



# The Pontifical North American College

## Catalog 2023-2024

## A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE

Early in 1855, His Holiness Pope Pius IX first expressed to members of the American hierarchy his interest in the establishment of a national seminary in Rome for the formation of candidates from the United States, stressing the unique lessons to be learned in Rome: the unity and universality of the Church, the traditions of our faith, and the ministry of the successor of St. Peter.



More than four years later, on December 8, 1859, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the patroness of the United States of America, Pope Pius IX formally inaugurated the Pontifical North American College on the Via dell'Umiltà, a property which the Holy Father himself had given to the bishops of America for the purpose of initiating this seminary. In this sixteenth century former monastery of the Visitation Sisters located in the historical center of Rome, twelve students began their studies. Since that time, these buildings have continued to serve the North American College community, presently as the Casa Santa Maria, a residence for priests who are pursuing graduate studies in theology, scripture or canon law at various pontifical universities in Rome.

At present, many countries have national seminaries in Rome which serve both as a house of formation and as a residence for the students pursuing theological degrees at one of the major Roman pontifical universities. At first, the students of the North American College attended the Urban College of Propaganda Fidei where seminarians, principally from missionary dioceses, studied. Then in 1932 the program of theological studies for the North American College students was transferred to the Gregorian University staffed by the Jesuits. Currently, students may pursue undergraduate studies at the Gregorian University, the University of Saint Thomas Aquinas staffed by the Dominicans, or the University of the Holy Cross staffed by the Priests of the Prelature of the Holy Cross, while graduate degrees can also be earned at any number of universities administered by the Church's major religious communities.

It was in 1953 that the seminary department of the North American College was transferred to its new and current location on the Janiculum Hill overlooking the city of Rome. Purchased by the bishops of the United States in 1926 through the generosity of the Catholics in America, the property is not very far from the Basilica of Saint Peter and enjoys extraterritorial status linking it to the Vatican City State.

The rector who monitored the construction of the new seminary complex was the Most Reverend Martin J. O'Connor, Titular Bishop of Thespieae and Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton. The distinguished architect, Count Enrico Pietro Galeazzi, designed the six-story buff-brick and travertine building which houses the North American College. It is comprised of the chapel dedicated to the Immaculate Conception and donated by the alumni, a large dining hall, a well-developed English language theological library, an auditorium, administrative offices, classrooms as well as formation team and student residence facilities. While it is American in its utilities and appointments, it is typically Roman in much of its design. On the twelve acres of landscaped property surrounding it, are exercise facilities, tennis and basketball courts as well as a soccer-football-baseball field.

## THE ROMAN EXPERIENCE

The prospect of living and studying in Rome offers an environment that is replete with unique opportunities that enhances the personal preparation of one who is aspiring to priesthood.

As an ancient capital of the world, the city of Rome gives evidence of the glory of a civilization whose influence once spanned the globe. To this day, the city maintains its quality of significant international prominence. Rightly called the Eternal City, Rome unceasingly testifies to the courage and dedication of saints such as Peter and Paul, Agnes and Lawrence, among many others, who nourished the faith of the early Church through their martyrdom. This patrimony of faith is preserved, fostered and advanced in the universal context of the See of the successor to Saint Peter.

The experience of separation from the people, places and things of home helps to lay bare deeper resources of self-confidence, calls for a more intimate reliance on the Lord, and forges strong bonds of support among the formation team and students. The life of prayer and study in Rome, as well as the chance for periodic European travel, tend to deepen not only the seminarian's theological education but also his vision of self, the Church and the world.



The individual seminarian, his home diocese, and indeed the Church in the United States, Australia, and Canada, benefit from such broadening opportunities. Our goal always remains to send home holy, faithful priests for service to the dioceses of North America, men who can be a bridge between the “new world” and the ancient See of St. Peter.

## PRIESTLY FORMATION AT THE PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE

In 1884, the North American College was granted pontifical status placing it under the special patronage of the Apostolic See and the care of the Holy Father. The College, therefore, is the direct concern of the Congregation for Clergy and is under the immediate supervision of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Its Board of Governors is composed of one elected bishop from each of the fourteen episcopal regions of the United States. The priestly formation program of the College is governed by the principles and directives enunciated in the documents *Optatam totius* of the Second Vatican Council, the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores dabo vobis* of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, the *Ratio Fundamentalis institutionis sacerdotalis* of the Dicastery for the Clergy, and the *Program of Priestly Formation* of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The seminary community is composed of students sponsored by dioceses from across the United States, Canada and Australia who devote themselves to personal formation for priestly ministry under the attentive guidance, supervision and evaluation of a formation team of priests and religious.

In this house of formation, seminarians deepen their awareness of the meaning and challenges of priesthood through their theological studies, through prayerful reflection on the revealed Word of God and the Tradition of the Church and its meaning for the modern world, as well as through a variety of pastoral service opportunities.

Judgments concerning admission to the College and progression toward Holy Orders are ultimately the responsibility of the Rector.

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE PROGRAM**

The spiritual directors oversee a program of priestly formation based on the *Program of Priestly Formation* of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in accord with the Decree of the Second Vatican Council on The Training of Priests (1965).

The overall College program is designed to foster a deep, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, faithful priestly discipleship, and clarity in one's vocation. At the heart of this effort is individual spiritual direction every two weeks intended to help each seminarian respond effectively to the invitations of the Holy Spirit for continual growth in conversion of mind and heart. This experience of spiritual direction is intended also: 1) to assist the seminarian's growth in daily prayer and intimate union with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and 2) to lead the seminarian to a healthy self-respect and love, the knowledge and living out of God's will, and the generous service of others that marks the life of the Diocesan priest.

Daily community celebration of the Eucharist, Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer form the basis of the College's daily schedule. In addition, each seminarian spends at least thirty minutes a day in personal/mental prayer. Frequent opportunity for Reconciliation encourages regular celebration of the sacrament. An out-of-house confessor is always available one evening a week after dinner, while a house spiritual director is always available for a set period each day. Of course, seminarians may also celebrate the Sacrament of Penance by appointment with their spiritual director or any other priest who is not a member of the external forum formation team.

