



# *Pontifical North American College*

*00120 Vatican City State*

*Europe*

## **Confidential Statement of Suitability**

*(To be signed by Sponsoring Bishop, Vocation Director or Director of Seminarians)*

*Concerning*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Applicant's Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Arch)Diocese*

### **Being Presented for Admission to the Pontifical North American College**

This is to state that the person named above is a seminarian in good standing sponsored by this (Arch)Diocese.

To the best of my knowledge in the external forum, I am of the opinion that he is of good character and reputation. I believe that he is qualified to perform ministerial duties in an effective and suitable manner.

More specifically, I am unaware of anything in his background which would render him unsuitable to work with minor children.

Further, I have no knowledge that he has a current, untreated alcohol or substance abuse problem.

Therefore, I present him for admission to the Pontifical North American College, Vatican City State.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



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### **Vocation Director's Letter of Recommendation**

*(This letter of recommendation is to be written by the Vocation Director, Director of Seminarians or whomever serves as the immediate Diocesan Supervisor of the Applicant.)*

#### *Concerning*

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*Applicant's Name*

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*(Arch)Diocese*

***The letter of recommendation should address the following:***

- How long have you known the applicant?
- How well have you known him?
  
- What do you consider to be the applicant's assets, skills, talents, interests, personal qualities?
- What do you consider to be the applicant's significant limitations – physical, mental, social, emotional?
  
- In your opinion, how would you assess the applicant's character, level of maturity and his ability to adapt to new situations and a foreign culture?
- Describe his relationship skills?
- How would you rate his intellectual capabilities and his facility with languages?
- How would you evaluate his capacity and preparedness to embrace a life of celibacy?

***Please include this letter and all other necessary application materials in the student's application portfolio.***



# Pontifical North American College

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## Selection of a Pontifical University in Rome

(To be signed by Sponsoring Bishop, Vocation Director or Director of Seminarians)

### Concerning

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Arch)Diocese

### Being Presented for Admission to the Pontifical North American College

Students at the Pontifical North American College during their course of studies have the advantage of being able to study theology at the many pontifical faculties in Rome. During the **First Cycle**, which lasts three years and leads to an **S.T.B.**, the seminarian may matriculate at the *Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas* (also known as *The Angelicum*), which is in the Dominican tradition, the Jesuit run *Pontifical Gregorian University*, or the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (*Santa Croce*) which is operated by Opus Dei. For further information on each of these universities simply log onto the North American College's website ([www.pnac.org](http://www.pnac.org)), or the various university websites: Gregorian ([www.unigre.it](http://www.unigre.it)), Angelicum ([www.angelicum.org](http://www.angelicum.org)), Santa Croce ([www.pusc.it](http://www.pusc.it)). In order to help ease the student's transition and begin preparations as soon as possible, we strongly encourage the Diocese to work with the seminarian to assign a university prior to his arrival at the North American College.

A student is expected to remain at the same university for the duration of the First Cycle. If someone should wish to transfer, he must petition the formation faculty through his Formation Advisor, who will then discern the request in consultation with the seminarian's sponsoring Diocese. The selection of a Second Cycle specialization (*S.T.L.*, *M.A.*, or *Diploma* during fourth and fifth years) will be requested from the sponsoring Diocese during the seminarian's last year in the First Cycle.

#### **The (Arch)Diocese's expectation of this Applicant is that he:**

- \_\_\_ attend the Pontifical Gregorian University
- \_\_\_ attend the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum)
- \_\_\_ attend the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Santa Croce)
- \_\_\_ select any of the above universities after consulting with the Academic Dean at the Pontifical North American College after arrival in Rome

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_



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## **Certificate of Admission to Candidacy**

The Pontifical North American College asks that all seminarians receiving an appointment to the College be received as Candidates for Holy Orders in their home dioceses according to the liturgical rite of *Admission to Candidacy for Ordination as Deacons and Priests* prior to their coming to Rome. There are a number of reasons for this request:

- The nature of the rite itself and the legislation of the Church recommend that a seminarian receive this designation as a Candidate for Holy Orders from his own Bishop or Ordinary (cf. *Code of Canon Law*, c. 1034 § 1). The rite is intended for men who have reached a certain maturity of purpose and are ready to declare publicly their intent to commit themselves to formation for ordained ministry – a phase of formation corresponding to the beginning of their theological studies (cf. Cong. for Catholic Education, *Instruction on Liturgical Formation in Seminaries*, 1979, n. 37).
- The rite of admission is a public acceptance by the Church of the Candidate offering himself and being selected and called to prepare himself to receive Sacred Orders. It properly numbers him among the candidates for ordained ministry (cf. Paul VI, *motu proprio, Ad pascendum*, Aug. 1972). The liturgical celebration of the rite can be effectively used as a prayerful farewell and sending forth of the candidate to pursue his theological studies, giving him a sense of mission and purpose, which is being supported by the assurance of prayers for his success and commitment.
- Furthermore, in order to respect the mandated intervals between Admission to Candidacy and the reception of the ministries of Reader and Acolyte, the rite of Admission to Candidacy should be celebrated as close as possible to the beginning of theological studies. Placing the rite at this requested point gives sufficient encouragement to the seminarian's vocation without attaching a disproportionate significance to it.

