

A world map with a light blue background and a grid of latitude and longitude lines. The map shows the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The text is centered over the Atlantic Ocean.

Forming International Seminarians by Personal Encounter and Accompaniment

Presentation to NACTS

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A faint, light-colored world map serves as the background for the slide, showing the continents and oceans in a muted, topographical style.

1. Introduction

- Personal experience as seminarian and formator
- Who are international seminarians?
 - Born and raised abroad
 - Born here but raised in predominantly immigrant culture
- Where will they serve?
 - Foreign dioceses and religious orders
 - North American dioceses and religious orders

2. Foundational Principles

- Pope Francis:
 - Culture of encounter (see FT 216, EG 87-92)
 - Art of accompaniment (see EG 169-173)
- *Ratio Fundamentalis*
- Program for Priestly formation
- Guidelines for Receiving Pastoral Ministers in the United States

2.1 Pope Francis: Culture of encounter

FT 216 . . . To speak of a “culture of encounter” means that we, as a people, should be passionate about meeting others, seeking points of contact, building bridges, planning a project that includes everyone. . . .

2.1 Pope Francis: Art of accompaniment

EG 170: Although it sounds obvious, spiritual accompaniment must lead others ever closer to God, in whom we attain true freedom. . . . To accompany them would be counterproductive if it became a sort of therapy supporting their self-absorption and ceased to be a pilgrimage with Christ to the Father.

2.1 Pope Francis: Art of accompaniment

EG 172. One who accompanies others has to realize that each person's situation before God and their life in grace are mysteries which no one can fully know from without. . . . Someone good at such accompaniment does not give in to frustrations or fears. He or she invites others to let themselves be healed, to take up their mat, embrace the cross, leave all behind and go forth ever anew to proclaim the Gospel.

2.2 Ratio Fundamentalis

26. The phenomenon of migration is becoming quite widespread for a variety of reasons of a social, economic, political and religious nature (AL 46). It is important that Christian communities offer constant pastoral care of immigrant families that live and work in their country for a time. These families are a valuable resource for them. Vocations to the priestly ministry can arise from within these families, which must be accompanied, keeping in mind the need for a gradual cultural integration (*Erga Migrantes Caritas Christi*, 45).

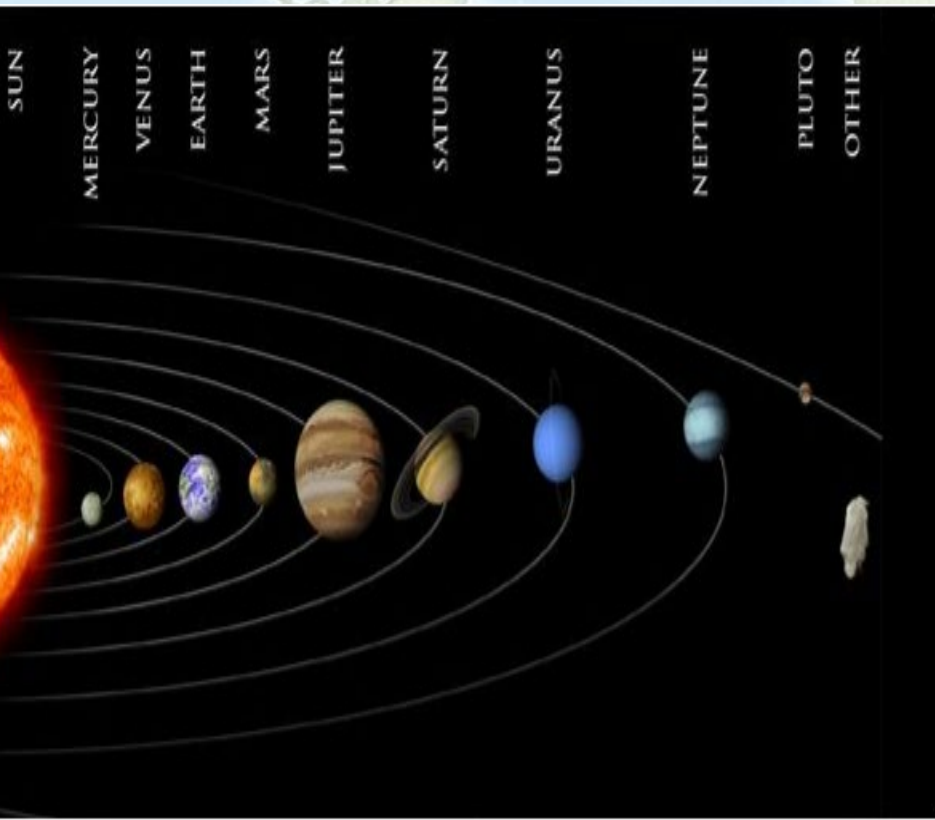
2.2 Ratio Fundamentalis

27. There are others who, feeling called by the Lord, leave their own country, in order to receive formation for the priesthood elsewhere. It is important to pay attention to their personal history and to the background from which they have come, and to assess carefully the motivations for their vocational choice, establishing a dialogue with their Church of origin whenever possible. In any case, during the process of formation it will be necessary to find ways and means to ensure an adequate integration, without underestimating the challenge of cultural differences, which can, at times, make vocational discernment rather complex.



