It is right for seminarians to remember that if the Church demands much of them it is because they are to care for those whom Christ ransomed at such high price. Many qualities are required of future priests: Human maturity, spiritual qualities, apostolic zeal, intellectual rigor. To achieve these virtues, candidates to the priesthood must not only be able to witness to them to their formation teachers but even more, they must be the first to benefit from these same qualities lived and shared by those who are in charge of helping them to attain maturity.

Pope Benedict XVI
June 26, 2009

My Dear Sons of the Church:

Pope Benedict XVI in his homily closing the Year for Priests in June 2010 explained that priests are not mere office holders carrying out functions to sustain a society rather he exercises power of which no human being can do of his own power. The power to absolve, to consecrate; words that heal and transform – this is how the priest carries out his ministry. At ordination the priest receives the sacramental power to bring Jesus Christ to others in a most personal and intimate manner.

However, while ordination supplies these powers a man needs to be prepared on how to use them in service to God’s people. The priestly formation program at Notre Dame Seminary presumes a man is ready to embrace the discipline required for discernment and formation. Humility and obedience are absolutely necessary otherwise the seminarian simply observes the prescriptions of the program not internalizing the meaning of formation.

The horarium reflects our best efforts in providing you the time and space needed for prayer, study, and fraternity. You, on your part, must integrate the schedule into your own routine taking charge of your formation, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Church, thus allowing the transformation that occurs to be authentic and alive.

The seminary community is a real community envisioned by the Church to be a place where the Word of God is truly growing the seeds of your vocation. The unfolding of God’s plan in the life of Christ is mirrored in the transformation that takes place in the life of a seminarian. On the day of your ordination, a man stands before the Church ready and prepared to receive the sacred powers of the priesthood. He does so having been formed into the person after that of Jesus Christ.

May this 90th year of anniversary for Notre Dame Seminary bring about many graces and blessings in your lives. Entrusting ourselves to the intercession of Our Lady, and asking God’s blessings upon you in this new year of formation, I am

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Very Reverend James A. Wehner, S.T.D.
Rector/President
O Mary,
Mother of Jesus Christ and Mother of priests,
accept this title which we bestow on you
to celebrate your motherhood
and to contemplate with you the Priesthood
of your Son and of your sons,
O Holy Mother of God.

O Mother of Christ,
to the Messiah-Priest you gave a body of flesh
through the anointing of the Holy Spirit
for the salvation of the poor and the
contrite of heart;
guard priests in your heart and in the Church,
O Mother of the Saviour.

O Mother of Faith,
you accompanied to the Temple the Son of Man,
the fulfillment of the promises given to the fathers;
give to the Father for his glory
the priests of your Son,
O Ark of the Covenant.

O Mother of the Church,
in the midst of the disciples in the Upper Room
you prayed to the Spirit
for the new People and their Shepherds;
obtain for the Order of Presbyters
a full measure of gifts
O Queen of the Apostles.

O Mother of Jesus Christ,
you were with him at the beginning
of his life and mission,
you sought the Master among the crowd,
you stood beside him when he was lifted
up from the earth
consumed as the one eternal sacrifice
and you had John, your son, near at hand;
accept from the beginning those
who have been called,
protect their growth,
in their life ministry accompany
your sons,
O Mother of Priests.
Amen.

Blessed Pope John Paul II
God personally looks after me, after us, after all mankind. I am not abandoned, adrift in the universe and in a society which leaves me ever more lost and bewildered. God looks after me. He is not a distant God, for whom my life is worthless. God knows me, He is concerned about me. This thought should make us truly joyful. Let us allow it to penetrate the depths of our being. Then let us also realize what it means: God wants us, as priests, in one tiny moment of history, to share His concern about people. As priests, we want to be persons who share His concern for men and women, who take care of them and provide the with a concrete experience of God’s concern about people. Whatever the field of activity entrusted to him, the priest, with the Lord, ought to be able to say: “I know my sheep and mine know me.” “To know”, in the idiom of Sacred Scripture, never refers to merely exterior knowledge, like the knowledge of someone’s telephone number. “Knowing” means being inwardly close to another person. It means loving him or her. We should strive to “know” men and women as God does and for God’s sake; we should strive to walk with them along the path of God’s friendship.

Pope Benedict XVI
June 11, 2010
Saint Peter Square
MONDAY - FRIDAY

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00 - 7:25 a.m. (optional)

Breakfast 7:00 a.m.

Morning Prayer 7:30 a.m.

Classes Begin 8:00 a.m.

Formation Conferences (Fridays: see calendar) 10:15 a.m.

Penance (Mon/Wed/Fri) 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Holy Mass 11:45 a.m.

Lunch 12:30 p.m.

Classes (as Scheduled) 1:30 p.m.

Evening Prayer 5:45 p.m.

   Liturgy Prep (Mondays: see calendar) 5:15 p.m.
   Hall Evening Prayer (Wednesday) 5:45 p.m.
   Penance (Thursdays: see calendar) 5:00 p.m.
   Music Practice (see calendar) 5:15 p.m.
   Rosary & Stations (see calendar) 5:15 p.m.

Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7:00 p.m. (optional)
(Tuesdays and Thursdays)

Evening Hours for Study / Recreation
Seminarians on Campus by 11:00 p.m. (Monday - Thursday)
Seminarians on Campus by 12:00 a.m. (Friday, Saturday)

SATURDAY

Breakfast 7:00 a.m.

Rosary (Marian Courtyard) 7:45 a.m. (optional)

Morning Prayer / Mass 8:30 a.m.

Seminarians are free for the rest of the day unless activity is scheduled.

Lunch Available 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Dinner (Self-Service) 6:00 p.m.

Seminarians on Campus by 12:00 a.m.