**FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS of REDEMPTORIST FORMATION**

**LEVEL: The stage from Temporary Profession**

**to Perpetual Profession**

**INTRODUCTION:**

This stage of formation is a period during which the candidate continues to deepen and integrate his growth and commitment to the religious and missionary life of the Congregation. This begins right after the profession of Temporary Profession and ends at the time of perpetual profession for a Brother candidate and ordination to the priesthood for a clerical candidate after a successful completion of studies in theological, ecclesial and other fields of specializations, and the essential aspects of formation.

It is recognized that the *formand*, after having been professed as a Redemptorist, possesses a certain level of maturity in the various aspects of his life (human, spiritual, academic, community, pastoral-missionary) and thus ready to go into this period of living the vowed life forming him in preparation for final profession and/or ordination. As such, this period of formation is programmed as a time:

* Of personalized accompaniment that will help the candidate to integrate the learning from the different aspects of formation into his life as a Redemptorist;
* Of deeper understanding and living out of the Redemptorist spirituality and the vowed life;
* Of a deeper appreciation of the gift of community living in the context of inter-cultural realities.
* Of commitment to a systematic study of the theological, missiological, pastoral, anthropological, or other disciplines needed for engagements in the various contexts of apostolic life;
* Of acquisition and development of necessary pastoral and missionary skills and dispositions.

The formation process entails a personalized accompaniment of the candidate by the Formator, Spiritual Director, Pastoral Director, Prefect of Studies, and other members of the Formation Team toward a definitive and perpetual commitment to Christ in the Congregation. Team work, respect and confidentiality are the guiding principles which characterize the relationship among the people involved in the formation of Temporary-professed *formandi* as they assist them integrate their studies, personal growth, and pastoral-missionary experiences.

The length of time of this stage may vary from Unit to Unit. It consists of at least four moments: the philosophical/theological formation for clerics and formation in other specialized fields for Brothers, the pastoral experience year, the preparation for perpetual profession, and the diaconal and presbyteral preparation.

**The General Goal of Formation:**

The aim of formation for both candidates and members is to lead them to such a degree of human and Christian maturity that, with the help of God's grace, they will be able to dedicate themselves intelligently, willingly and wholeheartedly to the service of the missionary Church in Redemptorist community life, in order to preach the Gospel to the poor. (cf. Const. 78)

**The Main Objective of the Theologate:**

This stage is intended to be a period in which the religious continues to grow and to mature in his commitment to Christ in the apostolic life of the Congregation. The formation program during this time should provide accompaniment for the one being formed such as will help him to integrate the systematic studies into his life, provide on-going apostolic experiences with the religious community, and integrate it all into the consecration to Christ the Redeemer. (cf. *Ratio Formationis*)

**General Considerations:**

1. The following are some of the specific characteristics of the *formandi* that enter the Theologate Stage:

At the end of the Novitiate formation and after first profession, the *formand* is deemed to have:

1. Attained a certain level of psycho-emotional and spiritual growth and maturity, good self-knowledge and acceptance of his own identity and thus capable of living a vowed life in preparation for final profession.
2. The ability to make balanced judgments and well-considered decisions.
3. The capability of living a simple lifestyle (although what is simple lifestyle may vary from unit to unit).
4. A personal relationship with the Lord shown in his habit of prayer.
5. An understanding and appreciation of one’s national and cultural identity and a sense of cultural sensitivity.
6. Already acquired good study habits.
7. The capacity to work with fellow *formandi* and with the lay especially in the apostolate or pastoral works.
8. \* Just as the formation, especially academic, for the professed who prepare for the priesthood characterized this formation stage, it is necessary to note that “the Initial Formation of the Brothers must include a period of no less than three years after the First Profession in a formation program in a formation community”. (cf. *Ratio Formationis*).
9. \* It is also recommended that at least one year of formation will be done outside of the Unit of origin and in so far as possible outside of the country.