For each of the four years, the College provides an annual retreat in the Fall at retreat houses outside the city. Monthly conferences, seasonal days of recollection, and annual seminars, along with a series of weekly class presentations provide inspirational, educational, and practical knowledge and skills for the development of holy, effective diocesan priests.

## **FORMATION ADVISING PROGRAM**

A seminarian searches to know the Lord and His call in prayer, reflection, and spiritual direction. Since priesthood is a gift and a call from beyond a person, he also relies upon the Church's discernment and confirmation of his vocation. The advising program offers a seminarian the public forum in which he and the seminary formation team respond to the Church's questions about his readiness and suitability as he presents himself for priesthood.

When the bishop inquires during the ordination ceremony about a candidate's worthiness and readiness, he relies on the judgment of the rector and the formation team to make the public determination as to the candidate's readiness for priesthood. The advising forum, therefore, comprises a process for both personal vocation discernment and the Church's validation of a

man's call to Holy Orders. Each seminarian has a formation advisor who is most directly concerned, in the external forum, with the student's movement toward priesthood. At the beginning of each year, the seminarian with the help of his advisor sets his goals for the year in the spiritual, academic, pastoral, communal and personal aspects of his life. Throughout the year, he meets regularly with his advisor to review his progress in light of these goals. Toward the end of each year, the seminarian writes a self-evaluation of his formation year, and, in an open session with the formation team, receives their encouragement as well as their suggestions for future growth. Peer evaluations round out the entire evaluation process for all men except those in the first year.

## **PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING**

Psychological counseling is available for students as a part of their personal development. Students are encouraged to address any personal concerns that might hinder their future effectiveness and growth in the priesthood. The College employs a full-time clinical psychologist as a member of the formation team. Like the spiritual directors, the psychologist does not participate in the evaluation of students. The psychologist is available directly to the student and communications between student and psychologist are under strict professional confidentiality.

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

The seminarian's primary academic responsibility is the fulfillment of the requirements and purposes of the university program in which he is enrolled. This program normally leads to a theological degree, unless there is a separate and exceptional arrangement for an individual seminarian.

## **PREREQUISITES**

The basic expectations for seminarians entering the theological formation program overseen by the North American College are the following:

1. In keeping with the requirements of both the *Program of Priestly Formation* and the Roman Universities, a seminarian should have completed two years of philosophical studies or the equivalent before beginning his first year of theological studies. Concretely, this means that the seminarian has earned at least thirty (30) semester credit hours in these ten areas of philosophy:

- Logic
- Ethics
- History of Ancient Philosophy
- History of Medieval Philosophy
- History of Modern Philosophy
- History of Contemporary Philosophy
- Epistemology or Philosophy of Knowledge
- Natural Theology or Philosophy of God
- Anthropology or Philosophy of the Human Person
- Metaphysics or Philosophy of Being
- Political Philosophy

As per the Apostolic Constitution, *Veritatis gaudium*, on Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties (9.01.2018) #55, all three pontifical universities (Angelicum, Gregorian, Santa Croce) require all incoming theological students having completed a course in Political Philosophy

Note: Students who are missing a particular philosophy class required by their Pontifical University must complete that class before arriving in Rome. Some on-line courses are available if arranged in due time.

2. A basic knowledge of Latin and Greek is valuable for the study of theology and it is in a seminarian's interests to have as good a knowledge as possible on arrival, especially in Latin. Each university has its own arrangements for providing courses in Latin, Greek and Hebrew at both beginners and higher levels.

## **THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

During the first three years of study, seminarians are engaged in theological programs of study at the Pontifical Gregorian University, the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) or the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Santa Croce). The selection of a particular university is generally made well before a seminarian arrives in Rome during the application process and must be assigned or approved by the seminarian's vocation director and/or bishop.

### **FIRST CYCLE**

At the Gregorian, Angelicum, and Holy Cross Universities, the first cycle (or Bachelor of Sacred Theology/S.T.B.) constitutes a systematic overview of the major areas of theology. The courses are presented almost exclusively in a lecture format with required participation in seminars.

The grading system at these three Universities is essentially the same, based on a scale of 10, with the highest grade being 10 and grades below 6 representing a failure. In general, the seminarian must maintain an overall average of 8 or above to qualify for graduate study on the licentiate level. For the doctoral levels, an average of 8.6 is necessary for classes taken on the licentiate level. All the required courses of the S.T.B. program at the Gregorian and the University of the Holy Cross are taught in Italian. The Angelicum offers two separate tracks, one in English and one in Italian.

The following are the S.T.B. *curricula* of the Gregorian, Angelicum, and Holy Cross Universities for 2022-2023. They offer an overview of the courses treated at each university in the first cycle of theological study. Programs are under review and for specific details and more information, you should refer to the universities' program information online.





**THE PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY**  
**[www.unigre.it](http://www.unigre.it)**



The First Cycle at the Gregorian University is divided into six semesters taking three years to complete. It wishes to present a comprehensive view of Revelation and offer a solid grasp of the whole range of theological problems. The First Cycle aims to offer an initiation that gives the student a synthesis of the Christian mystery and the principal theological disciplines.

In each of the three years, seminarians complete the obligatory courses with an annual seminar and, during the second and third year, an elective per semester. Seminarians at the Gregorian are required in the first cycle to take a minimum of three language classes while enrolled (Latin, Greek, Hebrew). These are available at a range of levels, and students are able either to extend the knowledge of languages which they have on arrival, or to start a new one. If a student wishes to enter into a higher level of Latin or Greek, he can take a proficiency exam.

