

UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE
Office of Pastoral Formation
Faculty of Theology
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Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1J4

M. DIV. STUDENTS: PERSONAL FORMATION REFLECTION PAPERS

Program Goal and Objectives: The Faculty shall provide a pattern for regular reflection on the students' personal, spiritual, and ministerial growth through a series of three Personal Formation Reflection papers and regular interviews with the Director of Pastoral Formation. The M. Div. Students shall enunciate their personal, spiritual, and ministerial goals in the first paper and track their progression in the two papers to follow. These reflection papers are intended to place the responsibility for personal, spiritual, and ministerial growth with the student, a responsibility and accountability that will be particularly necessary after graduation. M. Div. students shall receive assistance in this regard from the Director of Pastoral Formation.

Guidelines for the Personal Formation Reflection Papers

The reflection papers are not research essays but rather short papers written annually to reflect the M. Div. students' personal, spiritual, and ministerial development goals and their efforts to realize these goals in a progressive way over the course of their M. Div. Studies. The papers are for the students' benefits only. They are not graded, but they are a compulsory part of the M. Div. Curriculum. They are discussed with the Director of Pastoral Formation each year. The reflection papers are kept in the student's Portfolio which is stored in the Student Services Office. The contents remain the student's personal property at all times and the Portfolio is returned to the student at the completion of his/her M. Div. studies. The reflection papers should be around 3 pages, single-spaced, in 12-point font, with good margins and clear paragraphing, and written clearly and correctly with respect to grammar and punctuation.

Personal Formation Papers Due Dates

Paper 1: Due Year 1 after 5 Courses

This first paper should include the following:

- A statement of one or two goals for growth in terms of
 - personal development,
 - spiritual development,
 - ministerial development.
- An indication of the concrete actions that will be undertaken in relationship to each of the goals.
- A reflection on how the student sees his/her personal, spiritual, and ministerial growth in relationship to an evolving sense of their pastoral ministry identity.

Paper 2: Due Year 2 after 15 Courses

This second paper reviews the first paper and comments on the student's development in terms of his/her goals and actions. It also adjusts or adds goals and plans for continuing growth as desired. It should also make reference to how course work and field-based learning, if applicable, in the M. Div. Program are affecting personal, spiritual, and ministerial growth.

Paper 3: Due Year 3 after 25 Courses

This third paper reviews the previous one and comments on the student's development in terms of his/her goals and actions. It also adjusts or adds goals and plans for continuing growth as desired. It should also make reference to how course work and field-based learning, if applicable, in the M. Div. Program are affecting personal, spiritual, and ministerial growth.