

Formation Commission
COURSE FOR PASSIONIST FORMATORS – ROME, OCT 9-30, 2016



Rekindle the Fire within Us

Dear Participants,

Greetings from Rome. You have already received the outline of the formators course. As you can see, we will try to cover different aspects of formation. However, the most important contribution will come from you. We are looking forward to hear about your experience in formation, where you see hope and where you see challenge. We all need to share openly about our hopes, needs and desires.

To help you prepare for the course, I offer some questions for your reflection. This is not intended to be a burden but rather a help for your orientation for the course. I also invite you to talk with others in your province who work in formation or who may have helpful ideas and suggestions. You will be bringing all of this with you in October and it will enrich the entire gathering.

A. The first two questions are very broad and give you scope to share the lights and the shadows of formation as you see them. We would appreciate if you would take a few moments to write your reflections on these two questions (no more than a page) and send them to us before the course begins.

1. What gives you most joy and satisfaction in your ministry as a formator?

2. In your experience, what are the greatest challenges in formation today?

B. The following questions are for your personal reflection. I hope you find them helpful. You do not need to send your reflections on these questions to us.

- ✚ What are the gifts that young people are bringing to the Congregation today?***
- ✚ Why do young people want to join the Congregation today?***
- ✚ Why do some leave?***
- ✚ What are the greatest needs of young people who join us today?***
- ✚ What can we learn from other Congregations?***
- ✚ How can we meet the challenges of formation?***
- ✚ What are your needs and how can you be helped you in your ministry?***
- ✚ How can the community contribute to the formation of new members?***

C. Here below is a list of some of the elements of formation. Add other elements that you think are missing. They are all important but some may need more attention today. As you

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see it, which of these elements needs most attention. Try to number them in order from 1 to 15. Once again, this is for your own personal reflection and you don't need to send it to us.

- *Formation in faith, doctrine and morals*
- *Pastoral formation*
- *Psycho-sexual formation*
- *Spirituality and prayer*
- *Passionist history and charism*
- *Human development and maturity*
- *Commitment to the mission of the Church today*
- *Compassion and care for the poor and suffering*
- *Healthy and creative use of media, TV, internet, phones*
- *Good academic formation in philosophy and theology*
- *Formation for community life*
- *To be informed and interested in society, culture and the challenges of the modern world*
- *The importance of economics, development and the environment*
- *Human relationships in the community and with others*
- *Leadership and management*
- *Religious fundamentalism, violence, social unrest*
- *The traditional vows of chastity, poverty and obedience*

You will have plenty of opportunities to contribute your ideas and share your experience during this course. Our goal is that we come together and work together on the best formation we can offer to those who wish to join the Congregation of the Passion today.

We are looking forward to seeing you in October,

Yours in the Lord,

Martin Coffey