



CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY

**Course on the Practice of Priestly Formation
2020 – 2021**



*Can I not do to you what this potter does?
Yes, like clay in the potter's hand,
so you are in mine.*

Cf. Jeremiah 18:6

In light of the
Ratio Fundamentalis Institutiones Sacerdotalis,

“The Gift of the Priestly Vocation,”

**this course is offered to all Priests who desire to
continue their ongoing formation and who want:**

To Grow in the awareness of being formators of the People of God and in the capacity to nurture pastoral and priestly vocations in their parishes, in Seminaries and in other diocesan pastoral structures;

To Reread their own history, through an attentive review of life and in light of the gift received, through accepting the impulse of the Spirit to develop their own life as disciples toward the configuration to Christ the Servant and Good Shepherd;

To Deepen their own vocational choice, the profound motivations and specific aspects of their own priestly and ministerial life;

- A precious occasion to **stop, reflect, deepen and assimilate the *Ratio***;
- A time for **their own priestly formation and for formation for the service of vocations and of the Clergy**;
- A joyful experience of **fraternity and sharing** with priests from all over the world.

COURSE CONTENT

Introduction: Welcome and presentation of the course

Module I: The priest as formator

The whole of the formative course
Jesus, Model of Educators
The formator on a journey
Ideal profile and real profile of the formator

Module II: The person on the journey of formation

Development of the personality; the personal project
Affective formation, chastity, and priestly “solitude”
Vocational motivations - Formation of the interior man
Criteria for evaluating the suitability of candidates

Module III: Scope of priestly formation

The Shepherd, Servant and Priest: Identity of the priestly ministry
Presentation of the *Ratio* and documents on formation
History of seminaries
The protection of minors
General principles of formation
Pastoral charity for seminarians: fatherhood and the community of formators

Module IV: How to do formation

Common problems in the seminary
The statutes, rules and integral formation
The formative community and the accompaniment of a group
Celibacy, poverty, and obedience of the priest
Personal vocational accompaniment
Spiritual direction
Priestly fraternity and ongoing formation
Questions and answers
Pastoral care of vocations
The Propaedeutic Stage
The Discipleship Stage (Philosophy)
The Configuration Stage (Theology)
The Pastoral Stage or Vocational Synthesis
Synthesis of the course

PLACE and TIME

The lectures – fully compatible with the schedule of the Licentiate and Doctorate studies in the various Roman universities – will be held in Italian from October 2020 through the end of May 2021, at the office of the Congregation for the Clergy (Piazza Pio XII, 3 – 2nd floor).

The course may be taken every Thursday during the academic year in either one of two sessions:

Group A: 15:00 to 16:45 (beginning 8 October)

Group B: 17:00 to 18:45 (beginning 15 October)

The course will also include four Saturdays, from 09:00 to 13:00.

REGISTRATION

Priests are invited to register as early as possible, however, **no later than 6 October 2020**.

Those Priests who intend to register must do so directly to the Congregation for the Clergy, providing:

- a letter of recommendation from his proper Ordinary or the Rector of a Pontifical College, addressed to His Eminence, Beniamino Cardinal STELLA, Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy;
- documentation regarding studies already completed or a certificate of matriculation in courses in a Pontifical or other university at the licentiate level or above;
- one passport photo;
- the annual registration fee of €100.

For more information, please contact:

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