## FIRST YEAR

### I Semester

TP1004 Fundamental theology I (3 ECTS)  
 TP1006 Church History I (3 ECTS)  
 TP1007 Pentateuch and Historical Books (6 ECTS)  
 TP1008 Christology and Soteriology (6 ECTS)  
 TP1035 Introduction to Sacred Scripture (3 ECTS)  
 TSI Introduction to Theological Method Seminar (2 ECTS)

### II Semester

TP1002 Synoptic Gospels and Acts of the Apostles (6 ECTS)  
 TP1003 Fundamental Theology II (3 ECTS)  
 TP1009 Mystery of the Triune God (5 ECTS)  
 TP1011 Patrology (5 ECTS)  
 TP1022 Fundamental Moral Theology (3 ECTS)  
 TP1036 Introduction to the History of Theology (3 ECTS)  
 TSI Introduction to Theological Method Seminar (2 ECTS)

## **SECOND YEAR**

### **I Semester**

TP1012 Pauline corpus (6 ECTS)  
TP1013 Ecclesiology (6 ECTS)  
TP1015 Sacraments I: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (5 ECTS)  
TP1017 Law in the Mystery of the Church I-II (6 ECTS) (I e II sem.)  
TP1020 Sacraments II: Reconciliation, Anointing, Order and Matrimony (5 ECTS)  
TP1037 Special Moral theology I: Theological morals (3 ECTS)  
TSM... Seminar (4 ECTS)

### **II Semester**

TP1010 Fundamentals of Christian Liturgy (3 ECTS)  
TP1019 Prophets and Apocalyptic Literature (5 ECTS)  
TP 1B17 Law in the Mystery of the Church III (3 ECTS)  
TP1023 Church History II (3 ECTS)  
TP1027 Special Morals II: Morality of sex, marriage and family (3 ECTS)  
TP1028 Pastoral Theology (2 ECTS)  
TSM... Seminar (4 ECTS)

## **THIRD YEAR**

### **I Semester**

TP1024 Psalms and Wisdom Literature (5 ECTS)  
TP1025 Fundamentals of theological anthropology (5 ECTS)  
TP1026 Eschatology (5 ECTS)  
TP1033 Church History III (3 ECTS)  
TP1034 Special Morals III: Bioethics (3 ECTS)  
TP1039 Theology of Ecumenical Dialogue (2 ECTS)  
TP1040 Interreligious dialogue: Questions for Theology (2 ECTS)  
TSC... Seminar (4 ECTS)

### **II Semester**

TP1014 Mariology (3 ECTS)  
TP1029 Johannine Corpus (6 ECTS)  
TP1030 Theology of Grace (5 ECTS)  
TP1032 Special Morals IV: Social morals (3 ECTS)  
TP1038 Spiritual Theology (2 ECTS)  
TSC... Seminar (2 ECTS)  
TE1002 Final paper (5 ECTS)



## THE PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

[www.pust.it](http://www.pust.it)



In the three-year STB cycle, a general and organic exposition of Catholic theology is offered in the form of courses and seminars. The *principal subjects* of the courses include: **Scripture**; **Dogmatic/Fundamental Theology** (including specialized courses offering a systematic exploration of the mystery of salvation in three phases, according to the theological vision of St. Thomas' *Summa Theologiae*); **Moral Theology and Spirituality**; and **Positive Theology** (e.g., patrology, Christian archaeology, church history, liturgy, pastoral theology, canon law). *Auxiliary subjects* include: Introduction to Ecumenism and World Religions.

Besides their course work, seminarians are required to take two seminars during their second year and one year-long seminar during their third year, which acquaint them with a variety of special contemporary problems in theology, and which also serve as a practical initiation into scientific theological work.

### FIRST YEAR

#### I Semester

TE1364 Introduction to Sacred Scripture 6 ECTS  
TE1365 The Pentateuch and the Historical Books of the OT 6 ECTS  
TE2371 The Synoptic Gospels 6 ECTS  
TE1366 Fundamental Theology 5 ECTS  
TE1367 Introduction to Theology and Theological Method 3 ECTS  
TE3472 Theology of Creation 3 ECTS  
TE3487 Biblical Greek 5 ECTS  
TE2377 Christian Archaeology 3 ECTS

#### II Semester

TE2372 Mystery of the Living God 6 ECTS  
TE2373 Theology of Grace 3 ECTS  
TE1368 Fundamental Moral Theology 6 ECTS  
TE2374 Eschatology 3 ECTS  
TE2376 Introduction to Christian Worship 3 ECTS  
TE2543 Introduction to Patristic Teaching 3 ECTS  
TE1369 History of the Ancient Church 3 ECTS  
TE3487 Biblical Greek 5 ECTS  
SE3588 Sapientia Seminar 4 ECTS

## **SECOND YEAR**

### **I Semester**

TE2546 The Acts of the Apostles 3 ECTS  
TE2385 Christology 6 ECTS  
TE2379 Ecclesiology 5 ECTS  
TE2375 Spiritual Theology 3 ECTS  
TE1381 Christian Faith, Hope and Charity 5 ECTS  
TE1390 Pastoral Theology 3 ECTS  
TE1383 Introduction to Canon Law 3 ECTS  
TE2545 Introduction to the World's Great Religions 3 ECTS

### **II Semester**

TE2384 The Prophetic Books of the OT 6 ECTS  
TE1378 The Epistles of St. Paul 6 ECTS  
TE2379 Ecclesiology 5 ECTS  
TE1380 Mariology 3 ECTS  
TE2386 Prudence, Fortitude, Temperance 6 ECTS  
TE1382 History of the Medieval Church 3 ECTS

### **Seminars (one to be chosen each semester)**

#### **First semester**

SE3337 Theology & Holiness 4 ECTS  
SE3543 The Quest for God in the Islamic Mystical Tradition 4 ECTS  
SE3597 Christ in the Summa theologiae 4 ECTS

#### **Second semester**

SE3471 Science and Religion – A Historical Approach 4 ECTS  
SE3590 The charismata in the Early Church: extraordinary manifestations of the soteriological action of the Holy Spirit in the second and third centuries 4 ECTS  
SE3604 Pathways to Spiritual Growth 4 ECTS

## **THIRD YEAR**

### **I Semester**

TE2392 The Johannine Writings 6 ECTS  
TE1398 The Sacraments in the life of the Church [I] 6 ECTS  
The sacramental mystery. – Part 1. Sacraments in general: The development of the doctrine in Scripture and Tradition (institution, name, properties, number); Aquinas synthesis (ST, IIIa, q. 60-65) Part 2. Sacraments in particular. – The sacraments of Christian initiation: Baptism; Confirmation.  
TE1389 Justice and Allied Virtues 5 ECTS  
TE2396 The Church's Legislation on Sacraments 3 ECTS  
TE3263 Matrimonial and procedural law 3 ECTS  
TE2548 Ecumeni-call Awareness: An Introductory Course on Ecumenism 3 ECTS