***An original certificate stating that the seminarian has been admitted to Candidacy is to be submitted as part of the application process to the Pontifical North American College.***



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***Certification of Criminal Background Check and  
Freedom from Allegations of Sexual Misconduct with Minors***

*(To be signed by Sponsoring Bishop, Vocation Director or Director of Seminarians)*

*Concerning*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Applicant's Name*

\_\_\_\_\_ *(Arch)Diocese*

This is to certify that the person named above is a seminarian sponsored by this (Arch)Diocese and is, to the best of my knowledge, free of any and all allegations of sexual misconduct with minors.

Please check one of the following:

- Freedom from any and all such allegations has been verified by a criminal background check and/or a child abuse history clearance.
- Criminal background check and/or child abuse history clearance is not available in this jurisdiction; freedom from any and all such allegations of sexual misconduct with minors has been alternatively established by other means of investigation (*documentation attached*).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***NB: If the applicant has completed a sexual abuse prevention / awareness program (e.g., VIRTUS, Citadel, etc.), please include a copy of their certificate with this form.***



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## **Psychological Evaluation Guidelines**

### **Information for Vocation Directors and Evaluating Psychologists**

*(Assessments for application must have been completed within one year of application.)*

#### I. Evaluation Process and Testing Instruments

##### A. Behavioral Observations/Clinical Interview

1. Mental Status Evaluation.
2. Clinical Interview regarding Family of Origin, psychosocial development, self-perceived strengths and weaknesses, psychosexual development, etc.

##### B. Objective Measures

1. MMPI-2 preferred.
3. Sexual Addiction Screening, preferred.
2. Other instruments may be used at the discretion of the evaluating psychologist.

##### C. Projective Testing

1. Rorschach Ink Blot Test preferred.
2. Other techniques such as the TAT, Sentence Completion, etc., may be added at the discretion of the evaluating psychologist.

##### D. Intelligence Testing

1. Intelligence testing is only necessary for those who do not have a GPA above 3.4 or who report difficulties with learning or attention.
2. WAIS-IV preferred.

#### II. Focus Issues for Psychological Report

##### A. Overall Assessment of Level of Psychological Functioning

1. Any Axis I or Axis II Disorders
2. Level /presence of tendencies or elements of symptoms of depression, anxiety, personality disorders, etc.
3. Personality traits, predominate needs or drives, strengths and weaknesses of personality, areas of conflict, addictive tendencies, etc.

##### B. Assessment Psychosocial Maturity

1. Assessment of residual conflicts from Family of Origin and social history.
2. Any significant aspects of the candidate's social history that may affect his current functioning; family history, early life, school and work history, family and personal health.

##### C. Assessment of Psychosexual Maturity

1. Assessment of psychosexual development and sense of sexual identity.
2. Assessment of affectivity and capacity for intimacy and empathy.
3. Assessment to live the "charism of celibacy"

(i.e., evidence of abstaining from sexual activity for a period of at least two years )

*(Continued)*

- D. Assessment of Personal Autonomy and Attitude towards Authority Figures
- E. Assessment of Flexibility and Emotional Resilience
  - 1. Consideration of issues of impulsivity, tolerance for frustration, coping patterns and skills.
  - 2. Capacity for personal insight and growth and level of motivation for growth.
- F. Assessment of Authenticity of Motivations for Priesthood and Any Contraindications to Applicant being suited for Priesthood or International Graduate Studies
- G. Psychologist's Satisfaction that Applicant Responded in all Significant Areas Honestly and Thoroughly
- H. Your Specific Recommendations for Applicant's Continued Growth and Development when in Seminary Formation

### III. Results

- A. The full report of the psychological evaluation should be mailed by the psychologist as soon as possible after the evaluation to the following:

Rev. David Songy, O.F.M.Cap., Psy.D.  
Director of Counseling Services  
Pontifical North American College  
00120 Vatican City State, Europe  
Telephone: 011.39.06.68493.362  
Fax: 011.39.06.686.7561  
Email: dsongy@pnac.org

- B. We will use your report in making decisions about admissions AND, upon admission, in guiding the seminarian toward further growth counseling that he might decide to undertake during his graduate seminary studies. In writing your report, please be as thorough as possible.
- C. Seminarians of the Pontifical North American College come from dioceses throughout the United States. Consequently we review psychological reports from professionals throughout the United States. In an effort to standardize the method of the psychological reports, please make every attempt to address all the focus issues identified in the above Section II (with special consideration to Recommendations for Further Growth and Development).
- D. We will treat your report with professional confidentiality. Only the Rector, the Director of Counseling Services and the Director of Admissions will have access to the report.
- E. The report will be in the locked care of the Director of Counseling Services.

Thank you for your professional assistance in serving the future of the Catholic Church.

Rev. David Songy, O.F.M.Cap., Psy.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist