

# The USCCB & Vocations



Rev. Ralph O'Donnell

Executive Director

Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations

# Order of Presentation

Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations

CCLV Secretariat

*Program of Priestly Formation, 5<sup>th</sup> edition*

# USCCB Structure

- Officers
  - Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, President
  - Archbishop José Gomez, Vice President
  - Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, Treasurer
  - Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Secretary
- 4 Management Committees
- 17 Programmatic Committees
- 17 Subcommittees
- 2 Task Forces



# Clergy, Consecrated Life & Vocations (CCLV)

## • Committee

- Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.Ss.R.,  
Chairman
- Bishop James Checchio, Chairman-elect
  - + 6 Bishops
  - Bishop Thomas Daly

## • Consultants (5)

- Mrs. Rose Sullivan, NCDVD

## • Secretariat

- Rev. Ralph O'Donnell, Executive Director
- Rev. Luke Ballman, Associate Director
- Rev. Daniel Hanley, Associate Director (as of Dec. 15, 2019)
- Ms. Casey Brusnahan, Staff Assistant

# The CCLV Committee Mandate



**Diaconate**

**Priestly Life  
and Ministry**

**Consecrated  
Life**

**Vocations and  
Priestly  
Formation**

# CCLV Consulting Organizations

- Clergy

- NADD
- NFPC
- NOCERCC
- ANSH
- Vicars for Clergy

- Vocations

- NCDVD
- NRVC
- Serra

- Priestly Formation

- NACS
- NACTS
- IPF

- Consecrated Life

- CMSM
- CMSWR
- LCWR
- USCSI
- Vicars for Religious

# CCLV Collaborative Organizations

- Clergy

- Treatment Facilities

- St. Luke Institute
- St. John Vianney Center
- Guest House

- Vocations

- J.S. Paluch
- Labouré Society

- Consecrated Life

- Commission on Religious Life and Ministry

# CCLV Committee Strategic Priorities (2017-2020)

- Foster a Stronger Culture of Vocations in Youth / Young Adult and Campus Ministry
- Increase the Ethnic Diversity of New Vocations, especially among Hispanics



# CCLV Annual Projects

- Vocations Events

- National Vocation Awareness Week  
– Nov. 3-9, 2019
- World Day of Prayer for  
Consecrated Life – Feb. 1-2, 2020
- World Day of Prayer for Vocations  
– May 3, 2020
- World Day of Prayer for the  
Sanctification of Priests – June 19,  
2020

- Surveys

- Ordination Class
- Profession Class
- Post-Ordination Survey of  
Permanent Deacons

# CCLV Online Resources

[www.usccb.org/vocations](http://www.usccb.org/vocations)

[www.usccb.org/priesthood](http://www.usccb.org/priesthood)

[www.usccb.org/diaconate](http://www.usccb.org/diaconate)

[www.usccb.org/consecratedlife](http://www.usccb.org/consecratedlife)

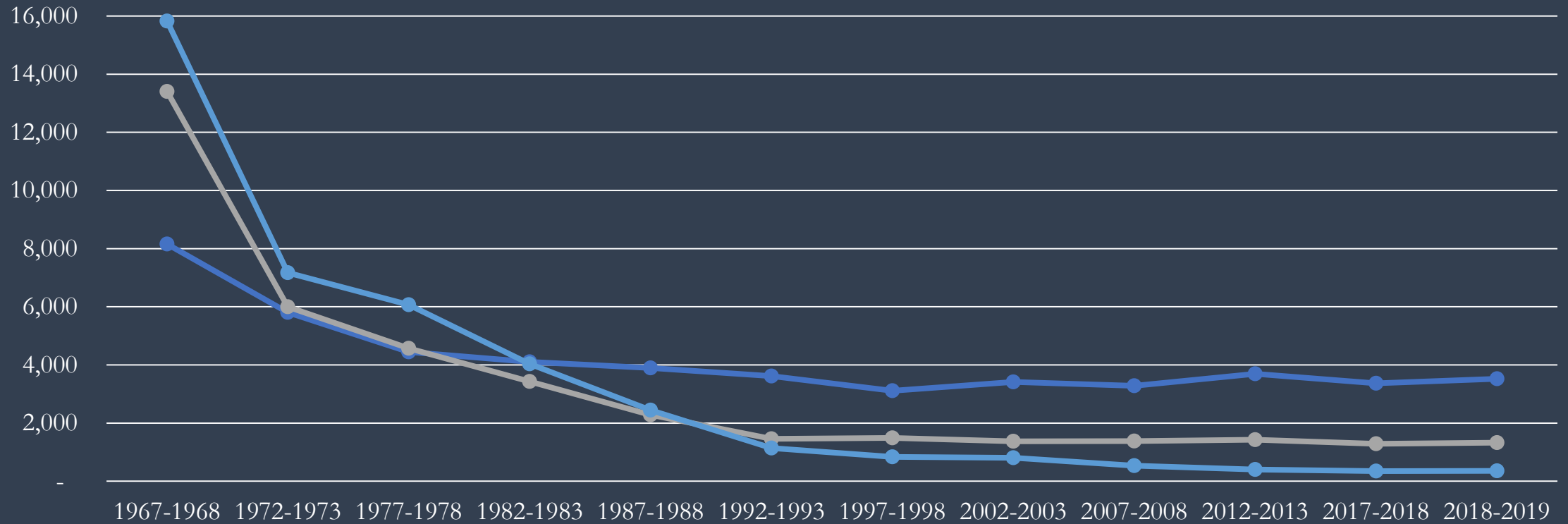
# State of Vocations

- Seminary Enrollments
- Culture of Vocations
- CCLV Surveys
  - Profession Class of 2018
  - Ordination Class of 2019
  - A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate (2018-2019)



# Seminary Enrollment Trends (1968-2019)

● Theologate ● College Seminary ● High School Seminary



# Seminary Enrollment (2018-2019)

- College

- 1,289 (2018-2019)
- 1,248 (2004-2005)\*
- 1,460 (2010-2011)\*\*

- Theology

- 3,369 (2018-2019)
- 3,114 (1997-1998)\*
- 3,723 (2011-2012)\*\*

- Pre-Theology

- 845 (2018-2019)
- 712 (2017-2018)
- 704 (2016-2017)

\*Lowest enrollment

\*\*Most recent higher enrollment

Personal Encounter:

*A Key to Promoting a Culture of  
Vocations*

*“Persons always live in relationship. We come from others, we belong to others, and our lives are enlarged by our encounter with others. Even our own knowledge and self-awareness are relational; they are linked to others who have gone before us: in the first place, our parents, who gave us our life and our name. . .The same thing holds true for faith, which brings human understanding to its fullness. Faith’s past, that act of Jesus’ love which brought new life to the world, comes down to us through the memory of others — witnesses — and is kept alive in that one remembering subject which is the Church. ”*

*Lumen Fidei n. 38*



# CCLV Recent Surveys

- Profession Class of 2018
- Ordination Class of 2019
- Permanent Diaconate Study (2018-2019)



# Ordination Class of 2019: Encouraging Trends for Vocation Awareness

- 53% were active in a parish youth group
- 30% were active in College Campus Ministry or Newman Center
- 53% served as a Lector
- 75% participated in Eucharistic Adoration
- 47% active in Bible Study/ Prayer Group
- 16% participated in World Youth Day
- 52% attended a Come and See Weekend

# Encouragement

## Profession Class

	Both %	Women %	Men %
Friend	44	42	46
Parish priest	41	33	51
Religious	40	40	39
Mother	31	27	37
Father	28	21	38
Other relative	22	23	22
Parishioner	21	23	20
Teacher/Catechist	19	12	28
Campus Minister	11	11	11
Youth Minister	8	9	8

## Ordination Class

	Both %	Religious %	Diocesan %
Parish priest	69	58	72
Friend	43	37	46
Parishioner	39	31	42
Mother	38	37	39
Father	33	30	34
Teacher/Catechist	25	22	26
Other relative	17	19	16
Youth Minister	16	14	17
Religious Sister	14	15	14

# Discouragement

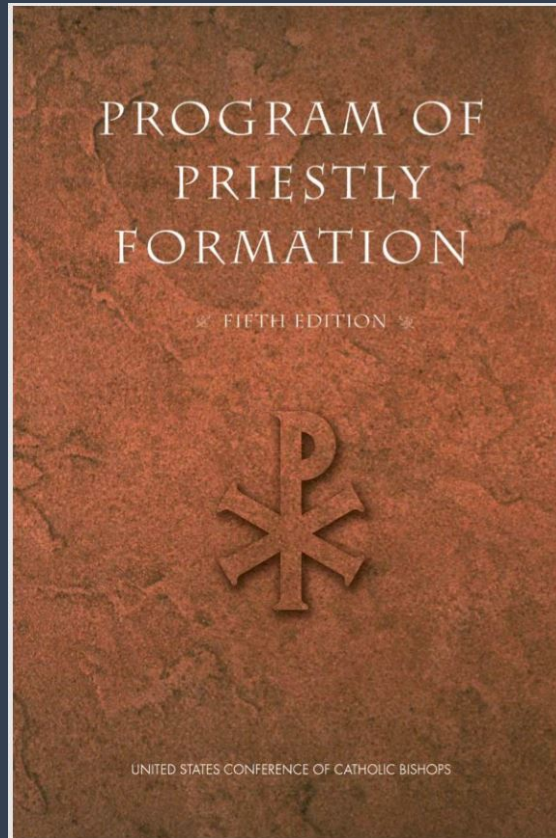
## Profession Class

	Both %	Women %	Men %
Friend	31	36	25
Other relative	27	37	14
Mother	21	25	15
Father	18	21	12
Teacher	7	7	6
Priest / other clergy	6	6	6
Colleague/coworker	5	7	3
Someone else	5	5	5
Religious	2	2	2
Youth Minister	1	0	2

## Ordination Class

	Both %	Religious %	Diocesan %
Other relative	23	23	23
Friend	21	20	21
Mother	12	16	10
Father	10	8	11
Colleague/coworker	10	8	10
Priest / other clergy	6	4	6
Teacher	5	4	5
Someone else	5	2	5
Religious	<1	1	<1

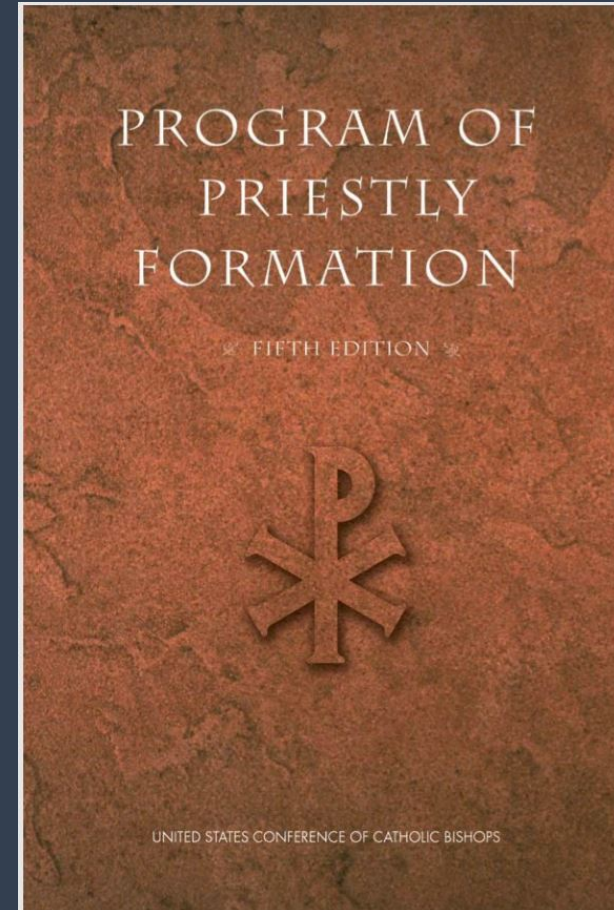
# The PPF & Vocations Ministry



[www.usccb.org/priestlyformation](http://www.usccb.org/priestlyformation)