\* (cf. Decree on Initial Formation, G.G., 2015)

**Institutional Support:**

1. In so far as possible, inter-provincial formation, or even a common formation at the Conference level, is to be adopted. In this case, a Theologate Board will be created from among the participating units. The Coordinator of the Conference will be an ordinary member of the Board. A memorandum of agreement shall be executed by the participating units.
2. Each theologate will develop its own *Ratio Formationis* and a Formation Directory and Program; i.e., a specific plan of formation which will be based on the five dimensions indicated in the *Ratio Formationis Generalis*.
3. There shall be a Formation Team, made up of at least the Prefect, the Socius, the Pastoral Director, or a Director of Studies (if applicable) who live in an established community with the necessary basic human resources. The Team reports to and is directly answerable to the Board. It is highly recommended that Lay associates and professionals be involved in the formation program specifically as to the human and psycho-sexual aspects of formation.
4. The Formation Team will establish its own regular schedule and the regular meeting with the Board. At the end of each academic or formation year, the Team will present a report to the Board or to the respective major superiors of the *formandi*.
5. At the beginning of each formation year, the formation team will receive a report from the Director of Novices for every new *formand* coming into this stage of formation. It is recommended that a meeting of the formator of the previous stage (e.g., Director of Novices) and the Student Prefect or the formation team takes place in order to discuss the report of every *formand*.
6. It is also recommended that a system for individual and/or group counselling be provided as part of the formation structure.
7. The Community Rector and the Student Prefect must ensure that the Policy for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults is disseminated, understood, and accepted by all members of the formation community.
8. The choice of the academic institution will be made by the Board taking into consideration the institute’s theological orientation. Supplementary studies may need to be provided by the formation community in order to strengthen the missionary-pastoral formation.

**Fundamental Elements:**

1. Human Dimension:
   1. Goals:
      1. To allow the *formand* to become more convinced of his vocation and his suitability to the religious life through constant awareness and integration of the psycho-emotional dimensions of his life.
      2. To grow more in psycho-sexual maturity and develop healthy relationships with person of all ages and walks of life within the context of his commitment to celibacy.
      3. To develop confidence in his own identity and the emotional balance and freedom necessary to make a lifelong commitment.
      4. To develop within himself and the community the values that would promote his identity as a human person.
   2. The Resources and Means:
      1. Personal level (at the level of each student):
         1. Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)
         2. Regular Individual Consultation with the Formator (once a month)
         3. Regular Exercise
         4. Personality Tests / Psychological helps / Psycho-spiritual sessions
         5. Annual Medical and Dental check-up
         6. Opportunities to express one’s passion and interest: arts, music, hobbies.

Note:  *Every formand should learn some skills that will be necessary in the mission or pastoral life (e.g., driving) during the first two years of formation.*

* + 1. Social/Communal level (at the level of the formation community):
       1. Annual / Semi-annual Group Processing
       2. Fraternal Correction / Giving Feedback
       3. Conference/Sessions with Formator, Counsellor, Redemptorist Priests and Brothers.
       4. Recreation / Student fellowship
       5. Sports (within the community or with youth or other groups)

1. Spiritual Dimension:
   1. Goals:
      1. To deepen the *formand’s* relationship with God through prayer and other means.
      2. To be converted more and more to follow Christ closely and joyfully offer himself to God even in the midst of pressure, tensions and frustrations in life.
      3. To deepen his understanding and appreciation of his religious-missionary life through the faithful witnessing of the vows.
      4. To deepen his knowledge and appreciation of St. Alphonsus, the Redemptorist Saints and Blessed, as well as other teachings and sacred history of our congregation.
      5. To harmonize his systematic studies with his personal faith experiences through regular consultation and spiritual direction
   2. The Resources and Means:
      1. Personal level:
         1. Personal prayer / daily prayer time
         2. Celebration of the Eucharist
         3. Regular Confession
         4. Informal Faith sharing
         5. Journal writing
         6. Spiritual Direction
         7. Personal devotions
      2. Communal level:
         1. Community prayers and liturgical celebrations
         2. Observance of the Holy Hour
         3. Celebration of the feast days of Redemptorist Saints and Blessed
         4. Seminars and Spiritual Sessions
         5. Group Faith Sharing
         6. Monthly Recollection (Day of Prayer and Silence)
         7. Annual Retreat
         8. Review of Life
2. Community Dimension:
   1. Goals:
      1. To deepen the *formand’s* love and appreciation for the gift of community life as a “prophetic and liberating proclamation of the Good News” and his ability to participate in it. (cf. *Ratio Formationis* 123).
      2. To allow community living help the *formand’s* discernment of the will of God in his life.
      3. To develop the habit of a simple lifestyle.
   2. The Resources and Means:
      * 1. Regular Meetings, evaluation and planning sessions
        2. Community Recreation
        3. “*Manualia*” and Housekeeping Assignments
        4. Choir singing / Music Ministry
        5. Group Fellowship or Recreation (by year level or the entire formation community)
        6. Community celebrations / *Gaudeamus*
        7. Dialogue / Forum with the Formator
        8. Fraternal Correction / Giving Feedback
        9. Community or House responsibilities and Gospel Stewardship (Student Bursar, Prefect of Guests, Vocation Prefects, etc.)
3. Academic Dimension:
   1. Goals:
      1. To develop a lifetime habit and love for study.
      2. To develop an analytical mind that enables the *formand* to make a well-informed theological and pastoral stand on ecclesial and social issues.
      3. To develop and equip the *formand* to become full-time missionary ministers (priests or brothers).
   2. The resources and means:
      * 1. Regular academic / theological courses in a seminary, or an institute of theology, or other institutes.

