



# **Notre Dame Seminary Priestly Formation Program**

## **LETTER OF SPONSORSHIP and RECOMMENDATION by the DIRECTOR of VOCATIONS *or* SUPERIOR of RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY**

Dear Vocation Director or Religious Superior:

Thank you for your trust in the priestly formation at Notre Dame Seminary.

Please share your knowledge of your seminarian who is submitting his application for admission to the Priestly Formation Program. Your assessment of him will be helpful to us in considering his application and in assisting his formation if he attends this seminary.

In your letter of recommendation, please include the following topics:

1. What is the applicant's family background (e.g. relationship with parents, brothers, sisters) and any significant issues and their effects upon the applicant?
2. Please discuss the applicant's strengths and weaknesses and your general evaluation of him in all of the following areas in which you can describe the applicant:
  - a) Human qualities (e.g. emotional stability, responsibility, leadership ability);
  - b) Social qualities (e.g. cooperation in diocesan/parish activities, interpersonal relationship with peers and authority figures, ability to live seminary community life);
  - c) Spiritual qualities (e.g. faith, prayer, liturgy, openness to spiritual growth).
  - d) Ministerial aptitude: In what ways has the applicant served in the Church and the impact of his contributions?
3. Your evaluation of him regarding his capacity to live out the promises of prayer, obedience, and chaste celibacy.
4. Please summarize all recommendation letters (family members, friends, and pastor) you have received, or provide copies of the letters.
5. Please complete the Canonical Suitability form with the applicant and include it with your letter.

Thank you for offering your time and assistance.



# Canonical Suitability Profile Interview for Notre Dame Seminary

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vocation Director/Religious Superior: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Vocation Director/Religious Superior is to complete this form after interviewing the applicant, receiving the results of the psychological examination, reviewing the recommendation forms, and evaluating all materials from the application process.*

**APPLICANT REQUISITES** (Please check the appropriate response.)

## Maturity and Faith Development

1. The Church will only promote to Sacred Orders men who have sound faith, are motivated by right intention, are endowed with the requisite knowledge, enjoy a good reputation, who have moral probity, proven virtue, and physical and psychological qualities appropriate for ordained ministry (*cf.* CIC 1029). **To the best of your knowledge, does the applicant possess these qualities?**

\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_ No

2. The applicant must be able to demonstrate human and evangelical virtues necessary for ordained ministry. The spirituality of service implies a person's ability to offer a selfless contribution to the mission of the Church. **To the best of your knowledge, does the applicant possess these qualities?**

\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_ No

3. Candidates for seminary formation must be active members of the Christian community as leaders and motivators of ministry. It is presumed that the applicant will enjoy a good reputation among the faithful and be seen as a man of faith and prayer. **To the best of your knowledge, does the applicant enjoy a good reputation?**

\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_ No

4. **To the best of your knowledge, is the applicant properly motivated, and does he give evidence of an overall personal balance and moral character?** He should be a frequent participant in adult faith enrichment opportunities (*e.g.*, retreats, days of reflection, spiritual direction, study of scripture and Church teachings).

\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_ No

5. **To the best of your knowledge, is the applicant loyal to the teachings of the Church, the sacred liturgy, Tradition, and Scripture, and has he cultivated a spirituality of service desirable in the clergy?**

\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_ No

**Proper Standing and Stability (Please indicate “yes” or “no” if the inquirer conforms with the standard or norm.)**

6. Three years should elapse between a catechumen’s or candidate’s initiation into the Church or a returning Catholic’s reconciliation to the Church before his application to the seminary formation program can be reviewed. Care must also be given to someone in whom a sudden conversion experience seems to precipitate a priestly vocation. **Has the applicant been a practicing Catholic for at least three years?**

Yes       No

7. An applicant should be able to demonstrate a stable and mature life of chastity and understand the gift of celibacy. His lifestyle shall not be in contradiction to the Christian faith and the moral teachings of the Church. **To the best of your knowledge, has the applicant demonstrated a chaste celibate lifestyle?**

Yes       No

8. An applicant whose marriage has been annulled should be screened carefully to ascertain if and how previous obstacles to a marriage commitment might affect his viability as a candidate for Holy Orders. An extended period of time should elapse before an applicant is accepted into the priestly formation program. **To the best of your knowledge, has the applicant lived a stable, chaste lifestyle since the divorce/annulment?**

Yes       No       Does Not Apply

9. Several years should elapse before a widower is nominated to the priestly formation program. The applicant will need to demonstrate his understanding of chastity and celibacy if he is to pursue the priesthood. **To the best of your knowledge, has the widower lived a stable, chaste lifestyle?**

Yes       No       Does Not Apply

**Irregularities/Impediments to the Reception of Holy Orders (Please indicate “yes” if the inquirer is free from all irregularities and impediments or “no” if he is not free from these irregularities and impediments.)**

10. The nomination of an applicant to the priestly formation program cannot be accepted and promotion for ordination cannot proceed for one who labors under some form of insanity or other psychic defect due to which, after consultation with experts, he is judged incapable of rightly carrying out the ministry. **To the best of your knowledge, is the applicant free of this impediment/irregularity?**

Yes       No

11. The nomination of an applicant to the priestly formation program cannot be accepted and promotion for ordination cannot proceed for one who has committed the delict of apostasy, heresy, or schism. **To the best of your knowledge, is the applicant free of this impediment/irregularity?**

Yes       No

12. The nomination of an applicant to the priestly formation program cannot be accepted and promotion for ordination cannot proceed for one who has attempted marriage, even a civil one, either while he was impeded from entering marriage due to an existing matrimonial bond, sacred orders or a public perpetual vow of chastity, or with a woman bound by a valid marriage or by the same type of vow. **To the best of your knowledge, is the applicant free of this impediment/irregularity?**

Yes       No

13. The nomination of an applicant to the priestly formation program cannot be accepted and promotion for ordination cannot proceed for one who has committed voluntary homicide or who has procured an effective abortion and all persons who positively cooperated in either. **To the best of your knowledge, is the applicant free of this impediment/irregularity?**

Yes       No

14. The nomination of an applicant to the priestly formation program cannot be accepted and promotion for ordination cannot proceed for one who has seriously and maliciously mutilated himself or another person or a person who has attempted suicide. **To the best of your knowledge, is the applicant free of this impediment/irregularity?**

Yes       No

15. The nomination of an applicant to the priestly formation program cannot be accepted and promotion for ordination cannot proceed for one who has performed an act of orders which has been reserved to those who are in the order of episcopacy or presbyterate while the person either lacked that order or had been forbidden its exercise by some declared or inflicted canonical penalty. **To the best of your knowledge, is the applicant free of this impediment/irregularity?**

Yes       No

16. The nomination of an applicant to the priestly formation program cannot be accepted and promotion for ordination cannot proceed for one who holds office or position of administration which could be a source of scandal to the faithful. **To the best of your knowledge, is the applicant free of this impediment/irregularity?**

Yes       No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Vocation Director or Religious Superior

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**DIOCESAN SEAL**