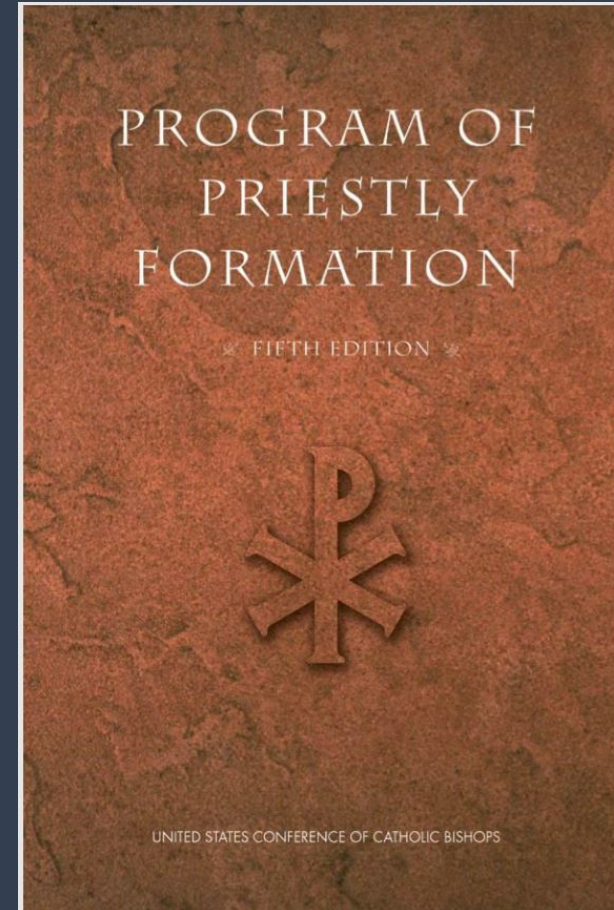
# *Program of Priestly Formation, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*

- Prescriptive norms for the admission and formation of all seminarians in the United States (diocesan and religious, Latin & Eastern Churches) (Cf. 6)
- Approved by the body of Bishops and granted renewal of *recognitio* by the Congregation for the Clergy in 2015



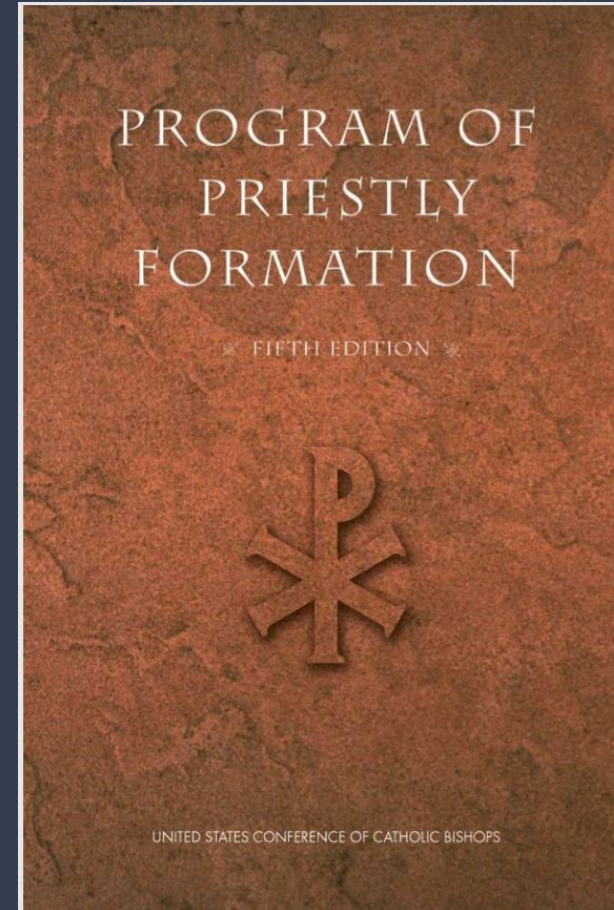
# Sources of the PPF

- Vatican II
  - *Lumen gentium*
  - *Christus Dominum*
  - *Presbyterorum ordinis*
  - *Optatam totius*
- *Ratio fundamentalis institutionis sacerdotalis* (1970 / revised 1985)
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- *Pastores dabo vobis*
- Seminary Visitations



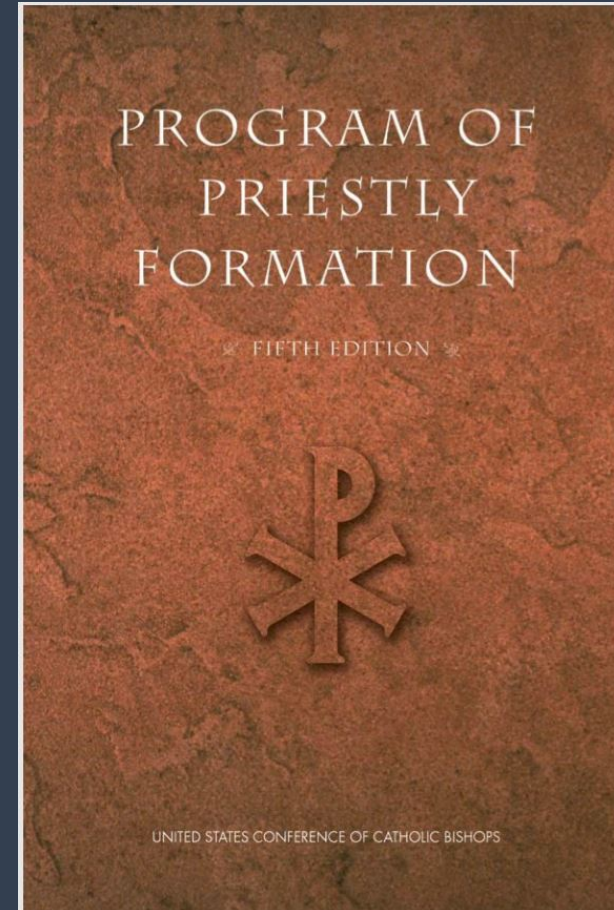
# PPF, 6<sup>th</sup> edition

- New *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis*, The Gift of the Priestly Vocation (Dec. 2016)
- Consultation with Collaborative Organizations
- CCLV Committee drafting process for the PPF 6<sup>th</sup> edition



