

## 2.1.3 PASTORAL & APOSTOLIC FORMATION

*last updated on December 1, 2021*

### **Apostolic Internships (Communications)**

All seminarians participate in internships that take place in supervised pastoral settings on Thursdays during the academic year and, for some, during the summer breaks.

For College seminarians and those in the Pre-Theology program, the placements allow them to serve directly people in need (e.g., nursing homes, prisons, residences for people with disabilities, soup kitchens, etc.). The goals of these internships is for the seminarian to grow in charity by serving people in need and to understand the relationship of their service to their overall growth as well as their on-going discernment of a priestly vocation (PPF #256).

For Theology seminarians, placements typically occur in parishes; for those in Second Theology, the placement may be in a special ministry, such as a college/university campus or a local hospital. In all these assignments, theological reflection on the field education experience plays an integral part of the program.

*The Seminary may offer the possibility for students in Third Theology to engage in apostolic work in the field of social communications in/for archdiocesan parishes prior to their completion of the Servant Leadership Program offered through St. Joseph's University.*

More information about each of the internships, including relevant forms and documents, can be found on the web site:

- [Apostolic Formation in the College Seminary](#)
- [Apostolic Formation in the Pre-Theology program](#)
- [Pastoral Formation in the Theological Seminary](#)

*While Communications is involved, naturally and necessarily, in all apostolic internships, this formation experience would be strengthened by a more direct consideration, and explicit evaluation, of the development of interpersonal and professional communication skills appropriate to each type of apostolic work.*

### **Diaconal Internships (Homiletics)**

Transitional deacons in Fourth Theology receive Sunday assignments in a local parish in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia or in their home dioceses. Ideally, these parish experiences will incorporate opportunities (when faculties have been given) for the deacon to preach at Mass weekly or at least on alternating weekends.

Whenever the deacon preaches, the celebrant of the Mass and select parishioners are invited to assess the homiletic work. The pastor of the assigned parish is invited to include an assessment of the deacon's homiletic work in his final evaluation. For more details, see the information and forms [posted online](#).

*To advance formation in preaching at a parish, the deacons may be invited to participate in a non-credit seminar throughout the year, and homiletics faculty may visit the parish assignments to offer additional evaluations.*