



# SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL SEMINARY

## AUTOBIOGRAPHY INSTRUCTIONS and RELEASE

*Please complete in narrative form (i.e., do not just answer the questions; allow the questions to serve as a guide for you to tell the story of your life).*

### A. FAMILY

- 1) Are your parents both still living? If one or both are deceased, at what point in your life did they die? If your parents are divorced, has either remarried? Explain how their marriage has influenced you.
- 2) Describe your relationship with your siblings when growing up.
- 3) Are both of your parents Roman Catholic? In addition to Sunday Mass, did your family have any consistent devotional practices (e.g., family rosary, meal prayers, etc.)?
- 4) During the years in which you lived at home, who lived in the family home with you (e.g., brothers, sisters, grandparents, extended family)?
- 5) From the time you were born until you graduated from high school, did your family live in the same home or move from place to place? In that same period, did your family experience any significant difficulties or problems?
- 6) How significant has your family been in the process of your emotional development thus far?
- 7) Has there ever been any abuse in your family? Have you ever been abused, (e.g., physically, psychologically, sexually, neglect)?
- 8) Describe any history of drug or alcohol abuse in your family.
- 9) Describe your current relationship with your mother and father. Include your parents' attitudes toward education, religion, and your vocation.

### B. FRIENDSHIPS AND SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

- 1) How easy is it for you to form friendships?
- 2) Describe some of your most important friendships while you were growing up.
- 3) Give a brief history of your dating history, with information about the most important relationships.
- 4) If you were ever engaged or had children, provide information that is more detailed (e.g., if there was a marriage, civil or religious, the information requested in the application form must be completed).
- 5) How long has it been since your last dating experience? How long has it been that you have been living in chaste celibacy?

### C. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

- 1) Describe your experience in elementary and secondary school. If these were not Catholic schools, what formal religious education did you receive?
- 2) During high school, in what extracurricular activities did you participate? Did you receive any honors or awards?
- 3) What were the most difficult courses for you in high school/college? What do you anticipate will be the difficult courses for you if accepted into the seminary?
- 4) What colleges or universities did you attend? Describe any changes of major and how your studies through college progressed.
- 5) Considering the process of your education thus far, has it developed within you a thirst for learning and independent inquiry or do you feel that you have been required merely to repeat what was taught?
- 6) What were the significant employment positions you have held? Have you ever been disciplined or fired from a job? If so, please explain.
- 7) Considering your employment thus far, what has been your experience in dealing with those placed in authority over you?

### D. PERSONAL AND SOCIAL HEALTH

- 1) Describe any significant health problems you have had or have now?
- 2) Describe what athletic activities or leisure sports you have regularly participated in?
- 3) How would people describe your general emotional stability?
- 4) What are the most significant positive and negative qualities of your personality?
- 5) Do you currently take any prescribed medications? If so, please elaborate.
- 6) In what way has the use of alcohol played a role in your life?
- 7) Do you or have you ever used illegal drugs? If so, explain when and in what context.
- 8) If you have ever had any formal counseling or psychotherapy, provide information about it.

### E. PERSONAL FAITH AND RELIGION

- 1) Describe any significant changes in your spiritual life over the years (e.g., conversion experiences, times away from the Church, "reversion," etc.)
- 2) If you converted to Catholicism or entered into full Communion with the Catholic Church, explain that process.
- 3) Describe any significant retreat experiences in which you have participated (e.g., TEC, Cursillo, campus ministry retreat, etc.)
- 4) Describe the experience of personal prayer you find most meaningful (e.g., written prayers, meditation, *Lectio divina*, rosary, etc.)
- 5) What is your experience of Church at the parish level (parish activities, ministries in your home parish)?
- 6) Describe your sacramental life.
- 7) In addition to the sacramental dimension of religion, what role do you feel the Church should play in the world?

F. VOCATION AND PASTORAL ABILITIES

- 1) For how long have you thought about being a priest?
- 2) Please describe a priest who has been a role model for you.
- 3) Priests must be leaders. How do you see yourself exercising authority?
- 4) Priests are called upon to be good communicators. Describe your listening and motivation skills.
- 5) Priests are called upon to be leaders of the total community. Describe how you work when in leadership and any groups with whom you have difficulty working.
- 6) Priests are called upon to be self-disciplined. How are you at sticking to a project until it is completed and foregoing personal pleasure to accomplish a task for the common good of others?
- 7) Priests must be courageous. Describe how you demonstrate conviction and the ability to challenge others?
- 8) What most attracts you to the priesthood?
- 9) What do you anticipate might be the most challenging experience in the seminary formation program?
- 10) Describe what celibacy means to you. What signs have you experienced that the Lord may be giving you the gift of chaste celibacy?

G. SEMINARY EXPERIENCE:

- 1) Reflect on why you are answering the call to seminary studies.
- 2) Describe your previous experiences in seminary or religious formation in college seminary, pre-theology, or in a house of religious formation.
- 3) How do you see yourself growing within a community of men who are preparing for the priesthood?
- 4) How do you see yourself contributing to the seminary?
- 5) If there is any other important area you would like to include in your autobiography, please feel free to do so.

PERMISSION TO RELEASE INFORMATION: I hereby grant permission to Saint Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary to release my motivational statement and autobiography to the formation faculty. This consent to release this information is valid until graduation or withdrawal from Saint Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary.

---

Date

---

Signature