# Structure of the PPF

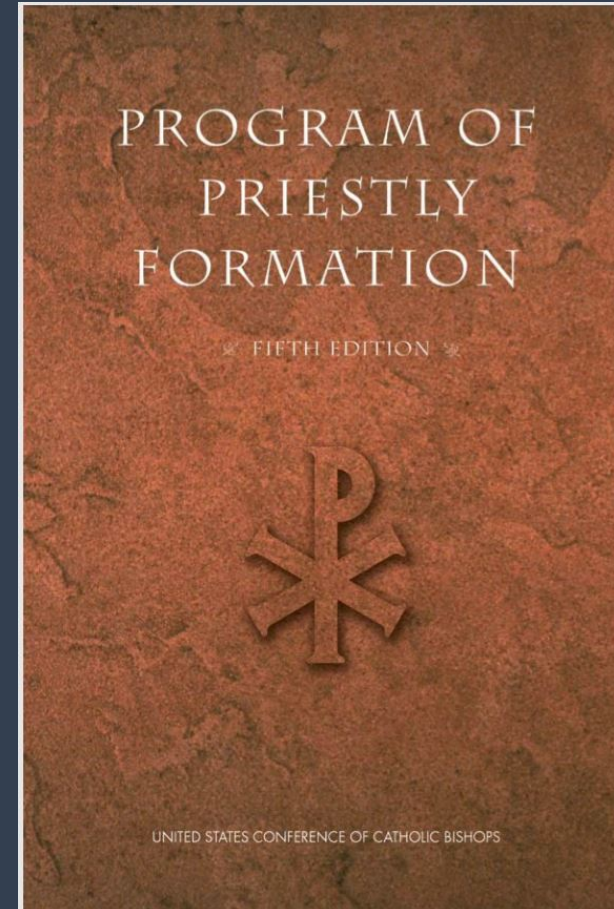
- Introduction & Conclusion with 7 Sections
  - Nature & Mission of Priests
  - Life of Priests
  - Vocations & Admissions
  - Formation
  - Seminary Governance, Administration and Faculty
  - Administration
  - Ongoing Formation
- Addendum on readmission





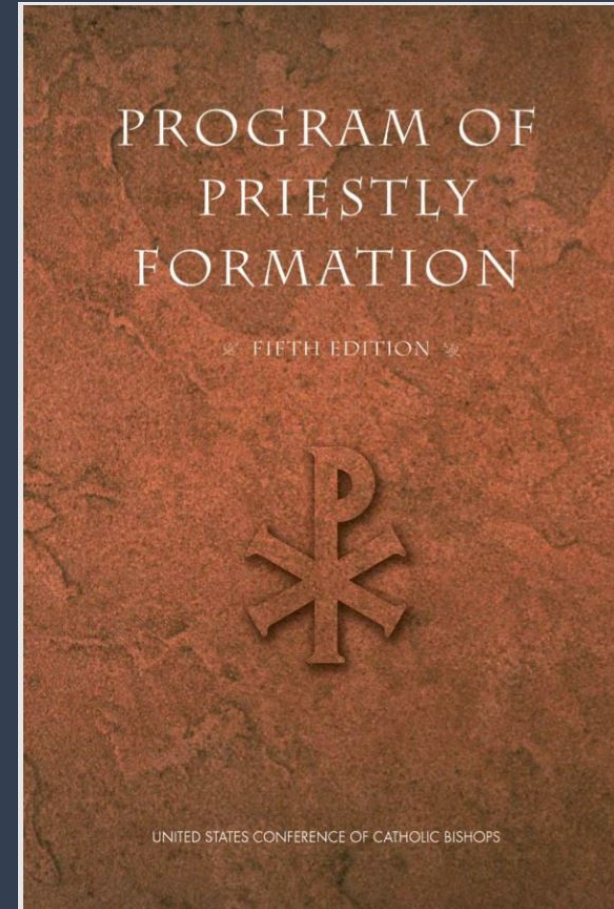
# Format of PPF

- Narrative Overview
- Specific Norms



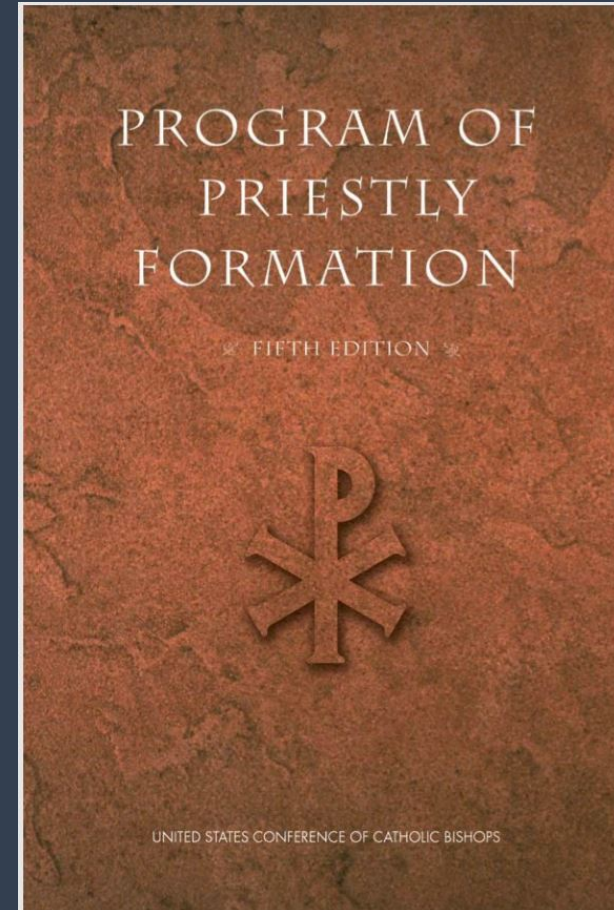
# Vocations & Admissions

- Narrative: nos. 32-41
- Norms: nos. 42-67



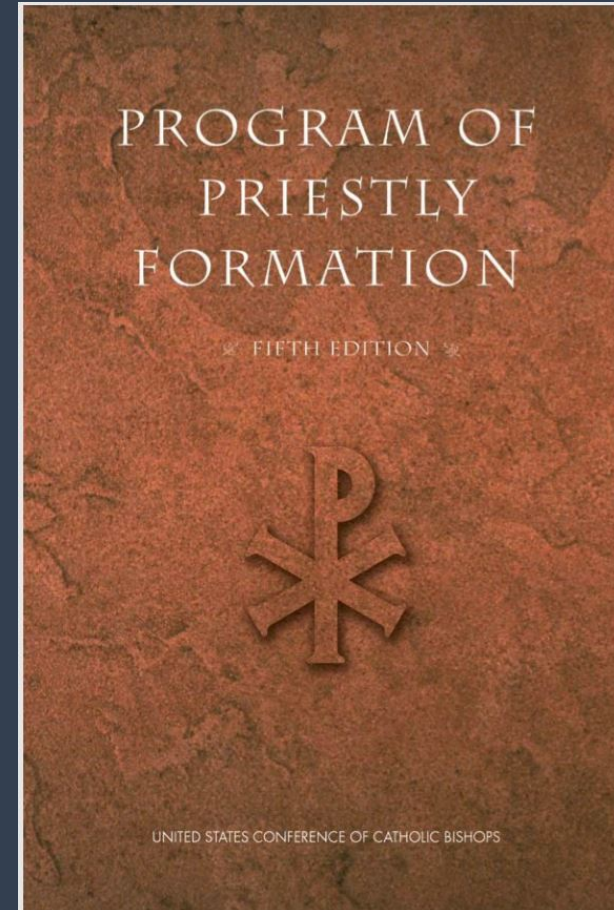
# Vocations & Admissions: Narrative

- Discernment of Vocations
  - A divine and ecclesial dialogue
- To Nurture & Support Vocations
  - Church, family, bishops, presbyterate, vocation director, seminary, seminarians



