The Formation of a Priest

While watching the PowerPoint “The Formation of a Priest,” capture the main points by filling in the blanks in the sentences below.

**Family: The First Formation**

For most of us our faith development begins with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and to trust in God’s goodness. They are the ones who first bring us to church and introduce us to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Discernment**

An important part of moving in the direction of following God’s call to become a priest is to first ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.***  In a general sense, to discern is simply to separate or distinguish one thing from another. Discerning a moral choice means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Discerning a call to the priesthood means distinguishing from among a variety of good options that God may have for you. A process of discernment usually entails \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The sign of correct discernment is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It means that you do have a strong conviction that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in your choice.

**The Vocations Director**

If you feel strongly called to the priesthood and have begun a serious process of discernment, the next step is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. There are vocations directors for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and vocations directors for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. One helpful Web site that includes links to many vocations directors is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Under the tab “discerning men” you will find links for both diocesan vocations and for religious orders.

**The First Stage of Seminary Training: Pre-theology or Minor Seminary**

When a young man is approved for pre-seminary studies, he begins the study of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a word which literally means “love of wisdom.” Philosophy deals with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a systematic way. Some of these questions are: What is the purpose of human life? How did the world come to be? What is the meaning of death? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? What is the purpose of knowledge? Philosophy is important because this area of study helps the student to think more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about the world around him. It is also extremely important because philosophy underpins \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**The Second Stage of Seminary Training: Theology Studies**

The final stage of seminary training is the study of theology, a word that literally means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. There are four broad areas of theological studies: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The seminarian must also continue to develop personally, spiritually, and pastorally. During the school year and during summer months, students are required to do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, such as working in a soup kitchen, and pastoral work, often in a parish setting.

**Theology Studies *(continued)***

Therefore, a seminarian is required to take part in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that give him practical experience in dealing with a wide variety of people and situations. Finally, a seminarian will usually spend time working alongside \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so that he can deal with the myriad tasks of parish life from administration to sacramental celebrations.