### **II Semester**

TE1387 The Psalms and Wisdom Books of the O.T. 6 ECTS

TE1544 Catholic Epistles 2 ECTS  
 TE2501 The Sacraments in the Life of the Church [II] 5 ECTS  
 Sacraments in particular (continued). – The Sacraments of Healing: Penance and Reconciliation; Anointing of the Sick. – The Sacraments at the Service of Communion: Holy orders; Matrimony.  
 TE 2499 Specialized Morals: Familial Issues 3 ECTS  
 TE2500 Specialized Morals: Critical international, Political, Economic Issues 3 ECTS  
 TE1391 History of the Modern Church 3 ECTS

#### Seminars for third year students

##### First semester

SE3299 History and spirituality of Preaching 4 ECTS  
 SE3455 Ecumenical insights into the faith and spiritual life of the Christian Traditions of the East and West 4 ECTS  
 SE3499 The Fulfilment of the Moral Life in Christ 4 ECTS

## THE PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE HOLY CROSS

[www.pusc.it](http://www.pusc.it)



The courses of the first cycle aim at presenting an organic exposition of all of the Catholic Doctrine, along with an introduction to the method of scientific research. The program has a duration of three academic years divided into semesters, and is concluded with the comprehensive degree exams.

### FIRST YEAR

#### I Semester

Introduction to Sacred Scripture (5A13).....4 ECTS  
 Introduction to Theology (5D12).....3 ECTS  
 Fundamental Theology I (5D24) .....6 ECTS  
 Dogmatic Theology: the Mystery of God, Unity and Trinity (5E12).....7 ECTS  
 History of the Church: Ancient & Medieval (5M13) .....4 ECTS  
 5N14 Patrology 6  
 5A22 Latin Language I 3

#### II Semester

OT Exegesis: Pentateuch & Other Historic Books (6B13).....4 ECTS  
 Fundamental Theology II (6D32) .....3 ECTS  
 Dogmatic Theology: Creation (6F13).....4 ECTS  
 Fundamental Moral Theology I (6G13).....4 ECTS  
 6N12 History of Theology 3  
 6A42 Introduction to Hebrew 3  
 6A32 Latin Language II 3

## SECOND YEAR

### I Semester

OT Exegesis: Prophetic Books (7B23) .....	4 ECTS
Dogmatic Theology: Christology (7E24) .....	6 ECTS
Fundamental Moral Theology II (7G23) .....	4 ECTS
Special Moral Theology: Theological Virtues, Prudence & Religion (7H13) .....	4 ECTS
Dogmatic Theology: Ecclesiology & Ecumenism I (7K22).....	3 ECTS
Canon Law I (7P12).....	3 ECTS
7A53 Greek Language	4

### II Semester

NT Exegesis: Synoptic Gospels & Acts of the Apostles (8C13) .....	4 ECTS
Dogmatic Theology: Soteriology (8E33).....	4 ECTS
Dogmatic Theology: Ecclesiology & Ecumenism II (8K12) .....	3 ECTS
History of the Church: Modern & Contemporary (8M23) .....	4 ECTS
S252 Analytic Reading of St Thomas Aquinas: texts on the Trinity	2
S541 The Parables in the Gospels: Literary and Theological Analysis	2
Sacramental Theology: Sacraments in General (8J12).....	3 ECTS
Liturgy I (8J23).....	4 ECTS
Sacramental Theology: Baptism, Confirmation & Orders (8L12) .....	3 ECTS
Christian Archeology (8M31).....	12 ECTS
Seminar (U.S. Catholic Church History) .....	<u>2 ECTS</u>

## THIRD YEAR

### I Semester

NT Exegesis: Pauline & Other Letters (9C23) .....	4 ECTS
Dogmatic Theology: Theological Anthropology (9E44).....	6 ECTS
Dogmatic Theology: Mariology (9F22).....	3 ECTS
Special Moral Theology: Morals of Life, Family & Sexuality (9H23) .....	4 ECTS
Sacramental Theology: Holy Eucharist (9L22) .....	3 ECTS
Sacramental Theology: Matrimony (9L33) .....	4 ECTS
9L14 Sacrament of Order	3

### II Semester

OT Exegesis: Wisdom Books (0B32).....	3 ECTS
NT Exegesis: Johannine Writings (0C32) .....	3 ECTS
Dogmatic Theology: Eschatology (0F32).....	3 ECTS
Special Moral Theology: Social Morals & the Social Doctrine of the Church (0H33)	4 ECTS
Spiritual Theology (0I13) .....	4 ECTS
Pastoral Theology (0K23).....	4 ECTS
Sacramental Theology: Penance & Anointing of the Sick (0L43) .....	4 ECTS
0P23 Canon Law III	3
0L44 Liturgical-Sacramental Theology: Penance and the Anointing of the Sick	4
0M31 Christian Archaeology	2

## U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH HISTORY

According to the norms of the *Program for Priestly Formation (PPF, 338)*, a course on the history of the Catholic Church in the United States, reflecting her multicultural origins and ecumenical context, should be included as part of the intellectual formation of all seminarians during the configuration stage. There are separate arrangements at the Gregorian and Angelicum universities for this course. Students at Santa Croce join the Angelicum course (taught at the College) through the inter-university exchange agreement, unless they have completed it in their previous studies.

## SECOND CYCLE

Typically in his fourth year, the seminarian begins a specialized program of theological study at one of the Roman ecclesiastical universities, athenaeums or institutes. The determination of a particular course of study is made in consultation with his bishop and the Director of Studies of the College and requires the formal approval of both his bishop and the formation team of the College.

Second cycle diplomas, degrees and licenses offered in Rome are quite varied and can be accomplished in one to three years depending on the course of study. The university websites will give more precise information.