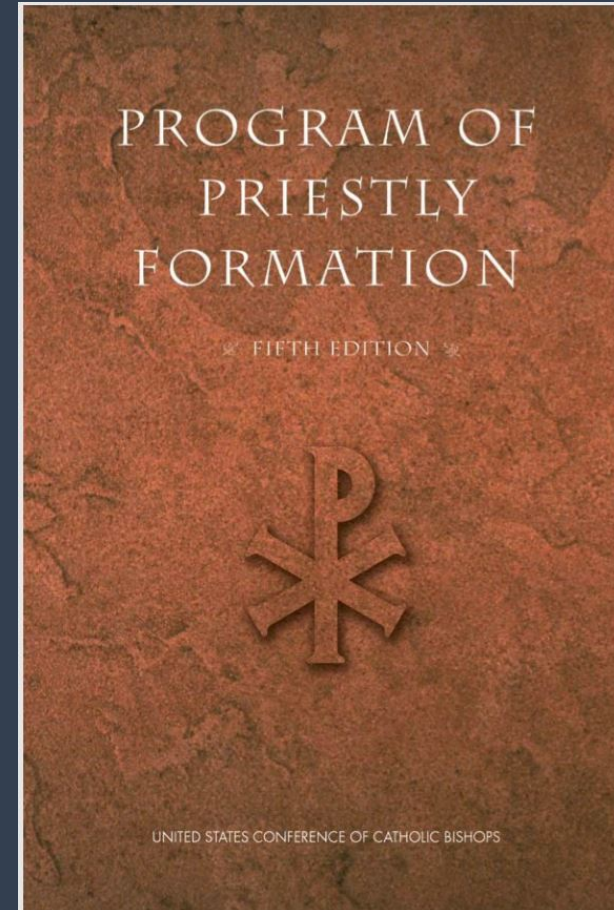
# Vocations & Admissions: Narrative

- Admissions Process
  - Purpose
  - Principle of gradualism
  - Minimum standards
  - Modern context
  - Responsibility of bishop & vocation director
  - From admissions to formation
  - Thresholds of sexuality



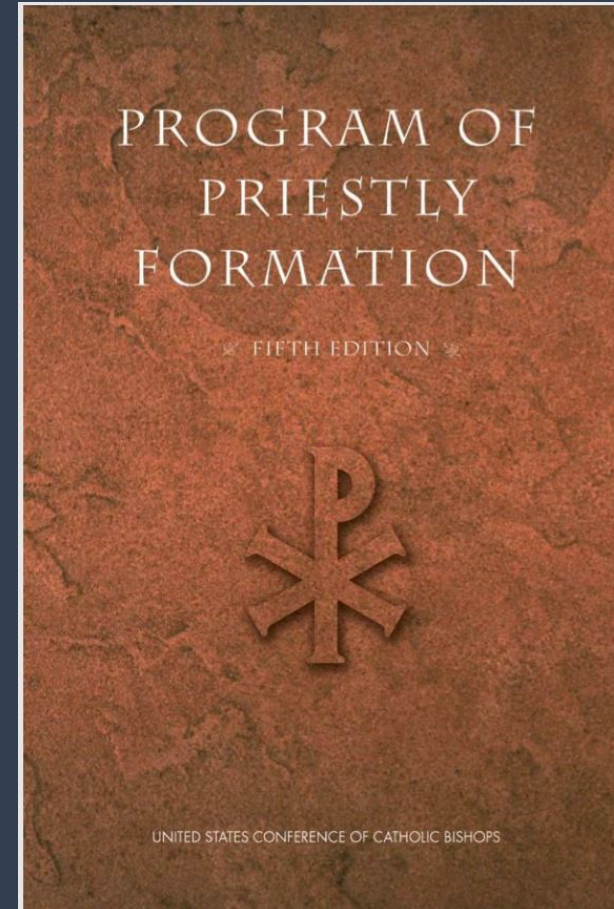
# Vocations & Admissions: Norms

- Develop/review policy and follow it
- Both the diocese and seminary have admissions processes (no. 39)
- Benefit of doubt—Church
- Seminary not the place for therapy
- Obligation of applicant to give evidence of a vocation



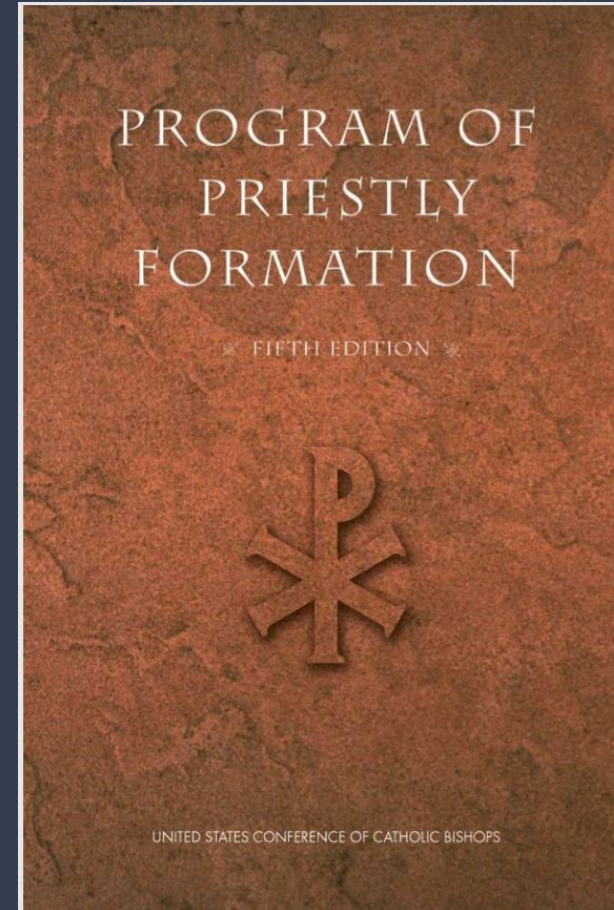
# Vocations & Admissions: Norms

- Pre-theology
  - Two years for all four dimensions of formation, not just philosophy (no. 60)
- Screening process
  - Interviews
  - Letters of reference
  - Records (nos. 63, 64, 66)
  - Medical & Psych Evaluations (nos. 47, 52, 65)
  - Criminal background checks



