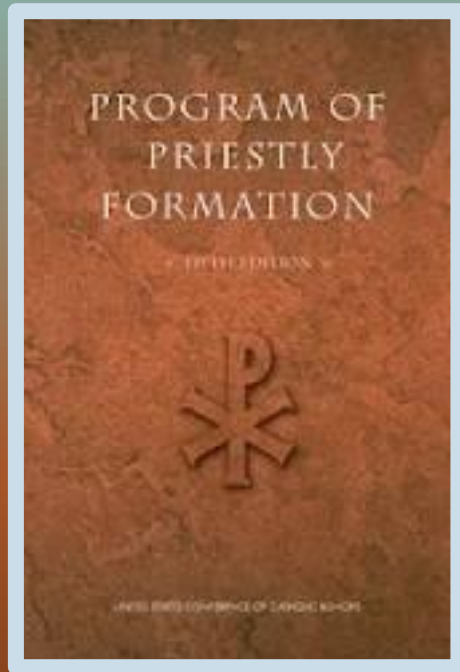
- ❑ Vocation Directors must give results of a complete screening process in a timely manner to seminaries (n. 48)
- ❑ Culturally diverse applicants
- ❑ Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution

Vocations and Admissions: Norms



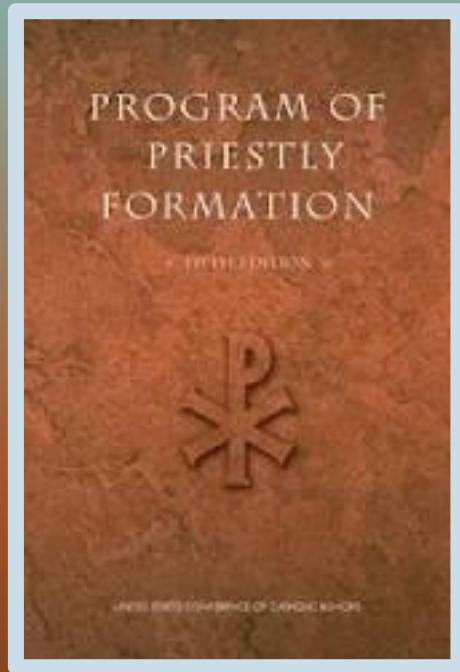
- ▣ Guidelines for psychologist
- ▣ Confidential but shared information
- ▣ Dysfunctional family background

Vocations and Admissions: Norms



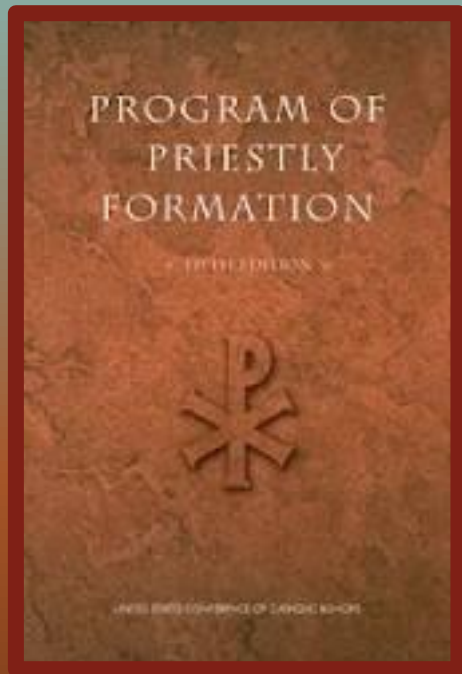
- ❑ Open & frank discussion of life experiences
- ❑ Evidence of having lived in continence for two years
- ❑ Evidence of or inclination toward criminal sexual activity with minor
- ❑ Candidates with same-sex experiences and/or inclinations

Vocations and Admissions: Norms



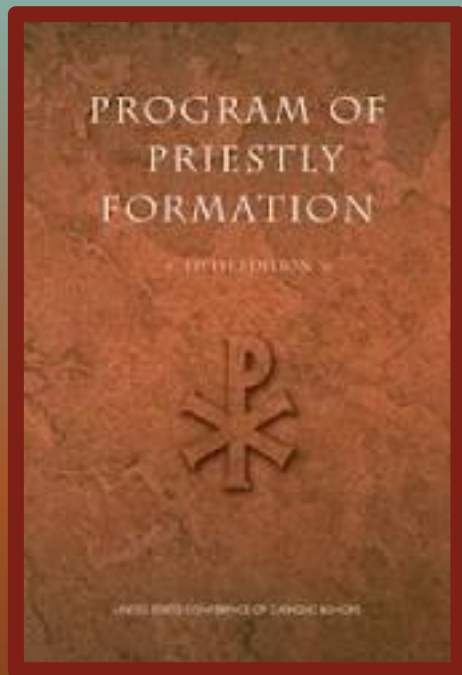
- ❑ Right to privacy & sharing of sensitive information with formation personnel
- ❑ Debt, college and otherwise
- ❑ Sense of entitlement
- ❑ Recent converts

