



CONGREGATIO  
PRO CLERICIS

From the Vatican, 23 October 2015

Prot. N. 20153344

His Excellency  
The Most Rev. JOSEPH E. KURTZ  
Archbishop of Louisville  
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops,  
3211 Fourth Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20017-1194  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Your Excellency,

I hasten to thank you for your kind letter of 16 September last, whereby you present a request for the renewal for a further *quinquennium* of the *recognitio* of the Program of Priestly Formation, the *Ratio Nationalis* for priestly formation in the United States of America.

I recall the consideration of this question in the course of Your Excellency's recent visits to this Congregation with the Presidency of the Episcopal Conference. In accord with the approach generally agreed upon in that context, the Congregation notes that the matter has been duly considered by the various bodies associated with Seminary formation with an interest in the question, as outlined in the letter of His Excellency, the Most Rev. Michael Burbidge, Bishop of Raleigh, Chairman of the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. This Dicastery is in agreement with the wisdom of extending the *recognitio* for a further *quinquennium*, during which the document in question can be revised with the customary thoroughness in the light of the revised *Ratio Fundamentalis* when this document is published.

This Congregation, therefore, is pleased to grant the aforementioned request, and, with this letter, hereby approves *ad alterum quinquennium* the fifth edition of the *Program of Priestly Formation*.

I avail myself of the occasion to renew my sentiments of highest esteem and best wishes, as I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Beniamino Card. Stella  
Prefect

\* Jorge Carlos Patrón Wong

Archbishop-Bishop Emeritus of Papantla  
Secretary for Seminaries