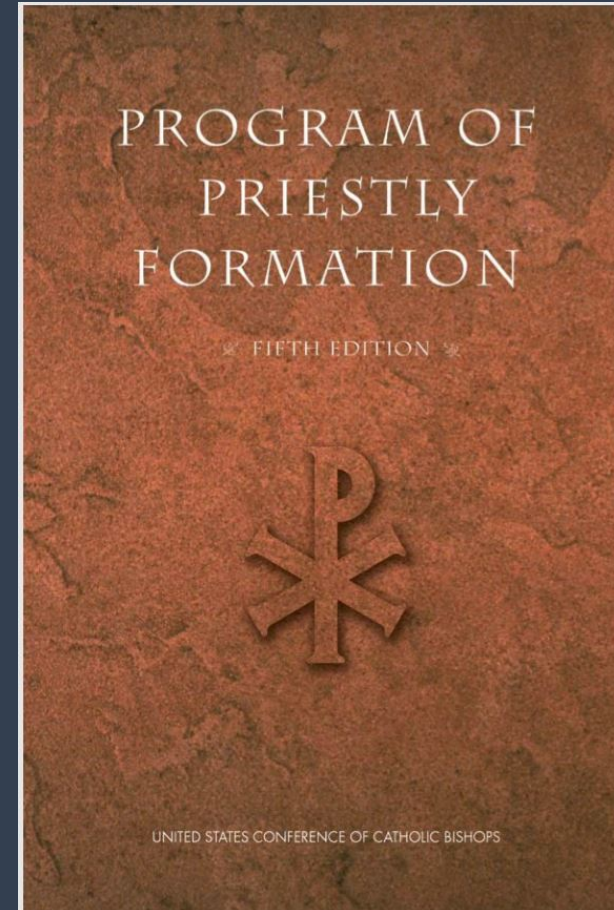
# Vocations & Admissions: Norms

- Vocation Directors must give results of a complete screening process in a timely manner to seminaries (no. 48)
- Culturally diverse applicants
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution



# Vocations & Admissions: Norms

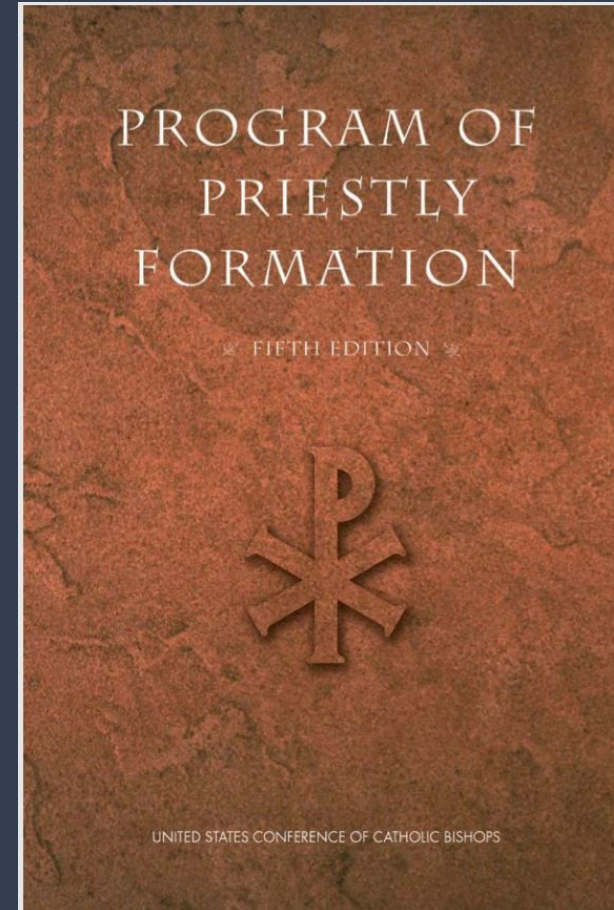
- Guidelines for psychologist
- Confidential but shared information
- Dysfunctional family background





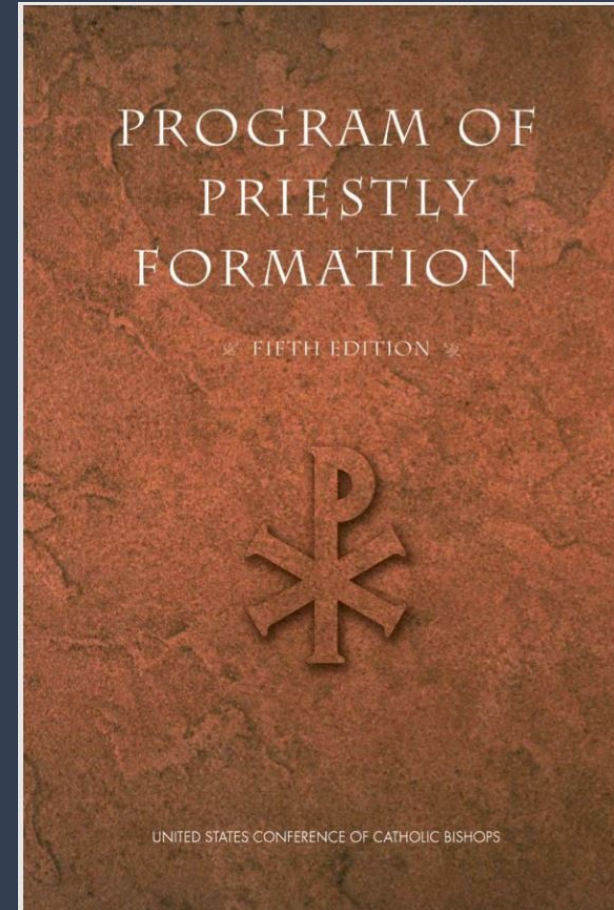
# Vocations & Admissions: Norms

- Open & frank discussion of life experiences
- Evidence of having lived in continence for two years
- Evidence of or inclination toward criminal sexual activity with minor
- Candidates with same-sex experiences and/or inclinations