### 1. ONE YEAR DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

#### a) The Pontifical Gregorian University

Spirituality (Diploma)

Ignatian Spirituality (Diploma)

Integral Ecology (Diploma)

Protection of Youth and Safeguarding Minors (Diploma)

#### b) The Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas

Pastoral Theology (Diploma)

Note that any theological discipline at the Angelicum can be taken for a year, with the addition of a thesis, leading to a diploma in Pastoral Theology. The credits obtained for this program can be credited to any subsequent License program, if a student returns to complete one.

#### c) The Teresianum Institute

Spirituality (Diploma)

#### a) The Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant'Anselmo

Sacred Art and Architecture (Diploma)

#### d) The Pontifical University of the Holy Cross

High theological formation (Diploma: one and two year programs exist)

History of Christianity (Diploma)

Christian culture of the family and education (Diploma)

## **2. TWO YEAR LICENSE PROGRAMS**

Some programs (especially in Biblical and Patristic studies) have particular language requirements for admission. Provision is made, for those who do not already meet these requirements, usually by an additional propaedeutic year. The Gregorian hopes that students who need additional language courses can still complete the program of studies in two years, but may need additional time to complete and submit the thesis.

### **a) The Pontifical Gregorian University**

Biblical Theology; Fundamental Theology; Dogmatic Theology; Patristic Theology and the Tradition of the Fathers; Comparative theology of Christian traditions and Ecumenical studies; Theology with a specialization in vocational formation; Moral Theology; Spiritual Theology.

### **b) The Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas**

Scriptural Studies; Thomistic Studies; Dogmatic Theology; Ecumenism; Moral Theology; Spiritual Theology

### **c) The Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant'Anselmo**

Sacramental Theology; Monastic Studies; History of Theology

### **d) The Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum**

Bioethics

### **e) The Academy Alphonsianum**

Moral Theology

### **f) The Marianum Pontifical Theological Faculty**

Mariology

### **g) The Pontifical Oriental Institute**

Eastern Church Theology/Patristics; Eastern Church Liturgy; Eastern Church History

### **h) The Pontifical University of the Holy Cross**

Dogmatic Theology; Moral Theology; Spiritual Theology; History of the Church; Liturgical Theology; Biblical Theology

### **i) The Teresianum Institute**

Spiritual Theology, Christian Anthropology

### **j) The Pontifical Lateran University**

Christology, Ecclesiology, Fundamental Theology

### **k) John Paul II Pontifical Theological Institute for Marriage and Family Sciences**

Marriage and Family Studies

### 3. THREE YEAR LICENSE PROGRAMS

- a) **The Gregorian University**  
Biblical Theology (minimum of five [5] semesters); Canon Law; Ecclesiastical History.
- b) **The Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas**  
Canon Law
- c) **The Lateran University**  
Canon Law
- d) **The Pontifical Biblical Institute**  
Scripture Studies
- l) **The Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant'Anselmo**  
Liturgy
- e) **The Patristic Institute Augustinianum**  
Patristic Studies
- f) **The Pontifical University of the Holy Cross**  
Canon Law

### LANGUAGE STUDIES

Living in Rome provides both the setting and the incentive to gain a facility in the Italian language that may be important for theological studies, for participation in an Italian-speaking apostolic program and for a genuine appreciation of the society and culture of our host country. The College provides a four-week intensive program in the Italian language for new seminarians prior to the beginning of the academic year. The Gregorian and Santa Croce Universities have Italian proficiency language exams at the beginning of the year. If students do not pass the exam on the first attempt, they may continue their enrollment and retake the test with additional language tutoring. *Seminarians who know soon enough in advance that they will be assigned to the North American College are strongly encouraged to begin their formal study of Italian before the beginning (usually sometime during the last week of August) of the Orientation period at the College. They may do this either while still in the United States or they may wish to take advantage of one of the many programs offered in Italy. A course duration of at least four weeks is recommended. The College does have arrangements with programs for extra Italian courses for the new students beginning in July.* Knowledge of modern foreign languages (Italian, German, French, Portuguese, Spanish, etc.) is also very useful in the study of theology, and many seminarians spend at least one month of their first summer studying such a language. Typically a seminarian will study a language that he believes will be useful in his theological studies and/or in future ministry in his own home diocese.



## **THE BROTHER RANDAL RIEDE, C.F.X., LIBRARY**

The seminary library has over 84,000 volumes, exclusive of bound periodicals. In addition, the library receives approximately 200 periodicals, most of which are in English, but French, Spanish and Italian journals are included. Of these periodicals over half are online. Besides the online journals the students have access to JSTOR, and EBSCO'S Atla and CPLI databases. The works supplement materials in the university libraries in Rome. These holdings comprise, in general, bibliographical tools, reference works, monographs, and special collections in, for example, catechetics, patristic theology, homiletics and pastoral theology. The emphasis in all categories is on the theological sciences. There are two large reading rooms, one for general reference reading guides and the other for theological reference materials. In addition, there is a periodicals room and additional study rooms have been added on the first floor. The circulating collection and library is always open to students. The library is administered by the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.

## **APOSTOLIC FORMATION PROGRAM**

The apostolic formation program helps the students bring their theological studies directly in contact with the pastoral experience of the Church. Apostolates provide specific opportunities for students to discover the presence of Jesus Christ in the people they serve, to grow in self-knowledge, in pastoral skills and in sensitivity to the needs of others, including those who come from very different social, cultural and economic backgrounds. The unique location of the College also demands a level of flexibility and a capacity to deal with the new and unfamiliar which are foundational abilities for effective pastoral practice, since people have similar basic needs wherever one is ministering in the world.

## **APOSTOLIC ASSIGNMENTS**

Students are expected to be involved in a supervised apostolate beginning with the second semester of their first year at the College. In their apostolic activities, seminarians have the opportunity to serve the Italian, Spanish, and the large English-speaking community present in and around Rome. Students gain a familiarity with parochial ministry in Italian and American parishes. They prepare liturgical services, help with sacramental preparation programs, lead adult education groups, conduct home visitations and coordinate youth activities. Teaching in English-speaking grade schools and parish religious education programs, they have the opportunity to communicate the faith not only to Catholics, but to members of other Christian communities and to believers of other non-Christian faiths as well.