The Temptation of Stereotypes

- Stereotypes are generalized beliefs (cognitive)
- Prejudices are generalized feelings (affective)

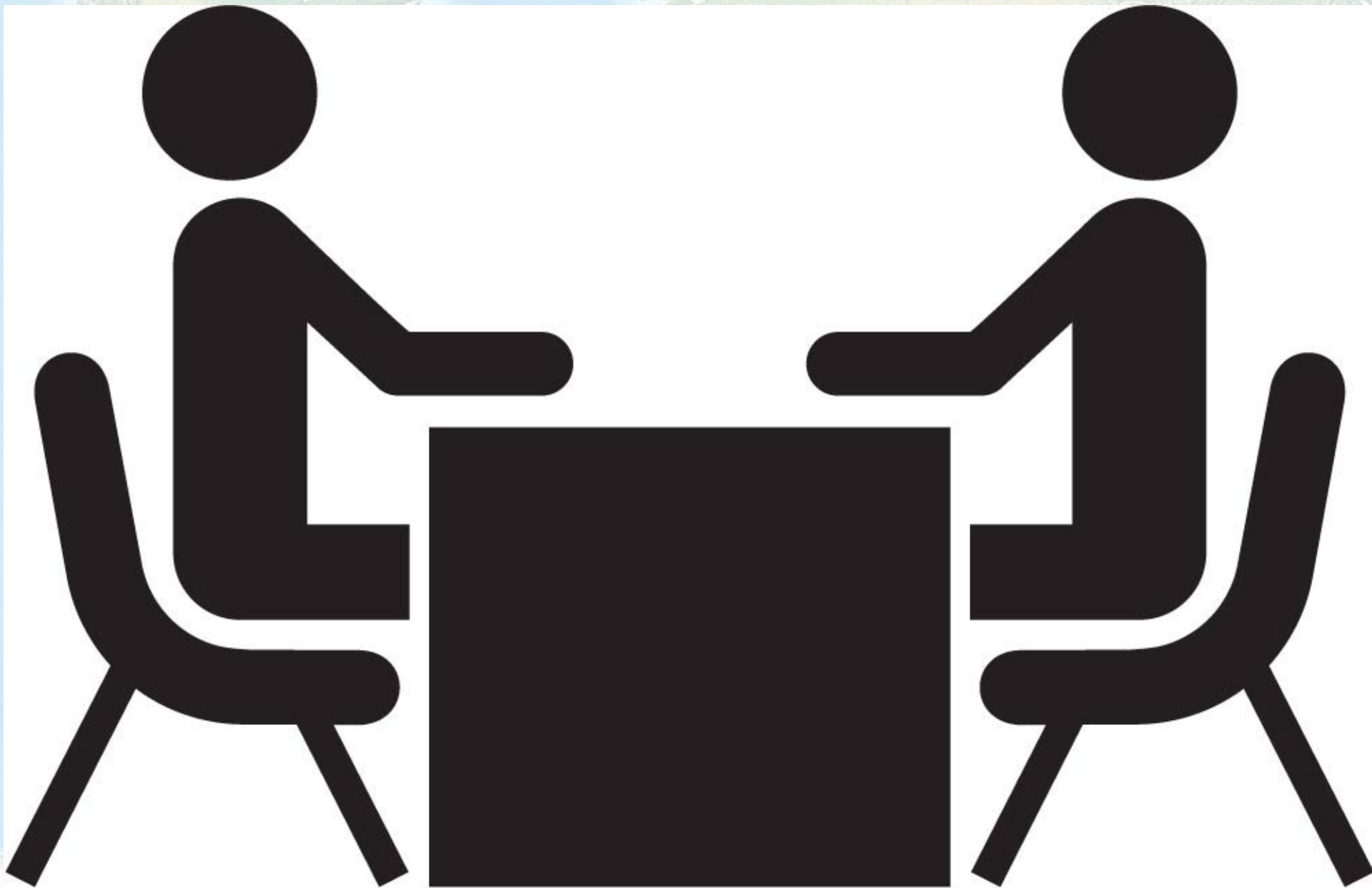


A faint, light blue world map serves as the background for the slide. The continents are visible in a light tan color, and the oceans are a pale blue. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, showing the Americas on the left and Europe and Africa on the right.

