

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OUTLINE

The following areas may be of help to you as you write your autobiography. However, do not simply answer the questions. Rather, write about your family, for instance, in such a way as to describe it well. The autobiography should be about 1500 – 2000 words; 4-5 typed pages in length. It should be sent in electronic format to the Vocations Director

FAMILY HISTORY:

- Place and date of birth? Where did you grow up?
- Describe your family system:
 - a. number in your family (parents, brothers & sisters, etc.)
 - b. name, age and gender of all siblings and your relationship with each
 - c. were you the youngest, oldest?
 - d. describe your parents relation with each other and your relationship with them
 - e. describe your parents relationship with your siblings
- Describe the happiest and saddest events in your childhood.
- Describe any crises, deaths, illnesses, addictions in you or your family and how you dealt with each of these.

SCHOOL HISTORY:

- List all your education and where it was done, years, etc.
- Describe your school experiences (grades, relationships with teachers & other students)
- What were you the most successful at in school?
- What was the most difficult in school for you? Why ?

WORK HISTORY:

- List all the places you have been employed in your life with dates and descriptions of the
- jobs done, positions held (job titles) and reasons for leaving these jobs.
- Did you ever receive any awards or commendations for your work?
- Were you ever fired or terminated from your work in any way? If so, explain.
- What did you enjoy most about your work?
- What do you find the most difficult in your job?
- Were you allowed to exercise leadership in any capacity in your work?

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Name 3 key people in your life that have influenced your image of yourself, of God, of the Church? How did these people have an impact on your life? Give examples.

- Who is God for you? Please describe.
- How do you nourish your life of faith? What does your prayer life consist of now ?
- How often do you attend Mass ? Do you attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly ?
- Have you ever been in spiritual direction prior to entering the seminary?
- How have you been of service to others in the Church? Name specifically parish work/ministry. What did you enjoy most about serving others? How have you grown?
- When did you first feel called to the priesthood? How did you experience this call? How did you respond? Do you have a priest or priests that you would see as role models ?
- What do you feel God is calling you to now?
- What skills do you bring to share with others?

RELATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- How do you make friends and maintain friendships?
- What does your social involvement consist of ?
- Describe your best friend. How would your best friend describe you?
- How would your other friends describe you?
- Describe your most significant interpersonal relationships.
- How do you relate to authority figures ? How do you accept praise and criticism ?
- What has been your best personal achievement ? Why ?
- What has been your greatest disappointment ? How did you deal with this ?
- Have you dated? Have you been engaged or married? Have you had any other exclusive relationship(s)? If so, describe.
- What has been your most important relationship outside of your family?
- How long have you lived a celibate lifestyle? Are there challenges for you in this area ?
- Are you at peace living a celibate and chaste life ?

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- What do you like to do for relaxation? For leisure?
- Do you have any addictive tendencies ?
- What has been the most eye-opening experience of your life?
- What are two or three of the most memorable books that you have read in your life ?
- Are there websites/blogs etc that you regularly read ? Which ones ?
- What would you say are the major satisfactions and problems you have faced in life?
- What are your personal strengths ?
- What would you say that your weaknesses are ?
- Describe one of the biggest decisions you have made in your life and how you made it.
- In entering the seminary, what do you see as areas of growth for yourself?
- Any other aspects of life that the Church should be aware of in considering you as a candidate for the priesthood ?