Hospital visitation affords the seminarians the opportunity to engage the patients and their families with pastoral concern and to pray with them. In apostolates to the poor and elderly, students visit nursing homes operated by the Little Sisters of the Poor and also offer service to the homeless and dispossessed at shelters run by the Missionaries of Charity. Pastoral ministry programs on college campuses, international and local parish youth centers, as well as a program of evangelization on the streets of Rome, all offer settings where students develop ministry skills important for today's priest.

Involvement in these many ministries, so often transcultural in nature, expands the students' pastoral skills and sensitivities and brings greater depth and perspective to their future priestly

ministry. Integration of their experiences in the apostolate with their theological and spiritual formation is accomplished through critical reflection with their formation advisor, spiritual director, and with their apostolate supervisors.

## **SUMMER APOSTOLIC EXPERIENCES**

After completing their first year of formation, seminarians spend their summer taking advantage of the many opportunities for study, apostolic work, and travel available to them in Europe and the Third World. They are expected to spend a minimum of four weeks in an organized study program or in an apostolate in Europe, Asia or in Africa. Seminarians engage in parish work in countries such as England, Ireland, Spain, France and Italy.

Some students have worked with retreats and youth programs in Ireland, in parish work in England, in programs for delinquent boys in Italy, or helped missionaries in their parishes located in Kenya or Tanzania in eastern Africa. Opportunities for assisting the Missionaries of Charity in Europe, Asia or Africa are available in broadening the student's awareness of others' needs. The places of pilgrimage, such as Lourdes, offer further possibilities for service. Through these varied experiences students broaden their knowledge and experience of the Universal Church and its worldwide ministry. It gives them the opportunity to integrate their theological learning and spiritual development with these pastoral experiences so they can enhance their awareness of serving as a priest one day in their own diocese.

Following the second year of their priestly formation, students return to minister for a minimum of six weeks in their local church where they will eventually return for their life of priestly ministry. After their third year, a few students remain abroad for further experience with international apostolates or studies, while a majority of the students return to the United States to work in their own dioceses. This decision is made in consultation with the student's diocese and formation advisor as well as with the Director of Apostolic Formation.

## **PASTORAL FORMATION PROGRAM**

The program of pastoral formation has been organized to respond to the expectations of the Church and the needs expressed by the students in each year of formation for the priesthood. The program is intended to provide appropriate instruction and training in pastoral activities: preaching, teaching, celebrating Mass, the sacraments and other rites of the Church, the virtues expected of a priest, as well as addressing a variety of socio-cultural and communication issues which are common to priestly ministry. It is complemented by their participation in the Apostolic Formation Program.

The pastoral formation program is conducted in two distinct formats: in workshops held during the month of September prior to the beginning of the academic year, and in hour-long sessions each week throughout the year. Each year of pastoral formation is structured around topics that correspond to the appropriate phase of priestly formation and is oriented toward preparation for a concrete step toward Holy Orders.

To ensure a balance in perspective and a more comprehensive exposure to the variety of approaches possible in pastoral ministry, the presenters invited to assist in this program are

selected from among members of the resident seminary staff, the Pontifical Universities, the Roman Curia and from guest lecturers, especially those from the United States.

Upon his acceptance to the North American College to begin theological studies for the priesthood, a man is admitted as a candidate for Holy Orders in his home diocese as a way of beginning his formation in Rome. While there are sessions dedicated to certain practical aspects of the liturgy, the program concentrates on developing the practical skills of learning Italian during the fall workshop period, and then public speaking, interpretative reading and catechetics during the year. This is done with a view to being installed in the ministry of lector at the end of the first semester of theological studies.

In the second year, students apply the skills acquired and developed in the first year by reading in liturgical celebrations and private devotions. The overall emphasis of the instruction is on personal communication and dynamics within the overall formational theme of forming a priestly identity. In addition, time is dedicated to the functions of the acolyte, a ministry entrusted to the students in the second semester of this second year of studies.

In the third year, students are involved in serving as acolytes in the celebration of the liturgy. The course of training centers on preparing for Holy Orders, particularly the liturgical functions of the deacon. They engage in instructions and *practica* for the celebration of the sacraments. During the fall workshops they participate in sessions on Pastoral Counseling and Hispanic Ministry. At the end of this year the formation team evaluates each student for his readiness to be admitted to the Order of Deacons.

Students are ordained to the diaconate at the beginning of their fourth year of studies. Their pastoral formation continues in the fourth year with priestly ministry as the specific emphasis of discussions, instruction and training. No less important is the opportunity for students to exercise the ministry of deacons through preaching and in exercising their diaconal functions in liturgical rites both in the seminary and in apostolic activities. Additionally the fourth year focuses on preparations for leadership within the parish and the tasks of the priest in the daily exercise of parish life.

## **THE CARL J. PETER PROGRAM OF FORMATION IN PREACHING**

The College takes with the utmost seriousness the mandate of the Council that a priest is to consider “the preaching of the Gospel” his major duty. Thanks to a generous gift from the family of the late Carl J. Peter (devoted alumnus, past formation team member, and acclaimed theologian) and from the alumni of the College, the seminary now provides an intensive program of seminars, workshops, and courses in homiletics, remedial coaching in speech and voice, and a full-time formation team member (the occupant of the Carl J. Peter Chair) who coordinates the entire preaching program, especially the required preaching *practica* in second and third year. Deacons (fourth year seminarians) rotate with preaching at daily Mass two times a week, working with the Carl J. Peter Chair of Homiletics before and after the Mass to both develop and review the homily. Carefully monitored progress in the skill of preaching is an essential part of the formation program.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

As a seminary concerned with the formation of each student for priesthood, community life revolves around the major areas of the formation program, namely spirituality, theological studies, apostolic works, community involvement and personal development. This program recognizes that an atmosphere of freedom within the context of personal responsibility and accountability is an important element of preparation for priesthood. The freedom, however, must always take into account the attainment of the objectives of the College and the seminarian's personal formation goals.

