

Seminary of Our Lady of Providence



Rule of Life

*God our Father, life is your gift to me.
Through baptism, you invite me to share the
gift of my life in service to others. Be with me
as I choose each day to show your presence in
our world. Give me the courage and
generosity to respond to your love, to your call.*

*We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.
Amen*

Our Lady of Providence, pray for us.

Mission Statement of The Seminary of Our Lady of Providence

The Seminary of Our Lady of Providence is a college seminary program of the Diocese of Providence. We also welcome qualified candidates who are sponsored by other dioceses.

The Seminary of Our Lady of Providence follows the gospel of Jesus Christ while observing the applicable norms of the Holy See and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Seminary is committed to the continued renewal and refinement of its program.

The primary mission of the Seminary is to provide an environment, which assists men in answering God's call to celibate life and the Roman Catholic priesthood. The Seminary fulfills its mission through a balanced program of human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation, as outlined in *Pastores Dabo Vobis* and *the Program of Priestly Formation*.

I. HUMAN FORMATION

Human Formation is the Basis of all Priestly Formation
“The whole work of priestly formation would be deprived of its necessary foundation if it lacked a suitable human formation.”

Pastores Dabo Vobis, #43

A. Personal Growth & Development

Healthy social, recreational and cultural interests should be developed within the life-style consistent with celibate love in normal and mature relationships with men and women.

College seminarians will manifest the skills to relate well to all people they will encounter in their ministries. They will possess the human virtues which are signs of personal maturity and which are needed for pastoral service. These include the capacity “to love the truth, to be loyal, to respect every person, to have a sense of justice, to be true to [one’s] word, to be genuinely compassionate, to be men of integrity, and especially, to be balanced in judgment and behavior” (PDV, 43).

Seminarians should possess a well-formed moral conscience.

Each seminarian will meet individually, once a semester, with the Rector. Each seminarian will meet individually, twice a semester, with his formation advisor. It is the responsibility of the seminarian to keep his formation advisor aware of his ongoing discernment process.

Each seminarian will meet individually, once a semester, with the Staff Psychologist.

II. SPIRITUAL FORMATION

The decisive factor to spiritual formation is Jesus Christ. More precisely, it is one's habitually developed relationship with Christ: "Those who are to take on the likeness of Christ the priest by sacred ordination should form the habit of drawing close to him as friends in every detail of their lives" (PDV #45). Hence, the seminarian "should be taught to search for Jesus."

A. Liturgy of the Eucharist

Daily Mass is at the heart of our seminary program. Therefore, all members of the seminary community are expected to participate in the celebration of Mass each day.

B. Morning, Evening and Night Prayer

The liturgy of the hours reflects the Lord's command to His disciples to pray without ceasing. Through communal and private celebration of the hours, the seminarian will learn to pray with attentive devotion. Seminarians are expected to be present for all communal celebrations of these hours.

On Mondays, the Eucharist is exposed in conjunction with the praying of Night Prayer.

C. Morning Meditation

In order to offer the first moments of the day to our God in prayer, seminarians are expected to spend quiet time in meditation before Morning Prayer.

D. Lectio Divina

(Spiritual Reading with the Word of God)

An essential element of spiritual formation is the prayerful and meditative reading of the Word of God. The seminarian is expected to spend at least fifteen minutes every day before the Blessed Sacrament, reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture.

E. Spiritual Direction

Each seminarian is to have a priest spiritual director with whom he will meet on a regular basis during the year. His spiritual director will be chosen in consultation with the Director of Spiritual Formation.

It will be the seminarian's responsibility to schedule meetings and attend them faithfully twice a month. The seminarian will be responsible to submit to his formation advisor a written log of the date and time of his appointments.

F. Eucharistic Adoration

Every Thursday, from noon to 5:00 PM, the Eucharist will be exposed in the Seminary chapel. Seminarians are expected to make a holy hour sometime during the day.

G. Spiritual Exercises

In order to foster growth in personal devotion and love for the Eucharist, seminarians are encouraged to spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament (PPF, 157). Additionally, seminarians are encouraged to foster a personal devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary (PPF, 158).

During the course of the year, seminarians participate in periodic retreats, evenings of reflection, penance services, benediction, rosary, holy hours and other devotional activities.

H. Rector/Spiritual Director/Human Formation Conferences

Formation for a priestly way of life in imitation of Jesus Christ will guide seminarians in learning the value, practice and cultivation of celibacy, simplicity in life, obedience, and pastoral service.

Weekly conferences on topics of Faith, the Church and Priestly Formation are held for all seminarians. These conferences aid the seminarians in their understanding of priestly life and assist them in their growth in all areas of formation.

