



CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY

**Course on the Practice of Priestly Formation
2017 – 2018**



“No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:15)

**In light of the new *Ratio fundamentalis*
“*The Gift of the Priestly Vocation*”, this
course is intended for all Priests
interested in:**

+ **Discerning:** their own path as formators of the People of God, and with the purpose of preparing for ministry in the fields of Priestly Vocations and of the initial and ongoing formation of the Clergy.

+ **Deepening:** their own chosen vocation, the fundamental motivations and the specific aspects of their own priestly and ministerial life.

+ **Growing:** through a careful review of life in light of the gift received, to welcome of the prompting of the Holy Spirit to develop our own life of discipleship leading towards configuration to Christ the Good Shepherd.

- A valuable opportunity to *stop, reflect, examine* and *assimilate* the new *Ratio*.

- A time for *personal priestly formation* and for *formation for vocational service in the Church*.

- A joyful experience of *fraternity and sharing* with priests from all over the world.

PROGRAMME

Introduction. Welcome,
Presentation, programme.

Module I: The Priest as Formator

The unity of the journey of formation.
Jesus, Model of the educator.
The formator on a journey.
The ideal profile and the true profile of the formator.
The formation team, witness to fraternity.

Module II: The Person on the Path of Formation

Development of personality. The personal project.
Vocational motivations. Formation of the interior man.
Criteria for evaluating the suitability of candidates.
Pastoral charity for seminarians, fatherhood of the formator.

Module III: Scope of Priestly Formation

The Pastor, servant and priest: the identity of priestly ministry.
Presentation of the new *Ratio fundamentalis* and of the documents
on formation. The history of seminaries.
Frequently found problems in seminaries.
Formation in affectivity, chastity and priestly solitude.

Module IV: How to do formation

General principles of formation
The community of formation and group accompaniment.
The statutes, the rule of life and the programme of formation.
Priestly celibacy, poverty and obedience.
Ongoing formation.
Pastoral care of vocations.
The propaedeutic stage.
The philosophy or discipleship stage.
The theology or configuration stage.
The pastoral or vocational synthesis stage.
Personal vocational accompaniment.
Personal accompaniment in spiritual direction.
Synthesis of the course.

Place and Time

The course will be held from October 2017 to May 2018, at the office of the Congregation for the Clergy (Piazza Pio XII, 3 – 2nd floor).

The sessions will take place every Thursday during the academic year in two groups, from which you can choose to join one:

Group A: 15:00 to 16:45 (beginning 12 October)

Group B: 17:00 to 18:45 (beginning 12 October)

The course will also include four Saturdays, from 09:00 to 13:00 (beginning 21 October).

REGISTRATION

Priests are invited to register as early as possible, and **no later than 12 October**.

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

- A letter from his own Ordinary or the Rector of his 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 licentiate level or above.
- One passport photo.
- The annual registration fee: €100.

For more information, please contact:

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