

# Seminary Stages of Formation

## **Propaedeutic**

This stage lays the foundation for a seminarian's time in formation, especially in the human and spiritual dimensions of his life. During this stage the seminarian focuses on prayer, community, service to the poor, growing familiarity with scripture, and comes to know his diocese more fully.

The Propaedeutic Stage lasts for one year and takes place at St. Pius X Seminary in Scranton, PA.

## **Discipleship**

Here the focus becomes more academic, with the seminarian beginning his philosophical studies. The discipleship stage focuses on the spiritual and human stages as well, so that regardless of where he is ultimately called, a seminarian grows in his relationship with Jesus Christ and the call to Christian discipleship.

The Discipleship Stage lasts two to four years and takes place at St. Andrew's College Seminary at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ or St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA.

## **Configuration**

During this stage the seminarian is configured more specifically to Christ the Shepherd and Servant and begins to prepare for Holy Orders. Academically, the focus shifts from philosophy to theology and Sacred Scripture. In his pastoral and spiritual formation, the seminarian spends time in parish ministries and prepares himself to celebrate the sacraments of the Church.

The Configuration Stage lasts three-and-a-half to four years and takes place at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA; St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, MD; Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, MA; or The Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy.

## **Synthesis**

The Vocational Synthesis stage occurs after a seminarian has completed his academic studies and is ordained a Transitional Deacon. During this period the seminarian returns to his home diocese to serve in a parish. Here he is integrated more fully into his own diocese, is mentored by a priest under which he is assigned and learns to serve the people he will serve *from* the people he will serve.

The Synthesis Stage lasts from six months to one year and takes place at a parish within the Diocese of Scranton.