III. INTELLECTUAL FORMATION

Intellectual formation is not just the fulfillment of an academic curriculum. It is the formation of the entire person. The priest, in his prophetic role, is called to be a teacher. Thus we should carefully consider intellectual preparation for the priesthood as one of the fundamental fields of a seminarian's formation.

Integral Formation of Catholic Priests

- A.** In registering for each semester, each seminarian, in addition to consulting with his on-campus academic advisors, is to consult with the Rector.
- B.** Seminarians are expected to attend all their scheduled classes.
- C.** Seminarians are not to enroll in or withdraw from a course without the Rector's permission.
- D.** Each student should set up his schedule allowing for extensive periods of study each day.
- E.** It is expected that each student will work academically to his full ability. Seminarians must minimally maintain a cumulative average of 2.0 and continue to be in good standing in their program of study.

F. As a preparation for theological studies and in accord with the directives of the ***Program of Priestly Formation***, each seminarian must have a minimum of 30 credits in philosophy including the following courses (PPF, 169; 175):

- Logic
- Metaphysics
- Ethics
- Epistemology
- Ancient, Medieval, Modern and Contemporary
Philosophy
- Philosophy of the Human Person
- Philosophy of Religion

Each seminarian should also have accumulated 12 credits in religious studies (PPF, 176).

A course in Latin is required either at Providence College or at the Seminary.

G. On the dormitory bulletin board is a list of all publications and newspapers that come to the seminary. All seminarians should be taking advantage of and reading these publications.

IV. PASTORAL FORMATION

The whole formation imparted to candidates for the priesthood aims at preparing them to enter into communion with the charity of Christ the Good Shepherd. Hence, their formation in its different aspects must have a fundamentally pastoral character.

Pastores Dabo Vobis, #57

A. Although professional pastoral training occurs in later years of seminary formation, each seminarian will establish an opportunity for experience in the apostolic mission of the Church. This will ordinarily be an approved weekly assignment. During the course of their formation, seminarians are expected to be involved in a variety of pastoral activities.

B. Seminarians are expected to attend their apostolic work weekly. The seminarian will be responsible to submit to his formation advisor a written log of the date and time of his appointments.

C. Weekends are also seen as an opportunity for pastoral enrichment. Therefore, seminarians are expected to participate and offer assistance in their home parishes.

D. In the second semester, pastors and supervisors will be asked to offer evaluative observations about the seminarians assisting them.

E. No college seminarian is allowed to stay overnight in a rectory.

V. SEMINARY LIFE

A. Community Life

1. Community Activities

Each seminarian is expected to be present at every community activity unless prior permission is obtained to be absent. Permission should usually be sought from the Rector.

Please check the dormitory bulletin board for dates/times of required events.

2. Meals

The breakfast and the evening meals are shared together as a community. If a seminarian must be absent from a community meal, he must have the permission of the Rector.

Seminarians are responsible for their own lunch. Food is available in the kitchen, and each seminarian is free to prepare a bag-lunch to take to school or prepare his own lunch at the seminary.

Food will be specifically designated as available for lunch and snacks. No other food stored in the kitchen or refrigerator areas should be used.

Seminarians will be assigned to assist in the dining room. They are responsible for setting the dining room for breakfast each day. Those assigned to the dining room will also serve the evening meal and attend to doing the dishes and cleaning up the kitchen .

3. Dormitory Life

Each seminarian has a right to privacy. The dormitory atmosphere should be such that each seminarian can use his room as a place for study, prayer and rest.

Therefore, excessive and unnecessary noise must be avoided. Music volume should be kept low. In respecting the community nature of dormitory life, no guests are allowed in the dorms. Guests may be entertained in the community room.

After 9:00 PM there is silence in corridors so as to respect the need of other seminarians for quiet time and prayer.

4. Smoking

Smoking is only allowed outside the dormitory door facing the priests' retirement home.

5. Care of Rooms

Rooms should be kept neat and clean. Beds should be made each morning. Each student should have his own cleaning materials.

Each room is equipped with a bed, desk, chair, lamp, pillow and blanket. These items are to stay in the rooms. Each seminarian must provide his own bed linens, towels, soaps, and toiletries.

To conserve energy and prevent fires, hot plates, refrigerators, air-conditioners, candles, televisions and other appliances are not permitted in the dormitory.

Appropriate pictures, that are to be kept at a minimum, may be hung on the walls with small nails. Stick-on hooks are not to be used.

6. Care of the Dormitory

All seminarians should be attentive to keeping the common areas of the dormitory clean and orderly. Students will assist in the general housekeeping of the seminary by being responsible for cleaning the shower/rest rooms on a regular basis. Any damage or need for repairs should be reported immediately to the Rector.

