

# Program of Priestly Formation, 6<sup>th</sup> edition CMSM Webinar

June 22, 2022

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USCCB Secretariat on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations



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## Preliminary Points

- Thank you Fr. Frank Donio, S.A.C. and Dr. David Budiash
- Please submit your questions using the Zoom Chat feature. There will also be time for questions after the break-out groups.
- We will not answer questions during the presentation to keep the presentation flowing well.



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## Today's Agenda

1. PPF Overview (Major Themes)
2. Admissions Process
3. Stages of Priestly Formation



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## PPF6 Overview

- From academic terminology (*college, pre-theology, theology*) to stages
  - Propaedeutic - Introduction
  - Discipleship - intimacy with Christ, Christian virtue, philosophy
  - Configuration - priestly identity (Christ Shepherd and Servant)
  - Vocational Synthesis - integration and transition
- Ordering of stages
  - All four stages are required for every seminarian
  - The four stages always occur sequentially
  - Stages may not overlap



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## PPF6 Overview

- Rooted in baptism (begins and continues to grow)
- From institution to community (role of accompaniment)
  - Formative community
  - Seminary community
  - Community of formators
- Pastoral Charity – gift of self
- Missionary in spirit



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## PPF6 Overview

### Religious Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life

“Priestly formation for those men belonging to a form of consecrated life must always situate the vocation to the priesthood within the **charism** and thus reference the spirituality, history, and mission of the particular institute of consecrated life or society of apostolic life, with fidelity to its founder, the institute’s or society’s **mission**, and the Church which receives that charism” (n. 45).



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## PPF6 Overview Benchmarks

1. **Human** – self-awareness to self-acceptance to self-possession to self-gift (“the essence of pastoral charity”)
2. **Spiritual** – fulfilling external requirements to internalization of spiritual life (relationship with Jesus Christ, communal charism & spirituality, priestly identity, celibate chastity)
3. **Intellectual** – knowledge of God and human person to upholding and communicating truths of faith
4. **Pastoral** – pastoral knowledge to pastoral skills to pastoral discernment to pastoral charity



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## PPF6 Overview Benchmarks

### Religious Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life

“Depending on the type of ecclesiastical entity, the details for the stages of formation may differ. For example, the propaedeutic stage for institutes of consecrated life or societies of apostolic life is handled by the postulancy or novitiate. In all cases the applicant, postulant, and so on must meet the benchmarks as noted in each dimension of formation” (no. 31).



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## PPF6 Overview

### Definitions

- Must vs. should
- Discerner, seminarian, candidate (diocesan)
- deacon (following life commitment in the community)
- Formator vs. priest formator
- Laity (professors, faculty, specialists, mentors)
- Internal vs. External Forum



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1. PPF Overview (Major Themes)
2. Admissions Process (Fr. Dan Hanley)
3. Stages of Formation



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# Program of Priestly Formation, 6<sup>th</sup> edition Admissions Process

Responsibility of the bishop/major superior and his collaborators

- Moral conviction of suitability to study for priesthood
- Determine means of establishing suitability



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## Gradualism

- Advances to progressively higher levels of preparation
- Thresholds still necessary
- Age appropriate



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## Human Dimension Thresholds for Admission

- Absence of serious pathology
- Capacity to function in ordinary human situations
- Psychosexual maturity commensurate with chronological age
- Relational capacity
- Generosity



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## Spiritual Dimension Thresholds for Admission

- Prayer life
- Parish life
- Sacramental life
- Desire for God



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## Intellectual Dimension Thresholds for Admission

- Capacity for critical thought
- Capacity for understanding
- Capacity to understand other persons
- Capacity to communicate



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## Pastoral Dimension Thresholds for Admission

- Right intention
- Sense of call
- Commitment
- Appropriate respect



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## Admissions

### Particular care given to sexuality

- Contenance and chastity
- Same-sex attraction



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## Admissions

### Other areas highlighted by PPF6

- Technology use
- Physical examination
- Substance use
- Trauma and wounds



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1. PPF Overview (Major Themes)
2. Admissions Process
3. **Stages of Formation (Fr. Luke Ballman)**



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## Stages of Formation Propaedeutic Stage

- Communion with religious community
- Heart of service
- Intense discernment
- Prayer
- Community



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## Stages of Formation Discipleship Stage

- Intimate relationship with Jesus Christ
- Training of one's character in Christian virtue
- Study of philosophy preparing for theology
- Continuing vocational discernment
- Two years minimum



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## Stages of Formation Configuration Stage

- Configuration to Christ, Shepherd and Servant
- Deepening priestly spirituality within charism
- Practical application of pastoral charity
- Integration (human, spiritual, intellectual leading to pastoral), also integration of priestly identity within charism



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## Stages of Formation Vocational Synthesis Stage

- synthesis of discipleship since baptism
- a time of integration and transition, not evaluation
  - integration into the presbyterate
  - transition from seminary to priesthood
- gradual assumption of priestly duties
- full-time in a parish or other pastoral setting (not house of formation)
- minimum of 6 months full-time following diaconate ordination



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## Stages of Formation Vocational Synthesis Stage

### Religious Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life

The exercise of priesthood takes on a distinctive quality for a man who belongs to an institute of consecrated life or a society of apostolic life, depending upon the Rule of Life, constitution, and charism of a particular institute or society (n. 46).



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Small group discussion, followed by Q&A

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