



Pontifical North American College

AUTOBIOGRAPHY INSTRUCTIONS

The applicant is requested to write a detailed autobiography (**no more than 5-6 pages, 1.5 spaced**), responding to the following:

1. Autobiographic Summary:

- a. Briefly describe your relationship with your parents, family members and other people significant to you;
- b. Experience and achievement in elementary school, high school and college;
- c. Work experience (if applicable);
- d. Social life (including close friendships and dating experiences);

2. History of Vocational Discernment:

- a. Briefly describe your spiritual journey from your youth to the present day;
- b. The development of your vocation to the diocesan priesthood and your discernment for entering the seminary;
- c. Explain your conviction that God is calling you to be a priest, of your personal desire to be a priest and you life experiences that have helped affirm that desire;
- d. Your understanding of the life of celibate chastity and you belief you are capable of living it;
- e. Identifying how you have grown in chastity and healthy boundaries;

3. Strengths & Weaknesses:

- a. Three (3) strengths you would bring with you to the North American College;
- b. Three (3) areas of weakness in which you would like to grow during formation at the College.



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PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON PRIESTLY FORMATION

Respecting the benchmarks for beginning the Configuration Stage as found in the Sixth Edition of the *Program of Priestly Formation*, the applicant is requested to write brief personal reflections on each dimension of formation (**one paragraph per dimension**), responding to the following:

1. Human Formation (choose one of the following):

- a. The *Program of Priestly Formation* highlights the following virtues in which a seminarian should have demonstrated growth prior to the Configuration Stage of formation: prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance, humility, chastity, constancy, sincerity, patience, good manners, truthfulness, keeping his word, gratitude, affability, liberality, meekness, magnanimity and perseverance. In which of these do you excel and in which do you still need to grow? Please explain.
- b. In what ways does your personality serve as a bridge to Christ for others? In which ways might your personality sometimes serve as an obstacle?
- c. What things do you find essential for living a healthy, well-balanced lifestyle? What challenges or difficulties have you experienced in maintaining a balanced life?

2. Spiritual Formation (choose one of the following):

- a. How is your relationship with God? How does that relationship inform your words and actions?
- b. Who is Jesus Christ for you personally? What words would you use to teach others about him?
- c. How do Sacred Scripture, the Eucharist and the sacrament of Reconciliation contribute to your spiritual life?

3. Intellectual Formation (choose one of the following):

- a. How have your studies of philosophy and theology changed your understanding of the human person and creation?
- b. In what ways do you actively engage the intellectual life beyond course work? Explain a time that your studies have proven helpful in pastoral ministry.

4. Pastoral Formation (choose one of the following):

- a. Write about a pastoral experience that affected you in prayer.
- b. How have you exercised pastoral service within the seminary community? How do you care for those around you?
- c. How has the pontificate of Pope Francis contributed to your understanding of pastoral charity?
- d. What lessons have you learned from the poor?