NCDVD
Seminarian Handbooks
Conference 2020
Region XIII Gallup NM
Everything is Formation!!

Even the Handbook!
A Journey

The journey of priestly formation, beginning with the Seminary years, is described in the present Ratio Fundamentalis in terms of four characteristic elements of formation, understood as one, integral, grounded in community and missionary in spirit.
What to do with the Handbook

1. Present it to the new seminarian.
2. Present it to newer seminarians.
3. Refer to it.
Outline

The Diocese of Phoenix
What is formation
The Four Pillars of Formation
Human Formation
Spiritual Formation
Intellectual Formation
Pastoral Formation
Other Areas of Note
Discernment
The Diocese/Community

- History
- Statistics
Sharing the Vision

• Pastores Dabo Vobis
• Ratio Fundamentalis
• Program for Priestly Formation
• Guidance from our diocese
Qualities of Candidates for Seminary

- A personal relationship with God integrated through a strong prayer life
- The ability and willingness to talk about his faith and how he believes that it is God who has led him to this point of discernment
- Is personally connected to the diocese (normally 2 years of residence)
- Has been involved and visible at his local parish
- Is approachable and able to communicate well and collaborate with others
- Can take initiative and assume responsibility for his actions as shown by the ability to carry a full-time work or class load
- Has a clear sense of his own shortcomings and an openness to formation and growth
- Is emotionally balanced and psychologically healthy
- Is affectively mature with regard to his psycho-sexual development
- Is physically active and healthy
- Possesses the skills of self-mastery and discipline
- Has shown the capacity and evidence of living a chaste celibate life
- Maintains healthy relationships (friends and family) with both men and women
- Has the intelligence required for graduate level philosophy and theology study
- Does not have excessive personal financial liabilities
Human Formation
Fraternity

priests are “co-workers of the episcopal order for the proper fulfillment of the apostolic mission that had been entrusted to it by Christ.”
A Man of the Church

- Personal Appearance
- Manners
- Dress Code
Physical Health

- Exercise
- Healthy Leisure
- Alcohol
- Smoking
Psychological Health

• Encouragement to growth work
Finances

• Stipends
• Book Expenses
• Knights of Columbus
• Unforeseen expenses
• Loans
• Taxes
• Health and Dental
Gratitude

The practice of writing thank you notes
Safe Environment/Virtus

- What is required
- Our role in reparation of wrong done in the Church
- Boundaries
Spiritual Formation
Encouragement in Their Relationship with the Lord

- Holy Eucharist:
- Adoration and Personal meditation
- Sacrament of Penance
- Liturgy of the Hours
- Spiritual direction
- Bible
- Retreats and days of recollection
- Devotions
- Apostolic dimensions
- Asceticism and Penance
- Obedience
- Celibacy
- Simplicity of life
Appendix A

Healthy Discernment vs. Poor Discernment
What does good discernment look like?

- It takes time.
- It is in the light
- Comes with peace and tested consolation
- Is not needy
- Comes with gratitude
- Considers the long term
What does Poor Discernment look like?

• It is in the dark/in isolation
• It is hasty.
• It happens at bad times (exam week, the first unsettled days of seminary, February)
• It happens in desolation.
• Is may only be considering immediate
Intellectual Formation
Intellectual Formation

- Summer School
- Language Studies
Pastoral Formation
Shepherds of Souls

- Proclamation of the Word
- The sacramental dimension
- The missionary dimension
- The community dimension
- Skills for effective public ministry
- A personal synthesis for practical use
- Cultural/Religious sensitivity
- Formation for a particular presbyterate and a local Church
- The poor
- Leadership development
- The cultivation of personal qualities
Parish Assignments

• Expectations
• Evaluations
Other Areas of Note

• Seminary Evaluations
• Seminary Visits by the Bishop and Vocation Director
• Vocation Promotion
• Good Communication
• Media
• Candidacy
• Ordination Preparation
Seminarians Handbook

Vision

Practicals