Notes:

* + - * 1. a specific program for the Brothers is to be followed. (cf. *Ratio Formationis* 119).
        2. A special emphasis on moral theology in the tradition of St. Alphonsus.
      1. Enhancement courses (depending on the student’s needs: English, Public speaking, etc.) and special training on media for evangelization.
      2. Individual consultation and direction by the Prefect of Studies.
      3. Participation in seminars and lectures (Redemptorist Spirituality, etc.)
      4. Group studies
      5. Library Work
      6. Study Time
      7. For clerics: A study on “what it means to be a cleric?” (to be done on the first or second year).

1. Pastoral and Missionary Dimension:
   1. Goals:
      1. To be able to integrate academic and theological knowledge into the pastoral and missionary experiences of the *formand*.
      2. “To evangelize and be evangelized by the poor.”
      3. To be able to deepen the *formand’s* understanding, sensitivity, and concern for the needs of the local church, the Conference Priorities and Apostolic Plans and the Universal Church in general.
      4. To develop the capacity for teamwork and collaboration with the laity.
   2. The Resources and Means:
      * 1. A weekly Pastoral Program that is designed with the year level and/or needs of the *formandi*.
        2. Mission Exposure: can be an annual short term exposure program, Mission Immersion Program, or the Pastoral Experience Stage.
        3. Pastoral Exposure to Youth Ministry
        4. Pastoral Direction Session by the Pastoral Director
        5. Pastoral Liturgy Program (for Clerics)
        6. Collaborate with groups or parishes for specific ministries or pastoral programs (e.g., Holy Week Activities, Youth Missions, Retreat giving, etc.).

**Evaluation:**

1. \*\* This period of formation is intended to bring the candidate into making a definitive option to make a final profession. At the end of this level, the *formand* must have:
   1. Demonstrated the ability to live according to the evangelical counsels or vows.
   2. Attained a strong desire to live and work (*Vita Apostolica*) in the Congregation for life.
   3. An ability to integrate himself into the priorities of the Unit and/or the Conference and to do his pastoral work through the community.
   4. The moral certitude and identification with one’s vocation as brother, permanent deacon, or priest.
2. At the end of formation, the formation team will prepare a formal evaluation and recommendation for each *formand* and submit such report to the major superior as to the formand’s suitability for final profession and/or ordination.

\*\* cf. *Ratio* *Formationis* 126 ? (Note: the actual number will depend on the number in the final Ratio Formationis Generalis)

**APPENDIX**

(the following are suggestions only)

1. Possible Courses and Themes for the Conferences:
   1. “Signs of the Times”
   2. Understanding the “secular world”
   3. Conflict Management and Resolution
   4. Cultural/inter-cultural sensitivity
   5. Gospel Stewardship and Financial Management
   6. Pastoral – Missionary Approaches and Skills
   7. Self-acceptance, Dealing with Personal Issues, Psycho-social Integration
   8. Redemptorist Spirituality
   9. Missionary Priorities and Apostolic Plan of the Conference and the Congregation
   10. Current Trends in Moral Theology, Pastoral Ministry, etc. (This can be organized at the Unit or Conference level)
   11. Facilitating Retreats and Recollections
2. Glossary of Terms:
   1. *Ratio* –
   2. Directory –
   3. Program –
   4. Formand –
   5. Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) –
   6. Other terms –