• A one week pre-orientation pastoral immersion experience and two intensive formation weekends per semester provide exposure to each of the formation pillars and a firm foundation for ongoing discernment of a call to priestly ordination and ongoing exposure to the ever-expanding role of the priest in leadership, evangelization, and ministry to the disabled.

• Faith-based guidance or counseling for all seminarians is available from our newly appointed director of pre-theology formation, Dr. Lawrence Sutton, a licensed psychologist and a permanent deacon of the Church. Dr. Sutton is also available to address human formation issues as they come to light.

• Twice a year, nationally known experts in aspects of formation are invited to speak to the pre-theologians, seminarians, and formators from the surrounding dioceses and other nearby seminaries.

• Rev. Patrick Cronauer, O.S.B., S.S.L., S.S.D., has completed his first full year as Academic Dean and has instituted a comprehensive programmatic assessment that can also be used to indicate a Seminarian’s academic progress.

• The Seminary continues to work with Saint Vincent College to develop and provide a professional on-site Integrated Language Study program for those seminarians whose academic progress may be hindered by their lack of proficiency in written or spoken English.

• Seminarians may choose from a number of trained spiritual directors, both diocesan priests and those from a religious community. The Director of Spiritual Formation and his assistant continue to develop a program for the specialized training of spiritual directors for seminarians.

• Through our enhanced Human Formation program, seminarians are challenged to continue and to deepen their discernment process in a serious way through formation workshops, conferences, and individual meetings with their formators. Their vocation to the priesthood is tested, deepened, and brought to full clarity.

• As the fourth oldest seminary in the United States, Saint Vincent Seminary provides men discerning a priestly vocation with the continuity and stability one of the of the church’s largest monastic communities. This is built upon the 1500-year-old Benedictine tradition of and commitment to liturgical prayer, education, hospitality and community.
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