Readmission of Former Sems: Norms & Addendum A



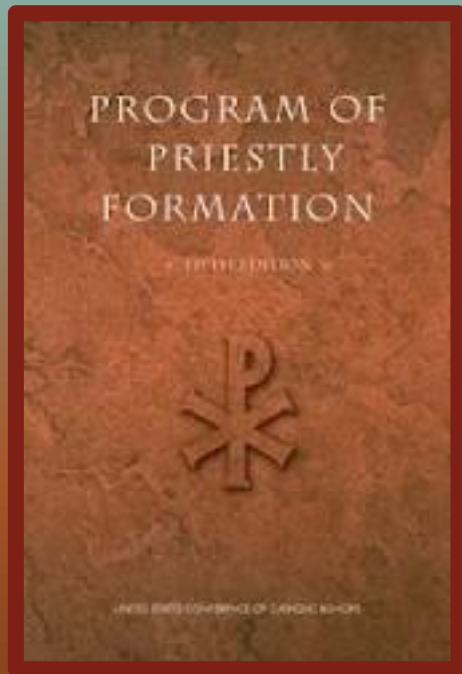
- Requirement to consult all previous formation programs (n. 61)
- 2-year period after dismissal from previous formation program (n. 62)
- Purpose of these procedural norms:
 - Full disclosure
 - Confidential exchange
 - Consultation

Readmission of Former Sems: Norms & Addendum A



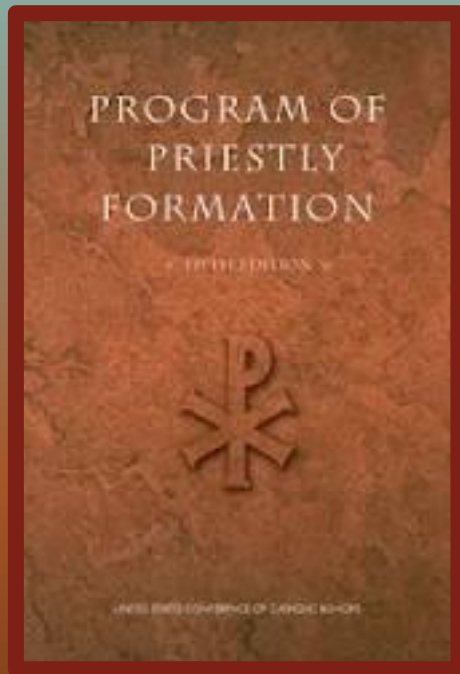
- Requirement of a written statement at the time of departure from bishop or rector that relevant information will be shared if the former seminarian attempts enrollment in another diocese or seminary
- If dismissed, no application for two years

Readmission of Former Sems: Norms & Addendum A



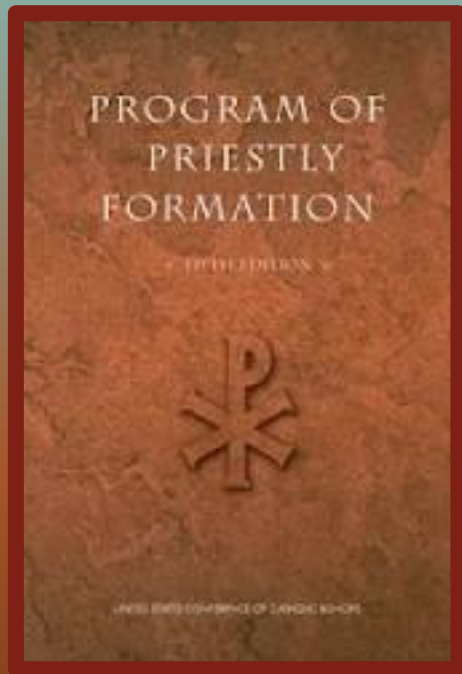
- Diocesan & seminary application forms must include a question about previous applications / acceptance / rejection / dismissal
- At time of reapplication, seminarian must permit release of all relevant information
- Contact in written form, and if possible, oral interviews

Readmission of Former Sems: 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 Sems: 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 without this letter



Rev. Ralph B. O'Donnell

Executive Director

Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations

www.usccb.org/priestlyformation