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Several community organizations give direction to community life and moderate the activities of the College. The Vice Rector, in collaboration with the Pastoral Council and the student coordinators, oversees the development of the house calendar and the coordination of the daily schedule of the College community. In accordance with the recommendation of the *Program of Priestly Formation*, namely, that seminary students be involved in the decision-making process of the seminary and in the implementation of its goals, the North American College community has a Pastoral Council that exercises leadership in the community by serving as a consultative body to the Rector and the formation team and as a forum for discussion of matters of common concern to the community.

The Student Activities Organization (STUAC) serves the College community by offering services of convenience and services that foster a wider sense of community. The STUAC organization is composed of student stores (lounge, snack bar, supply store, etc.), student activities (e.g. student kitchen, sports, etc.) and the general steering committee.

## RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL LIFE

The College has a student lounge, operated by the students, that includes a snack bar, television and video equipment room, card tables, a ping-pong table and reading area. Tennis and basketball courts, a soccer/baseball/football field, running track and a nearby park provide ample opportunity for exercise throughout the year because of the moderate Roman climate. Also, a well-equipped gym is provided for indoor exercise. Additionally, there is a kitchen, woodshop, theater and bike shop for student use.

## COLLEGE PUBLICATION

In conjunction with the Office of Development, the College community publishes the *Roman Echoes* magazine several times during the calendar year. A student editor and associate editor collect and highlight information in the newsletter about student life, College programs, and special events. This publication is sent to seminarians in the United States, parents of students, alumni and friends of the College.

## ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

The Pontifical North American College accepts applications to the priestly formation program from individuals who are sponsored by a bishop of the United States, Canada, or Australia. It is to the advantage of the candidates to be informed of their being recommended to the North American College during their third year of college studies, thereby enabling themselves to meet the prerequisites of the Roman universities. Applicants without previous seminary experience are expected to complete a pre-theology program before entering the College to assist them in making the transition to priestly formation. Further application information can be found on the College's website ([www.pnac.org](http://www.pnac.org)) under the "Vocation Director Resources" link.

### Timeline for 2023-2024 Admission Process

- Dec. 15, 2023 ..... Admission Application Available
- April 30, 2024 ..... Deadline for Admission Application



## STUDENT EXPENSES

Billing for room and board, university tuition, NAC formation tuition and the electronic communications fee is sent directly to the seminarian's sponsoring diocese in September for the current academic year. If the policy of a particular diocese requires a contribution from the student toward his seminary expenses, the diocese should be reimbursed directly by the student. The College cannot be responsible for billing students directly.

The Tuition/Room/Board/Fees for the Academic Year 2023-2024.

Annual Fee			
NAC Seminary			
years 1-4	\$ 41,700		
years 2-3-5-6	\$ 40,200		
	<i>Tuition</i>	\$ 4,000	
	<i>NAC Formation</i>	\$ 12,000	\$ 40,200
	<i>Room &amp; Board</i>	\$ 23,700	
	<i>Electronic Communications</i>	\$ 500	
	<i>Orientation / Diaconate</i> <i>(years 1 &amp; 4)</i>	\$ 1,500	\$ 41,700

Casa Santa Maria (Graduate House)	\$41,600	Full Room and Board*
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\*This is not inclusive of individual University Tuition, which is payable directly to the institution by the sponsoring diocese.

The sponsoring (arch)diocese will also want to make provisions for the following additional student expenses:

- Textbooks
- Personal expenses (monthly stipend)
- Airfare
- Shipping of personal effects
- Summer travel, summer apostolate, and summer study away from the College

## LAUNDRY SERVICE

Washing and drying machines, as well as steam irons, are provided by the College and available to the students at no charge. In the case of apparel needing special care or dry cleaning, professional services are available at personal expense. Bed linens and blankets are provided and laundered by the College. A student should provide his own towels and washcloths.

## HEALTH CARE

Students are required to have adequate health insurance that provides coverage in international locations before coming to study in Rome. It is suggested that they also have adequate dental

and vision insurance coverage. Most dioceses have a health insurance program in which seminarians can participate; it is suggested that the specific processes regarding treatment, payment and/or reimbursement are well understood by the student and diocese well before the student departs for Rome. If a student arrives with no medical health insurance, the College will ask the student to contact his diocese to obtain medical care insurance. The College is not able to provide health insurance for students. The College Business Office will assist the student in paying/processing medical bills with European medical care providers and will, with the specific permission of the diocese, advance payment for outstanding student medical care bills; invoicing the student's diocese for the full amount to be reimbursed to the College.

Whatever his health care plan, the student should be certain that he has a clear understanding of the process necessary for making medical claims, i.e. the policy number, forms, offices to be contacted, etc. The College cannot be and is not responsible for doctor's bills or hospital expenses incurred by a student. While the College will assist with medical bills for the student, the College requires prompt reimbursement from the Diocese for any payments made by the College for the student.

As a part of the application process, each new student is required to have a comprehensive medical examination. It is recommended that such an examination be re-done during his second summer home.

## **CREDIT CARDS**

It is strongly recommended that a student have one or more major credit cards. Such a card is helpful in emergencies. Credit cards must be obtained in the United States. Application for credit cards from a foreign address may not be accepted by U.S. companies.

## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Pontifical North American College is an educational institution of the United States, chartered in the state of Maryland under the legal title of "The American College of the Roman Catholic Church of the United States." Its students are eligible for federal guaranteed loans from the local dioceses or local banks. Detailed information regarding financial aid can be obtained from the Chancery Office of the sponsoring (arch)diocese.

The title of the seminary, when completing forms for the Federal Student Aid (Office of the US Department of Education) and for the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) is the "North American College." The numeric code designating our institution – again when dealing with Federal Student Aid, the NSLDS, or individual banks – is 009906-00. Requests for signatures by an officer of the College, as required by the student loan form, should be addressed to:

Vice Rector  
Pontifical North American College  
00120 Vatican City State  
Europe

Certain states may also have state scholarships or grants available to students. The student is



advised to direct his inquiries regarding scholarships or other financial aid to the Chancery of his (arch)diocese.

