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# spiritual SERVICES





## SPIRITUAL FORMATION

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Spiritual formation is at the heart of any seminary program. The Seminary Spiritual Director coordinates the Program of Spiritual Formation. This program intends to facilitate the development of a seminarian's individual and communal faith life. Formed by the Word of God, the seminarian is assisted through a process of discernment to respond to God's call. The program nurtures personal spiritual growth within a Christian faith community. The spiritual life of the seminary is an important concern to all involved in the formation of future priests.

Growth in the spiritual life is fostered in many different ways. The seminary community gathers daily for divine worship at the Holy Eucharist and at morning and evening prayer. Since a sustained communion with God is essential for the discernment to the priesthood, students are expected to set aside time each day for personal prayer, reflective prayer and spiritual reading. Spiritual conferences are given each month by the Seminary Spiritual Director.

## RETREATS

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Retreats for spiritual training and growth are a regular part of seminary life. Days of Recollection are scheduled throughout the year, generally under the guidance of an outside director. In addition, a major retreat is held annually.

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

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At the beginning of each academic year, every seminarian chooses a Spiritual Director from a list of designated priests. He meets with his Spiritual Director at least twice a month. The spiritual director is the key person in every seminarian's personal and spiritual growth, especially regarding his discernment of a vocation to the priesthood. According to church law, their relationship is conducted in an atmosphere of confidentiality. All seminarians are required to take advantage of spiritual direction.

## LITURGY

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The liturgical life of the seminary community is intimately related to spiritual formation. Under the Seminary Spiritual Director seminarians take an active role in preparing:

- the daily celebration of the Eucharist;
- the communal celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours;
- communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Penance;
- other occasions of prayer.