

Questions in Preparation for Yearly Formation Report

Seminarian Name: _____ Class: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Diocese: _____
Formation Advisor: _____ Vocation Director: _____
Spiritual Director: _____ Bishop: _____
Degree Sought: _____ Apostolic Works: _____
Cumulative GPA: _____ House Responsibility: _____

I. Formational Status

- a. Length of time at NDS and in seminary formation
- b. General statement about your formation: successful, challenging, etc.
- c. Statement about your best area of growth
- d. Statement about the area where more growth is needed

II. Human Formation

- a. Are you zealously committed to your priestly formation; struggling with it; making slow/rapid progress? Focus particularly on the ways you have or have not acquired and made use of the human virtues (prudence, justice, temperance, fortitude).
- b. Which of the human virtues have you tried to acquire and cultivate this past year? Which virtue(s) will you address next year?
- c. How do you moderate your appetites for goods such as food, drink, entertainment (TV, internet)? Generally, how well are you able to moderate these appetites?
- d. How well do you relate to others? Describe your ability to engage in appropriate relationships with others.
- e. How will you use your particular gifts/talents for the benefit of the NDS community?
- f. How have you rooted yourself in the community? Describe yourself as a member of the community.
- g. What (if any) physical, mental, and/or emotional conditions are you currently dealing with? Note any prescribed medications you are taking.
- h. What other aspects of your human formation do you need to address this year?

III. Spiritual Formation [PPF 280b]

- a. Describe your discipline of prayer. What areas in your prayer life have you grown the most?
- b. How do you cultivate your devotion to the Holy Eucharist?
- c. How would you describe your knowledge of Sacred Scripture? How do the scriptures contribute to your spiritual life?
- d. How faithful are you to the discipline of praying the Liturgy of the Hours? How does this discipline contribute to your spiritual life?
- e. How faithful are you to the seminary's liturgical *horarium*?
- f. How faithful are you to spiritual direction and the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance?
- g. How have you cultivated devotion to the Blessed Mother? What acts of popular piety do you practice (rosary, Divine Mercy, saints, etc.)?
- h. What (if any) aspect of your spiritual life would you like to address before advancing to the next stage of formation or before diaconate/priesthood ordination?
- i. What other aspects of your spiritual formation do you need to address this year?

IV. Intellectual Formation

- a. In which areas of intellectual formation have you grown the most? (Study habits, time management, appreciation for the necessity of study, etc.). How well do you manage your time for study? Describe your study habits.
- b. How does your academic life form your intellectual life? Describe how you are bringing your academic life (the study of theology, canon law, scripture, etc.) into your intellectual life.
- c. How well are you meeting the academic requirements of the program overall and for individual courses? Which courses do you struggle with and which do you excel in?
- d. What extracurricular resources do you use to further develop your intellectual life?
- e. What extracurricular resources do you enjoy for personal growth?
- f. How do you acquire your knowledge of the *signs of the times*? Describe how you stay in touch with current events, diocesan events, your bishop's ministry, etc.
- g. How does your intellectual development inspire your motivation for pastoral ministry?
- h. What other aspects of your intellectual formation do you need to address this year?

V. Pastoral Formation

- a. What continues to be your motivation for seeking to engage in pastoral, priestly ministry?
- b. How does your relationship with Jesus Christ influence your view of pastoral ministry?
- c. How do you understand the New Evangelization?
- d. How do you feel about your role this past Summer in your assignment? How did the people view you – how did you view them? What feedback did you receive from your supervisor and pastoral staff: both positive and constructive?
- e. Has there been a pastoral situation this past year that contributed to your pastoral formation? Describe the situation and how it was formative for you.
- f. What are your limitations in serving God's people as a priest? What skills do you need to acquire in order to address these limitations? And, what limitations do you accept as a part of being imperfect?
- g. What are your gifts for serving God's people as a priest?
- h. How familiar are you with the sick and suffering, the poor and marginalized, prisoners, immigrants, and refugees? Describe your experience(s).
- i. How well are you able to work collaboratively in pastoral ministry with people from different ethnic, racial, religious, and cultural backgrounds?
- j. How well are you able to work collaboratively in pastoral ministry with women, lay people, and individuals with charisms that differ from your own?
- k. What other aspects of your pastoral formation do you need to address this year? For those preparing for ordination – do you feel you have acquired or cultivated the pastoral skills needed for ordained ministry? Why?

VI. Chaste Priestly Celibacy

- a. How are you developing a stronger understanding of the Church's theology and practice of priestly celibacy?
- b. How do you understand your growth in affective maturity, especially in the areas of male sexual identity; the cultivation of spousal, generative love; and the cultivation of spiritual fatherhood rooted in the charism of celibacy?
- c. Which areas of celibacy are you addressing in the external forum of your formation?
- d. How are you able to establish and maintain wholesome friendships with both men and women?
- e. How are you able to establish and maintain appropriate boundaries in all of your relationships?

f. At this stage in your formation, how committed are you to practicing life-long celibacy? For those preparing for ordination this year – describe how well-prepared you are to embrace this commitment and your freedom to make this priestly promise.

g. What element(s) of this charism do you need to address next year or even after ordination?

VII. Priestly Obedience

a. How well are you able to cooperate with those in authority?

b. How well do you receive direction and constructive criticism?

c. How well do you exercise authority, fraternal correction, and charity?

d. Are you struggling with aspect of Church teaching, the Magisterium, or Sacred Scripture in your intellectual formation?

e. How well have you met your obligations to the community?

f. At this stage in your formation, how committed are you to the discipline of priestly obedience? For those preparing for ordination this year - describe how well-prepared you are to embrace this this commitment and your freedom to make this priestly promise.

g. What element(s) of this charism do you need to address next year or even after ordination?

VIII. Conclusion

a. In light of the formation program as a whole, what has been your greatest challenge this year? Your greatest success?

b. How will you continue your on-going priestly formation over extended breaks (i.e. Christmas, summer months) or after ordination?

c. Please provide an overall statement describing your discernment of a priestly vocation at this point, and state your intentions with regard to your continuing participation in the formation program.

d. For those preparing for diaconate or priesthood ordination in the Spring – please describe your readiness and freedom to receive the call from the Ordinary.

Seminarian

Date

Formation Advisor

Date

Spiritual Director

Date