**PASTORAL YEAR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**To: Upcoming Pastoral Year Students**

**From: Fr. David Hulshof, Coordinator of Apostolic Formation**

**Re: Goals and Objectives for the Pastoral Year**

**Date: May 15, 2025**

In preparation for your upcoming pastoral year, it will be very important to set up goals and objectives for yourself, much like those that you have done for your academic years here at the NAC. **While the specifics of your ministry may not yet have been defined, these goals and objectives should serve as a tool to help you examine areas that you want to improve during the upcoming year.** In this way, once your pastoral year is completed, you will be able to tangibly assess how you have grown as a seminarian in formation. Listing your goals and objectives can be of great assistance when you sit down with your pastor/supervisor to fill out your *Assignment Expectations Sheet.*

**Timeline and Due Dates** – these will be more *informal* than the G & O for the academic year.

You are to meetwith your Formation Advisor to discuss your goals and objectives before semester exams begin. You should also discuss the substance of your goals and objectives with your Spiritual Director before submitting them to the Coordinator of Apostolic Formation (cc. to your Formation Advisor).

**There is no Draft Version required** of your goals and objectives: simply submit your **one final electronic version to me (cc. to your Formation Advisor)** as soon as possible and***by May 30.***

Please format the title of the WORD document as follows:

**Goals and Objectives for the Pastoral Year 2025-2026**

***Please keep in mind these general principles of the goals and objectives:***

You should write your goals and objectives succinctly and in a focused manner. This means your goals should not be vague or too expansive. You should write them to address specific aspects of your life that will result in your ongoing growth in priestly virtues and practices. After you have identified goals for each of the four dimensions, then determine *specific* and *measurable* objectives for each goal. The relationship between a goal and an objective can be stated this way: a *goal* is what you want to achieve; an *objective* is the activity or specific action by which you will achieve the stated goal. Keep in mind that you want to have two or three objectives for each goal.

Your goals and objectives should include those areas of growth that were included in your self-evaluation, the formation team evaluation, and your upcoming summer and pastoral year expectations. Please review these documents prior to writing your 2025-2026 goals and objectives. A template for writing your G & O follows:

**Goals and Objectives for the Pastoral Year 2025-2026**

NAME:

DIOCESE:

YEAR OF THEOLOGY:

UNIVERSITY:

APOSTOLATE:

FORMATION ADVISOR:

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR:

**OVERALL GOAL:**

* Goals in **Human Formation**:

 Objective/s:

* Goals in **Spiritual Formation**:

 Objective/s:

* Goals in **Intellectual Formation**:

 Objective/s:

* Goals in **Pastoral Formation**:

 Objective/s

* **Additional Goals:**

 Objective/s

**Samples / Examples of Goals and Objectives:**

* Goals in **Spiritual Formation**:

1) To strengthen the unity between my participation in liturgical prayer and my personal prayer.

Objectives:

* I will pray with the priests in residence as often as our schedule permits; I will plan regular prayer times if I must pray alone.
* I will read the scripture readings for Mass each day and bring salient points gleaned from them to my personal prayer and spiritual direction.
* I will become more familiar with the prayers of the Mass and use them as a source of meditation.
* Goals in **Pastoral Formation**:

1) To integrate my theological studies with my pastoral work.

Objectives:

* I will discuss regularly with my pastor/supervisor the theological insights I have found based on my pastoral work.
* I will read a book or an article that deals with the type of pastoral work in which I am engaged.
* I will make sure to provide enough preparation time for parish projects and presentations.

As you can see in these sample goals and objectives, the goals are specific, and the objectives are measurable. Try to begin your “Goal” statements with the word “To” and your “Objective” statements with the words “I will….” Your Formation Advisor and Spiritual Director will be happy to give you any help that you may need in writing about your goals and objectives.