**3. Dimensions of Formation, cf. 2020 *Ratio Formationis Generalis*, #s 51 – 57.**

**The Human Dimension** – “The human and fraternal dimensions of the consecrated life call for self-knowledge and the awareness of personal limitations, to offer its members the inspiration and support needed on the path towards perfect freedom” (*Vita Consecrata* # 71). Formation is to foster those human qualities needed for the life and mission of each confrere in the Redemptorist community.

**The Spiritual Dimension** - For Redemptorists, “spirituality is at once the source and the fruit of mission” (XXII General Chapter 1997, Message, #6). This is what informs and energizes the whole of what we are and what we do.

**The Community Dimension** - “Community does not truly exist when members merely live together; it requires as well genuine sharing on the human and spiritual level. The whole purpose of community life is to have members, like the apostles (cf. Mk 3:14; Acts 2:42-45), in spirit of genuine brotherly union, combine their prayers and deliberations, their labors and sufferings, their successes and failures, and their material goods as well, for the service of the Gospel” (CC. 21-22).

**The Academic Dimension** - The academic and intellectual helps us

to understand better our past and present reality and is a necessary

tool for the evangelization of cultures. “To diminish the need for

study can have serious consequences even on the apostolate, creating

feelings of marginalization and inferiority o giving rise to

superficiality and recklessness in the one’s initiatives… The need for

studies cannot be reduced to first formation or the achieving of

academic degrees and professional certifications; this is rather the

expression of a desire to know God ever more profoundly, which is

never finished.” (VC 98).

**The Pastoral Missionary Dimension** - General Statute 058 states: “The pastoral orientation of the whole course of *formation* is a distinctive feature of missionary formation, and this must be clearly in evidence. Everything relating to formation – both studies and spiritual life – must be combined with practical apostolic exercises and experience, so that the *formandi* may be able to renew and increase their faith in the mystery of salvation and so be prepared to preach the Gospel with confidence to others.”