

Personal Responsibility in our Vocation

10 April 2019

Rector's Conference
Msgr. David L. Toups



Personal Responsibility in our Vocation

- The Seminarian is the necessary and irreplaceable agent of his own formation (cf. *Ratio*, 53)
- Co-Agent with the Holy Spirit!
- Movement from self-knowledge to self-acceptance to self-gift – ongoing conversion and transformation



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Remember always our first consecration – Baptism!

Christian life is foundational – be a good Christian!

Pope Francis to Abp. Patron Wong: “emphasize the dynamism of discipleship.”

- First a disciple then a shepherd
- We want you to exhibit faith not just know the faith – *fides quae* to *fides qua*



Personal Responsibility in our Vocation

- Continual dialogue of call/answer
- The vocation is a “promise and risk”
 - “Responding to the Lord’s call involves putting ourselves on the line and facing a great challenge. It means being ready to leave behind whatever would keep us tied to our little boat and prevent us from making a definitive choice. We are called to be bold and decisive in seeking God’s plan for our lives.”
 - Pope Francis, “Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations on 12 May 2019”



Personal Responsibility in our Vocation

- Gradualness from one stage to the next in the seminary.
- Also cumulative and progressive
- Continuous configuration to Christ (cf. *Ratio*, 3)
 - Servant and Shepherd
- Pedagogical and spiritual journey (cf. *Ratio*, 61).



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Formational Stages:

- Discipleship (Living in relationship with the truth)
 - John 14:6 – “I am the way and the truth and the life.”
- Configuration (Love in the Heart of Christ)
 - John 15:9 and 17 – “Remain in my Love” and “Love one another.”
 - Abide/remain 42 times in John
- Pastoral Synthesis (Service/pastoral charity)
 - John 17:18 – “As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.”
- Gradual, progressive and cumulative!
- Integration is key for affective maturity.



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“Each of the dimensions of formation is aimed at ‘transforming’ or ‘assimilating’ the heart in the image of the heart of Christ” (*Ratio*, 89).

Maturation in affectivity: the seminarian/priest feels, thinks, acts like Christ.



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- Summer Apostolate:
 - Feel, think, act like Christ – continuous configuration
 - Be in relationship with Him! “stay with Him” (cf. *Ratio*, 61)
 - Love the people of God with His Heart
 - Enjoy what you are doing
 - “Learn to learn!” (*docibilitas* – *Ratio*, 45)
 - Leads to an awareness and assumption of priesthood (cf. *Ratio*, 68).



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- Archbishop Patron Wong:
 - “Being an apostle implies and intimate union with the Lord to the point of sharing in His suffering” (Mk. 10:38-39; 43-45).
 - “Take my 24 hours Jesus, it is sacrificed for you – ‘this is my body, this is my blood.’”
 - Gradual and continuous martyrdom over 50 years!
 - Joyfully and willingly give your life to the sheep (cf. *Ratio*, 68-73).



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Rectory

Faithful

Dioceses

Prayer life

Daily structure

Surrender!



The kind of priests we want/need

Dr. John and Nancy Cavadini
University of Notre Dame



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“The Church needs you because we urgently need more good priests, men of prudence and charity, spine and courage, who understand the changing terrain of our times. In my life, the priesthood has been a deep source of joy and purpose, the gift of knowing with certainty why God made me. But it’s not a life for the weak or lukewarm. Especially now.”

- Archbishop Chaput at the Josephinum (3/27/19)



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“All of the great Catholic reformers in history had three essential qualities: personal humility, a passion for purifying the Church starting with themselves, and a fidelity to her teaching, all motivated by unselfish, self-sacrificing love.”

- Archbishop Chaput at the Josephinum (3/27/19)

Be the priests we need/want!!!

