

**NOTRE DAME SEMINARY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM**



**AUTOBIOGRAPHY FORM**

## **DETAILED AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

*Please complete in narrative form (i.e., don't just answer the questions).*

### **FAMILY**

- 1) Are your parents both still living? If one or both are deceased, at what point in your life did they die? If your parents are divorced, is either remarried? Explain how their marriage has impacted on you.
- 2) Describe your relationship with your siblings when growing up.
- 3) Are both of your parents Roman Catholic? In addition to Sunday Mass, did your family have any consistent devotional practices (*e.g.*, family rosary, meal prayers, *etc.*)?
- 4) During the years in which you lived at home, who lived in the family home with you (*e.g.*, brothers, sisters, grandparents, extended family)?
- 5) From the time you were born until you graduated from high school, did your family live in the same home or move from place to place? In that same time period, did your family experience any significant difficulties or problems?
- 6) How significant has your family been in the process of your emotional development thus far?
- 7) Has there ever been any abuse in your family? Have you ever been abused, *i.e.* physically, psychologically, sexually, neglect?
- 8) Is there any history of drug or alcohol abuse in your family?
- 9) Describe your current relationship with your mother and father. Include your parents' attitudes toward education, religion, and priestly ministry.

### **EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT**

- 1) What elementary and secondary schools did you attend? If these were not Catholic schools, what formal religious education did you receive?
- 2) During high school, in what extracurricular activities did you participate? Did you receive any honors or awards?
- 3) What were the most difficult courses for you in high school/college? What do you anticipate will be the difficult courses for you if accepted into the seminary?

- 4) What colleges or universities did you attend? Did you have the same declared major throughout college?
- 5) Considering the process of your education thus far, has it developed within you a thirst for learning and independent inquiry or do you feel that you have been required merely to repeat what was taught?
- 6) What were the significant employment positions you have held? Have you ever been disciplined or fired from a job? If so, please explain.
- 7) Considering your employment thus far, what has been your experience in dealing with those placed in authority over you?

### **PERSONAL AND SOCIAL HEALTH**

- 1) Do you routinely experience any health problems?
- 2) Do you regularly participate in any type of athletics or leisure sports?
- 3) Do people look upon you as a person of general emotional stability?
- 4) What are the most significant positive and negative qualities of your personality?
- 5) Do you currently take any prescribed medications? If so, please elaborate.
- 6) Do you or have you ever used illegal drugs? Explain when and in what context.

### **PERSONAL FAITH AND RELIGION**

- 1) Have you participated in any concentrated religious program such as TEC, Cursillo, extended retreat, *etc.*?
- 2) Describe the prayer experience you find most meaningful (*e.g.*, reciting written prayers, meditating, *Lectio divina*, rosary, *etc.*).
- 3) What is your experience of Church at the parish level (parish activities, ministries in your home parish)?
- 4) In addition to the sacramental dimension of religion, what role do you feel the Church should play in the world?

### **VOCATION AND PASTORAL ABILITIES**

- 1) For how long have you thought about being a priest?

- 2) Please describe a priest who has been a role model for you.
- 3) Priests must be leaders. How do you see yourself exercising authority?
- 4) Priests are called upon to be good communicators. Do you possess skills such as being a good listener or a motivator of others?
- 5) Priests are called upon to be leaders of the total community. Is there any group with whom you would find difficulty working?
- 6) Priests are called upon to be self-disciplined. Can you stick to a project until it is completed and forego personal pleasure to accomplish a task for the common good of others?
- 7) Priests must be courageous. Are you a person of conviction able to challenge others?
- 8) What attracts you the most to priesthood?
- 9) What do you anticipate might be the most challenging experience in the seminary formation program?
- 10) Describe what celibacy means to you. Describe why you feel the Lord may be giving you the gift of chaste celibacy.

## **CONCLUSION**

Reflect on why you are answering the call to seminary studies. How do you see yourself growing within a community of men who are preparing for the priesthood? How do you see yourself contributing to the seminary? If there is any other important area you would like to include in your autobiography, please feel free to do so.

## **PERMISSION TO RELEASE INFORMATION**

I hereby grant permission to Notre Dame Seminary to release my motivational statement and autobiography to the formation faculty. This consent to release this information is valid until graduation or withdrawal from Notre Dame Seminary.

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*Date*

*Signature*