When applying for a loan that must be certified by the College, the student must be certain that he has completed the Financial Aid Form (FAF), a copy of which should be forwarded to the Vice Rector. He should make clear as well whether the loan is for part of the diocesan payment of tuition or a loan to be granted to the student over and above diocesan payments.

## **REFUND POLICY**

If a student withdraws prior to the first day of class of the second semester, half of his room and board as well as half of his university tuition will be refunded to the sponsoring (arch)diocese. All other tuitions and fees are not refundable.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For further inquiries regarding the Pontifical North American College, please contact:

Pontifical North American College  
Vice Rector  
00120 Vatican City State  
(Europe)

Phone: 011-3906-684-931  
FAX: 011-3906-687-5557

OR

Pontifical North American College  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
3211 Fourth Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20017-1194

Phone: 202-541-5411  
FAX: 202-722-8804

OR

See our website at [www.pnac.org](http://www.pnac.org).  
Email: [pnac@pnac.org](mailto:pnac@pnac.org)



**EPISCOPAL COMMITTEE FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE AND  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF  
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES**

*Updated November 2022*

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair <i>Archbishop of Hartford</i>	Region I
His Eminence, Timothy M. Cardinal Dolan (Vice-Chairman) <i>Archbishop of New York</i>	Region II
Most Reverend William J. Waltersheid <i>Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh</i>	Region III
Most Reverend Adam J. Parker (Secretary) <i>Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore</i>	Region IV
Most Reverend Glen J. Provost <i>Bishop of Lake Charles</i>	Region V
Most Reverend Earl A. Boyea <i>Bishop of Lansing</i>	Region VI
Most Reverend Robert J. McClory <i>Bishop of Gary</i>	Region VII
Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda (Treasurer) <i>Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis</i>	Region VIII
Most Reverend Gerald L. Vincke <i>Bishop of Salina</i>	Region IX
Most Reverend Steven J. Lopes <i>Bishop of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter</i>	Region X
Most Reverend Kevin W. Vann <i>Bishop of Orange in California</i>	Region XI
Most Reverend Austin A. Vetter (Chairman) <i>Bishop of Helena</i>	Region XII
Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila <i>Archbishop of Denver</i>	Region XIII
Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis <i>Bishop of Charlotte</i>	Region XIV
Most Reverend Yousif Habash <i>Bishop of Our Lady of Deliverance</i>	Region XV

**PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE  
FORMATION TEAM AND STAFF POSITIONS AT THE COLLEGE  
2023-2024**

*Administration*

Reverend Monsignor Thomas W. Powers, STL, '97  
Diocese of Bridgeport  
Rector  
Formation team member since 2022

Reverend Michael Pratt, STL, '11  
Diocese of Tulsa  
Vice-Rector  
Coordinator of Human Formation  
Formation Advisor  
Formation team member since 2023

Reverend Brendan Hurley, SJ, MDiv  
Society of Jesus, USA East Province  
Coordinator of Spiritual Formation  
Spiritual Director  
Formation team member since 2009

Dottore Michele Marconi  
Chief Financial Officer – Economo  
Staff since 2000

*Formation Team*

*External Forum*

Reverend James Baron, STL, '11  
Diocese of Colorado Springs  
Coordinator of Intellectual Formation  
Formation Advisor  
Formation team member since 2023

Reverend Kurt Belsole, OSB, STD  
Benedictine Archabbey of Saint Vincent  
Coordinator of Liturgical Formation  
Formation Advisor  
Formation team member since 2007

Reverend Peter John Cameron, OP, STL, MFA  
Dominican Province of St. Joseph  
Carl J. Peter Chair of Homiletics / Coordinator of Homiletics  
Formation Advisor  
Formation team member since 2022

Reverend David Hulshof, MA, '81  
Diocese of Springfield- Cape Girardeau  
Coordinator of Apostolic Formation  
Formation Advisor  
Formation team member since 2021

Reverend Anthony F. Ligato, STB, M.Div  
Diocese of Albany  
Assistant Vice Rector  
Coordinator of Pastoral Formation  
Formation Advisor  
Formation team member since 2022

Reverend Michael Romano, STL, '07  
Diocese of Camden  
Coordinator of Admissions  
Formation Advisor  
Formation team member since 2019

Mr. Mark S. Glafke, Ph.D., H.S.S.P.  
Coordinator of Counseling Services  
Formation team member since 2021

### ***Internal Forum***

Reverend Monsignor James M. McNamara, P.A., M.Div., MS  
Diocese of Rockville Centre  
Spiritual Director  
Formation team member since 2017 (also 1982-1987)

Reverend Eóin Moore, O. Carm., B.D, B.Phill, M.Ed  
Irish Province of Carmelites  
Spiritual Director  
Formation team member since 2022

### ***Adjunct Faculty***

Reverend James Oliver, JCD, MA, MDiv  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
Adjunct Spiritual Director  
Formation team member since 2022

### ***Casa Santa Maria***

Reverend James J. Conn, SJ, JD, JCD  
Society of Jesus, USA East Province  
Superior  
Formation team member since 2019

Reverend Shane L. Kirby, STL, JCL, '04  
Diocese of Scranton  
Director of Newly Ordained Program  
Formation team member since 2020

Reverend Monsignor James M. McNamara, P.A., M.Div., MS  
Diocese of Rockville Centre  
Spiritual Director  
Formation team member since 2017 (also 1982-1987)

### ***Institute for Continuing Theological Education (ICTE):***

Reverend Edward Linton, OSB, Ph.D.  
Benedictine Archabbey of Saint Meinrad  
Director  
Formation team member since 2018

### ***Staff***

Mr. Stephen Smith, M.MUS.  
Director of Music

Sister Mary Cecilia, OP  
Librarian, Bro. Randal Riede, CFX Library

Sister Monica Marie, OP  
Librarian, Casa Santa Maria

Sister Judith Zoebelein, FSE  
Assistant to the Coordinator of Apostolic Formation

### ***Bishops' Office for United States Visitors to the Vatican***

Sister Marie Mechtild Wasserthal, RSM  
Coordinator

Sister Maria Juan Anderson, RSM  
Assistant Coordinator

### ***Infirmery***

Sister Marie Mechtild Wasserthal, RSM, RN  
Infirmarian