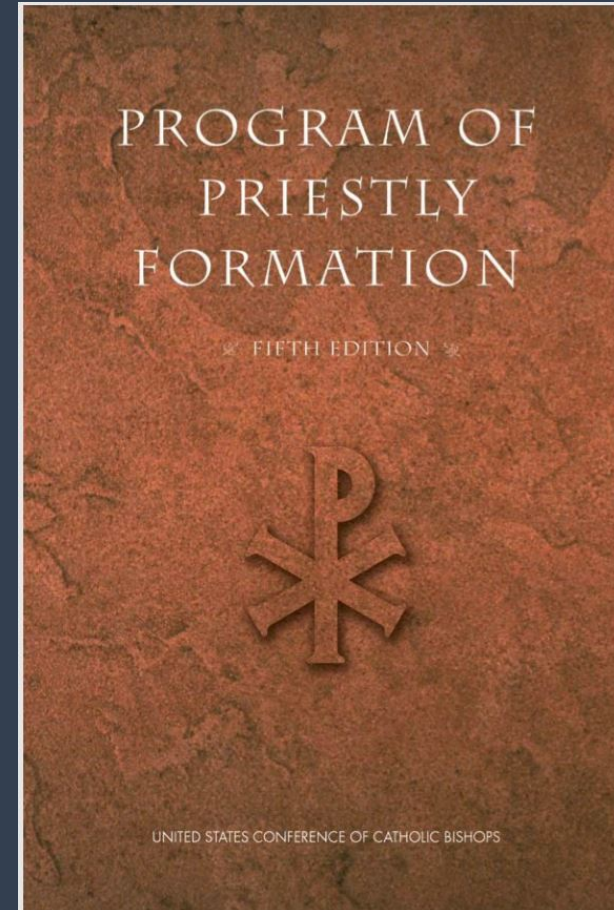
# Vocations & Admissions: Norms

- Right to privacy & sharing of sensitive information with formation personnel
- Debt, college and otherwise
- Sense of entitlement
- Recent converts



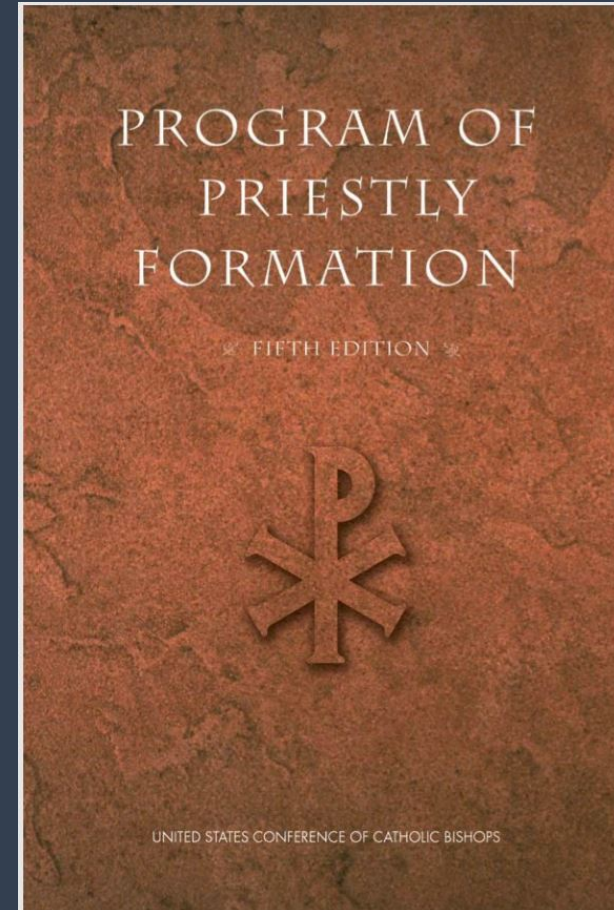
# Readmission of Former Seminarians: Norms & Addendum A

- Requirement to consult all previous formation programs (no. 61)
- 2-year period after dismissal from previous formation program (no. 62)
- Purpose of these procedural norms:
  - Full disclosure
  - Confidential exchange
  - Consultation



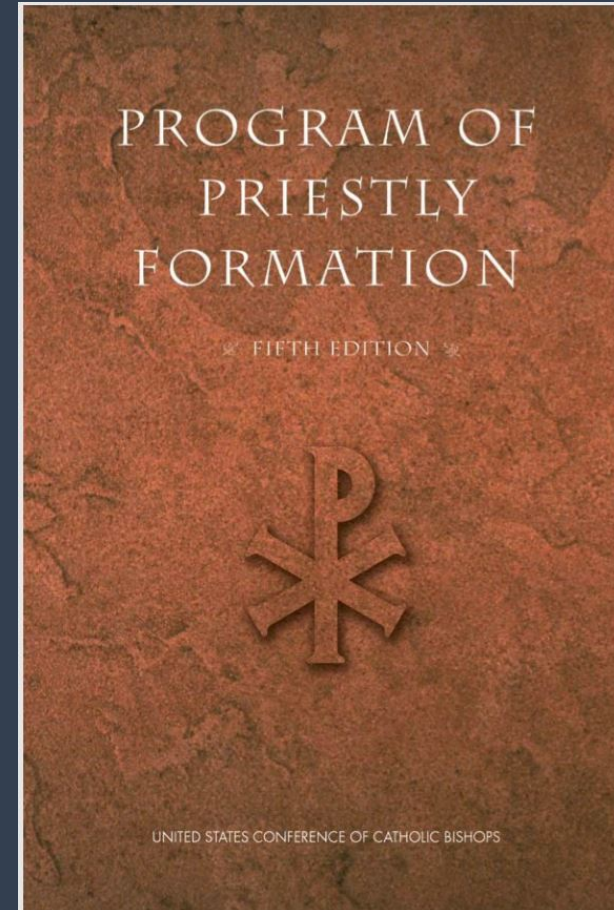
# Readmission of Former Seminarians: Norms & Addendum A

- Requirement of a written statement at the time of departure from bishop or rector that relevant information will be shared if the former seminarian attempts enrollment in another diocese or seminary
- If dismissed, no application for two years



