



Formation and Training Programmes at St Charles Seminary in relation to child protection, child sexual abuse, and matters relating to sexuality and celibacy

In May 2011 Professor Martin Philpott D.Couns, MA, BA (Hons) Psych, MAPS from the University of Notre Dame Australia was appointed to work at the seminary for one day a week. This was increased to two days in 2012 and from 2013 Professor Philpott has worked in the seminary for three days a week.

The result of these initiatives is that psychological health and matters concerning sexual maturity and literacy are now a normal part of the formative programme at the seminary.

Since Professor Philpott's arrival the following psychological screening process has been observed:

All candidates must have completed a comprehensive psychological evaluation carried out in person by Professor Martin Philpott. This evaluation consists of a Semi structured clinical interview attending to the following points:

- *Administration of the Sexual addiction screening test (Cairns 2008)*
- *Hamilton Anxiety rating scale*
- *Hospital Depression Scale*
- *Mental Health Examination*

Interview attending to the following points:

- Presentation at interview
- Family of origin
- Parents
- Siblings
- Early development
- Significant events of childhood
- Early and ongoing education
- Emergence of a vocation
- Significant influences on spiritual life
- Self-esteem and Self concept
- Extroversion and introversion
- Relationships of an affectionate nature
- Sexual preference
- Sexual history
- Use of pornography and sexual addiction for Seminarians
- Celibacy



- Interests and hobbies
- Current and previous work history
- Current and / or academic studies
- Physical and mental health
- Sleep pattern Diet and exercise
- History of substance abuse
- Life challenges - stressors bereavement and loss and trauma.
- Mood and temperament
- Vulnerabilities
- Attitudes to authority, people in power.
- Demonstrated ability to work within a group
- Ability to live a life of discernment and a commitment to chastity and obedience.
- Comprehensive Mental state examination and /or history of mental illness.
- Feedback is invited from the candidate and expectations and concerns discussed at the interview and where necessary later during the formation experience. A written report is furnished to the Rector and the Archbishop. The report is otherwise confidential and stored in a locked cupboard. The report can form the basis of formative experiences for accepted candidates (where necessary). In the case of a candidate with limited English, the Director of Human Formation administers these assessments again once English competence has been gained.

After entry into the Seminary

Professor Philpott presents a year-long, mandatory, academic and experiential unit in human development and formation in 1st year. As well as lectures this experience involves bi-weekly private meetings with the seminary psychologist.

Human Development throughout the Human Lifespan.

This unit examines human development within a critical wellbeing framework which attempts to integrate the student into his relationships and communities. This unit assumes that the human condition is constantly changing within a psychobiological framework. There is an attempt to understand the determinants of human behavior. Thoughts and feelings are also examined and the unit is taught with an emphasis on what the seminarian can expect in ministry following ordination. Students are encouraged to reflect on their own development and growth.

Aims

- 1 To teach a major overview of the changing nature of the human person from conception to death.
- 2 To demonstrate how understanding the concept of change can lead to better relationships.
- 3 To apply this knowledge in a practical way to the working life of a Priest.



Key Concepts

- Conception
- Prenatal development
- Insult and injury
- Birth process
- Developmental milestones
- Relationships within the home
- Parenting styles
- Discipline
- Relationships with siblings
- Loss and bereavement in childhood
- Cognitive and emotional development
- School aged child
- Puberty and developmental changes
- Adolescent development
- Authority
- Autonomy
- Self esteem
- The Peer Group experience
- Problem behaviours
- Maturity
 - Career choice
- Establishment of young adulthood
- Sexuality attraction and love
- Family structure
- The older adult
- Ageing
- Death and Dying

Teaching format is by use of Semi structured lectures and Tutorials. Appropriate readings are available in the Seminary library.

There are also other opportunities for further psychological and human formation: units at Notre Dame University Fremantle in *Human Development and Counselling* are available or offered as “in-house” intensives. Where possible seminarians also undertake the Clinical Pastoral Education Program at Royal Perth Hospital or St. John of God Hospital, Subiaco. Our Director of Human Formation also offers continuous intensive on going “in-house” programs. Human Formation is a foundational part of the seminary formation.



A Psychosexual workshop is offered Seminarians outlining sexual paraphilias including paedophilia and other sexual deviance.

Sexuality occupies much space, attention and behavior in our culture. It is often a common topic in confession and occupies a large area of interest in wrong going, unacceptable behavior and sin. Seminarians need preparation for what will face them with this topic throughout their priesthood.

