

NACTS

Vocational Synthesis Stage

October 4, 2024

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- I. Help prepare the pastor formator
 - Help educate pastor (and vocation director) on the purpose of this stage of initial formation (what is a formator, how to measure benchmarks, need to document progress)
 - Help the pastor formator identify and prepare a formation team (both parish and diocese)
 - Host meetings of vocation directors, pastors for education and sharing ideas
 - Encourage seminarian to share evaluation (or Action Plan) with pastor, especially regarding any areas of growth necessary prior to ordination

- II. Help the transitional deacon process his experiences
 - Check in with deacon monthly (formation advisor? Vice Rector? Coordinator of Pastoral Formation?)
 - Group discussion of experiences for deacons (virtual or in person) – Theological Reflection. A good resource for theological reflection is [How We Love: A Formation for the Celibate Life](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=john+mark+falkenhain&crd=3N9HN6R0CHBGV&srefix=john+mark+falken%2Caps%2C103&ref=nb_sb_ss_pltr-data-refreshed_1_16) by John Mark Falkenhain OSB https://www.amazon.com/s?k=john+mark+falkenhain&crd=3N9HN6R0CHBGV&srefix=john+mark+falken%2Caps%2C103&ref=nb_sb_ss_pltr-data-refreshed_1_16. This is also a good resource for celibacy formation in general, and a good resource for seminarians and priests to prayerfully reflect and pray on the celibate life.
 - Continue to teach the deacon the value of pastoral discernment (in conjunction with theological reflections). This is a theme in PPF6, and a vital skill for priests (that sadly many don't have). How does he discern when to say "no"? How does he manage his time? How does he find balance between prayer, ministry, self-care, and recreation?
 - Continue to teach him skills in conflict management!
 - Check list of tasks (doctors, spiritual director, mentor, how to integrate into presbyterate)

- III. Identify activities for the stage
 - Have lunch with a different priest each week (tell me your vocation story, what advice do you have for me, etc.)
 - Experience tribunal, annulment process in more depth (internship?)
 - Attend presbyteral council meetings as guest
 - Training/workshops on parish administration, supervision (human resources)