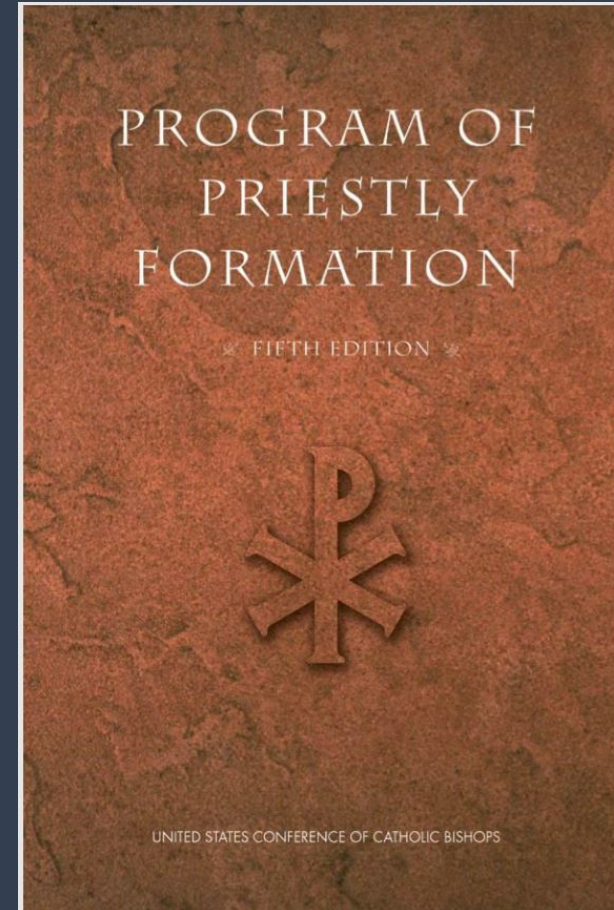
# Readmission of Former Seminarians: Norms & Addendum A

- Diocesan & seminary application forms must include questions about previous applications / acceptance / rejection / dismissal
- At time of reapplication, seminary must permit release of all relevant information
- Contact in written form, and if possible, oral interviews



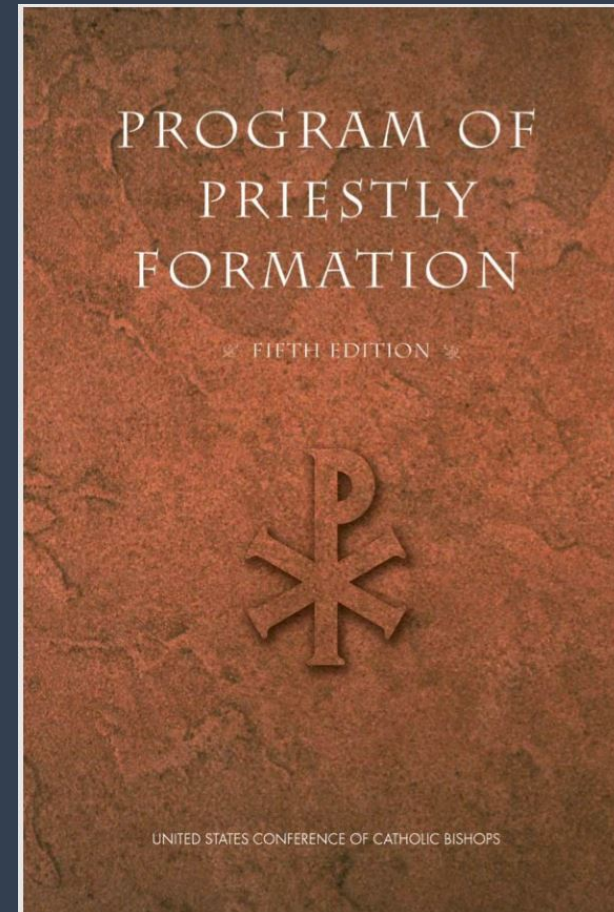
# Readmission of Former Seminarians: Norms & Addendum A

- Written notes of interview maintained in applicant's permanent file
- A record of calls or inquiries received regarding a former seminarian should be maintained
- Even if an institution or person responsible is not contacted, all relevant information should be disclosed



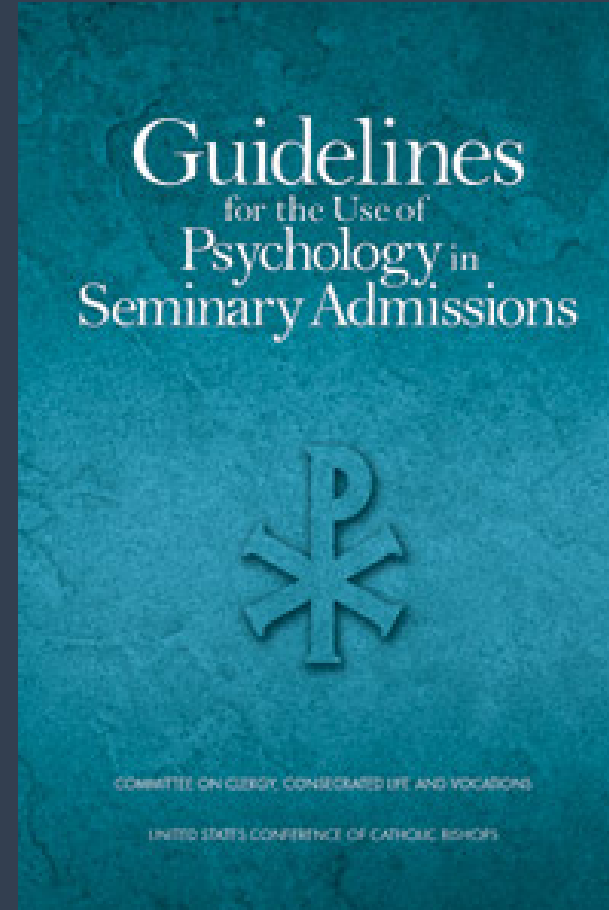
# Readmission of Former Seminarians: Norms & Addendum A

- If the bishop accepts a former seminarian, he must write a formal letter to the seminary where he is sending the seminarian, copying the bishop(s) or major superior(s) of any previous diocese / religious institute
  - Applicant has been evaluated according to Addendum A
  - Including interviews with prior officials
  - It is his prudential judgment that the applicant is now fit for studies
  - No admission w/o this letter



# Guidelines for Use of Psychology in Seminary Admissions

- Suggested Components of a Psychological Assessment
- Contraindications for Use by Psychologists
- Desired Qualities of the Psychological Professional
- Privacy/Confidentiality/Record Keeping
- The Guidelines are available for purchase and in readable form on [USCCB.org](http://USCCB.org).





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[www.usccb.org/vocations](http://www.usccb.org/vocations)