Aims

- 1 To increase awareness and knowledge of sexuality.
- 2 To understand sexual function and dysfunction.
- 3 To increase knowledge and challenge myths regarding sexuality.
- 4 To inform seminarians regarding the Paraphilias.
- 5 To help identify boundaries and support Seminarians in protecting themselves.

Key Concepts

- Sex as a fundamental component in the human life cycle
- Normal and healthy aspect of living
- Source of Joy and intimate connection.
- Critical aspect of belongingness and love
- What shapes our sexuality – Heredity, personality, Family of origin, religious beliefs, media?
- Sigmund Freud
- Helen Kaplan
- Alfred Kinsey
- Introductory sexual organs- structure and function
- Sexual response cycle
- Sexual dysfunction – Psychological -emotional
- Health issues
- Sociocultural factors
- Medicalisation of Sexuality
- Counselling skills
- Cognitive Behaviour Therapy
- Paraphilias
- Safety for Seminarians

Professor Philpott is available to all students without reference to the rector. He also sees students referred to him by the rector. It is compulsory for first year seminarians and those approaching diaconate and priesthood to meet with Professor Philpott regularly. The rector and Professor Philpott meet at least three times a week to discuss formation issues.



Here is the extract from the seminary handbook covering Professor Philpott's role in seminary formation at Saint Charles Seminary.

Professor Martin Philpott has been appointed by the Archbishop and Rector to assist in the human and psychological maturing of the Seminary Community. As such, Professor Philpott will meet both individually and as a group, with the First Year students. Professor Philpott is also available for any senior students who wish to see him or who are referred to him by the Rector.

Seminarians approaching the reception of Diaconate and/or Priesthood are required to see Professor Philpott in the year leading up to and following such Ordinations.

Professor Philpott runs ongoing and continuous formation in Professional Standards and Psychological Health as required by the Catholic Church throughout Australia. Such formation is compulsory for all students and is an integral part of their preparation for faithful and fruitful ministry.

The rector and director of human formation are constantly engaged in seeking opportunities for our students to grow in personal human development. Community life and pastoral placements offer further invaluable opportunities for the candidate to be challenged and affirmed. Feed-back from a wide circle of people is invited to assist in this life long process. Reflective essays, discussions, small group exercises and one-on-one therapy are also part of the human development formation.

Celibacy and issues surrounding human affectivity are regularly discussed and explored within the ongoing consideration of sexuality. Formation in celibacy remains an ongoing part of seminary formation. Besides courses offered in these matters, attention is also given to the daily expression of affectivity. Hopefully, an atmosphere is created where seminarians are encouraged to "own" their sexuality, in particular their sexual orientation, and its expression in chaste and life giving friendship.

Warm, authentic and honest relationships and friendships are encouraged within the seminary community. The lack of them would be of concern to the formation staff. Seminarians also take responsibility for ordering much of their communal life. Such skills and attitudes are "taught" and "mirrored" within the context of belongingness and love as foundational human needs. Explicit boundaries are expected and clearly outlined. Workshops offer vignettes, which are used to discuss relationship and moral/boundary issues that might arise and what appropriate behaviours are essential to priestly ministry.

Women also form an essential part of our seminary formation staff occupying the positions of First Year Formators in Theology and Biblical Studies (Religious



Women), Director of Seminary Operations, Dean of Studies and some lecturers at NDA Fremantle (Lay and Religious Women). We are also actively involved with religious and lay women through prison ministry, other pastoral placements and regular visits by religious sisters to the seminary. Exposure to working with women during parish placements and at the seminary often proves to be of vital formative importance. Friendships with women are encouraged and valued.

From first year onwards the in-house seminary curriculum requires that education in professional standards is an integral part of our formation programme. Towards Healing and Integrity in Ministry are used to educate our seminarians in the professional expectations and responsibilities of priests. Consequences of inappropriate or boundary violations are continually illustrated, monitored in individual pastoral experiences and discussed.

Every opportunity has been used to discuss matters raised at the Royal Commission. The Hon Neville Owen is in regular contact with the rector and will address the seminary community in second semester 2016.

Mrs Andrea Musulin, the Safeguarding Project Co-ordinator for the Archdiocese of Perth, ran a workshop for the seminary in 2015. Mrs Musulin will coordinate continuing formation initiatives each year.

The Director of the WA Professional Standards Office, Mr. Peter Stoyles, visited the seminary in 2015 to discuss boundary and other violation issues, and will do so again in Semester 2, 2016. This will be an annual event.

Marist Brother, Eugene Dywer, offered a Celibacy Workshop to the Community in 2014.

The full reality of clerical sexual abuse is not hidden from the seminarians.