7. Laundry

Seminarians are responsible for their own laundry. A washer and dryer are provided for their use at the designated time.

8. Alcohol and Drugs

In an age and culture where the use of alcohol has become so central and pervasive in everyday life, the seminary seeks to foster a healthy and disciplined attitude toward its proper use. Seminarians are strictly forbidden to possess or use any alcoholic beverage in their rooms. Use of alcohol in any context should always reflect the maturity and values appropriate to someone who is studying for the priesthood.

The possession or use of any illegal drug or narcotic is strictly forbidden at the seminary.

9. Letters to The Providence Visitor and news outlets

Any letters by seminarians to news outlets (*The Providence Visitor, The Providence Journal*, school newspapers, etc.) must be first submitted to your Formation Advisor.

10. Care and Security of the Building

Security of the house is everyone's responsibility. Outside doors should be locked at all times. Please be sure that doors are secure whenever entering or leaving the building.

Windows should be closed and locked when a seminarian will be out of his room for an extended period of time. Each member of the seminary community should be attentive to conserving energy by shutting off lights and turning down heat when community rooms are not in use.

11. Curfew

Seminarians are expected to be in the building by 11:00 PM unless prior permission is obtained from the Rector.

12. Dress

Dress for the seminarians will be appropriate for the occasion. Jacket and tie will be required for formal celebrations. At other times, casual but neat dress will be the norm, i.e., pants, a collared shirt, and shoes. When seminarians are serving as acolytes at the celebration of Mass or as servers at other liturgical ceremonies, cassock and surplice will be worn. No sneakers or shorts should be worn in the chapel.

Cassocks are used only for liturgical use and may not be worn outside of liturgical or devotional celebrations.

13. Room and Board

Room and board payments will be due in two (2) installments—the first payment is due by October 10 and the second by February 10. If a seminarian has any trouble meeting these dates, he is to see the Rector. Work study possibilities exist and are to be decided case by case by the Rector. Grants are available on a need basis.

14. Health Insurance

All seminarians are required to carry health insurance. Providence College, Rhode Island College and Bryant University students are to enroll in the school's health plan unless they are covered under their parent's plan. Seminarians are to notify the Rector as to which plan they will be taking.

B. Seminary Internet Policy

Our Lady of Providence Seminary reserves the right to monitor all of its own computers.

The seminary's systems may not be used to transmit, retrieve or store any type of communication, message, image, or material that is:

- Discriminatory or harassing
- Derogatory or inflammatory regarding an individual's race, age, disability, religion, national origin, or physical attributes
- Obscene or X-rated
- Abusive, profane or uses offensive language

The Seminary's systems may not be used for any purpose that is illegal or immoral against the Seminary's policies, or contrary to its interests.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination and/or dismissal from the Seminary. Additionally, the Seminary may advise the appropriate law enforcement authorities of any illegal activities involving its system.

This policy applies equally to all faculty, staff and students and also provides guidance to them on the appropriate use of their personally owned computers.

C. Leave of Absence from the Seminary

1. Before a seminarian makes a decision to take a leave of absence from the seminary he ought to first speak with the following people:
 - A. His Spiritual Director
 - B. His Formation Advisor and/or the Rector
2. It is the role of the above mentioned persons to help the seminarian to discern if God is truly calling him to take a leave of absence or if this is an opportunity for growth in his vocation.
3. The seminarian is encouraged not to make a final decision to leave until he has spoken to the above persons and has taken the matter to prayer.

V. SEMINARIAN EVALUATIONS

Yearly evaluation ordinarily takes place during the second semester. Each seminarian will complete a self-evaluation. He is free to consult his spiritual director in doing so. The completed evaluation is to be submitted to the Rector who will then arrange a time for the individual seminarian to meet with the seminary staff.

The self-evaluation will serve as the foundation for discussion wherein the members of the seminary staff will offer their observations regarding the seminarian's progress in the program. The seminarian will have the opportunity to respond. The seminarian's spiritual director may be invited to attend the evaluation process. Seminarians wishing to invite their spiritual director should notify the faculty prior to the scheduled evaluation. Subsequent to the meeting, a summary evaluation will be prepared by the seminarian's formation advisor or the Rector including a final recommendation regarding the seminarian's continuation in the program and/or promotion to theology. The Rector will present the evaluation to the seminarian. The seminarian will have the opportunity to offer any further comments before signing the official copy as an indication that he has received and reviewed the evaluation.

Conclusion

The discipline required by seminary life should not be regarded merely as a strong support of community life and of charity. For it is a necessary part of the whole training program designed to provide self-mastery, to foster solid maturity of personality and to develop other traits of character which are extremely serviceable for the ordered and productive activity of the Church.
(O.T., #11)

Decree on Priestly Formation