3. Suggestions for Encounter & Accompaniment

1. Know the seminarian personally
2. Ask questions
3. Dialogue with Church of origin
4. Use precision tools
5. Hold to Gospel standards

1. Know the seminarian personally



2. Ask questions



3. Dialogue with Church of origin



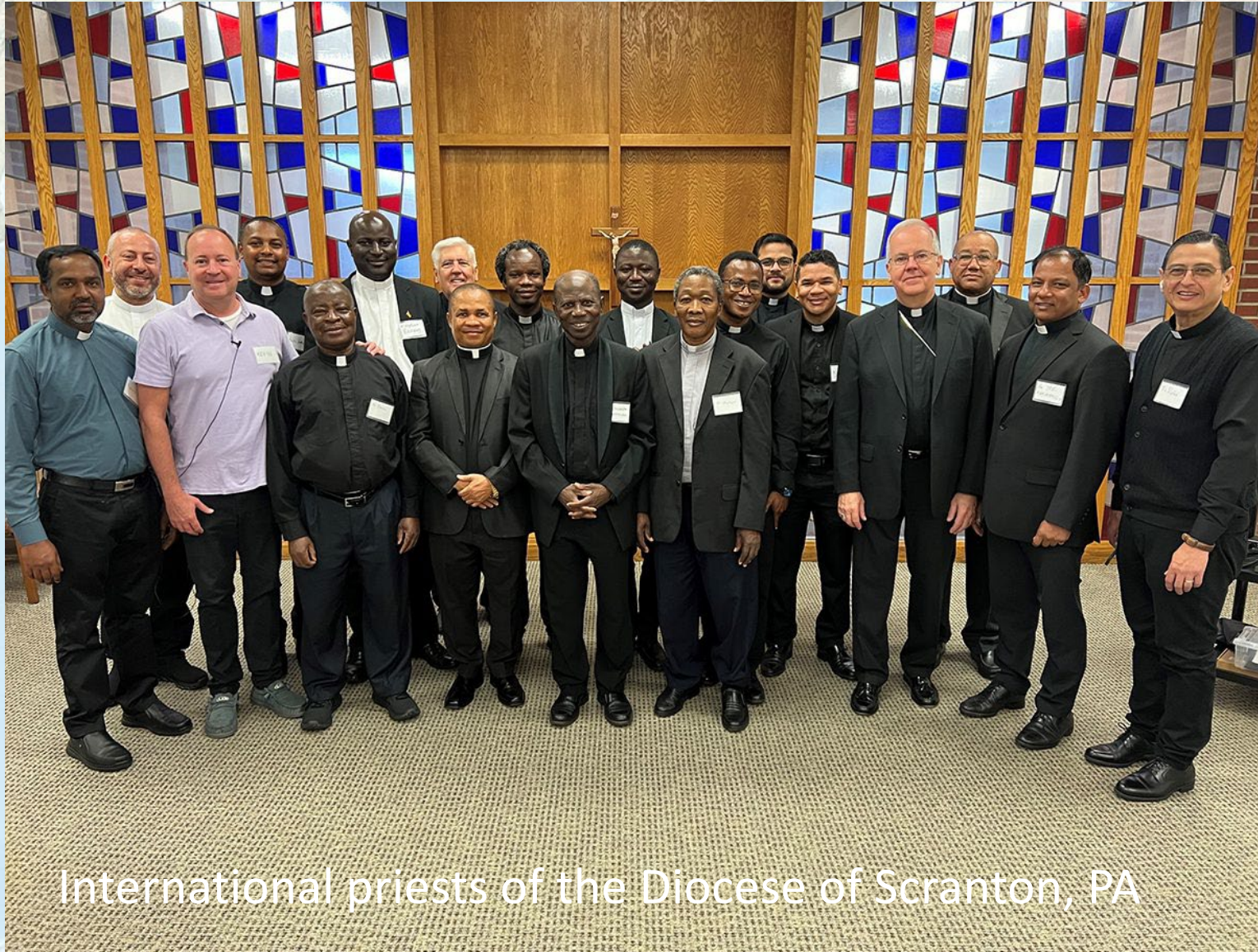
4. Use precision tools



5. The Virtues and Gospel standards



Conclusion



International priests of the Diocese of Scranton, PA