

Crossing the Threshold of Hope

Goals, Objectives, and Actions

2020-2025

Mission Statement:

St. Patrick's Seminary & University is a Catholic educational community that forms priests of Jesus Christ who is teacher, priest, and shepherd.



ST. PATRICK'S
SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY

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Root Priestly Formation in an Encounter with the Word of the Father

Objective 1:

Form the hearts of priestly disciples of Jesus Christ to become spiritual fathers

Action 1

Introduce the stages of formation envisioned in *Gift of Priestly Vocation* and personalized formation plans with compelling outcomes and benchmarks to enrich each seminarian's ongoing encounter with Christ as he grows in pastoral charity, celibate chastity, and priestly identity.

Action 2

Develop a propaedeutic program that fulfills integrated formation objectives in a manner that meets the developing psycho-social and educational needs of the next generation of seminarians.

Action 3

Put forth a better understanding of priestly celibacy, masculinity, self-care, and healthy practices that support life-long faithfulness and human thriving in the priesthood.

Action 4

Champion a “kneeling theology” that supports dynamic ministry, spiritual fatherhood, priestly fraternity, and the New Evangelization on the West Coast and the Pacific Rim.



Objective 2:

Improve the quality of overall priestly formation and student learning for seminarians, the recently ordained, and those who collaborate with them

Action 1

Establish a student learning center in the Gellert Memorial Library dedicated to supplemental programming to support seminarian academic and pastoral success with a writing lab, speech therapy, and English as a Second Language.

Action 2

Discern new teaching modalities and programs to enhance theological and pastoral explorations among seminarians, the recently ordained, their collaborators, and the lay faithful.

Action 3

Explore improvements to our student information system, implement a learning management system, and consider systems that enhance assessment activities and decision-making practices.

Action 4

Expand curricular opportunities for seminarians to acquire greater proficiency in pastoral, biblical, and ecclesiastical languages.

Action 5

Distinguish St. Patrick's Seminary as the preeminent seminary on the West Coast through the recruitment, retention, and professional development of high caliber faculty and staff who are committed to the mission of the seminary.

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Root Priestly Formation in an Encounter with the Word of the Father

Objective 3:

**Integrate the study of Sacred Scriptures
throughout St. Patrick's priestly formation
program**

Action 1

Improve the scope, sequence, and integration of the Scripture offerings and their integration with pastoral, dogmatic, and moral courses.

Action 2

Promote and share St. Patrick's "Study in the Holy Land" experience with the seminary community, bishops, vocation directors, and other stakeholders.

Action 3

Initiate discussions on the application of Scripture scholarship in human, spiritual, and pastoral formation with special attention to questions concerning priestly celibacy and manly character.



Objective 4:

Provide Meaningful Theological, Pastoral and Cultural Encounters

Action 1

Cultivate Seminary Liturgies as the Source and Summit of Priestly Formation through making pastoral charity, reverence, and beauty animate worship at St. Patrick's Seminary.

Action 2

Explore the feasibility of post-graduate programs of studies that support the promotion of communion and mission of the Church among the recently ordained and the future of the local churches who are part of St. Patrick's family.

Action 3

Organize annual symposium, speaker series, and other activities on formational, pastoral, and theological themes to contribute national standards and leadership for priestly formation.

Action 4

Host events on and off campus that deepen a sense of solidarity and appreciation for the multi-cultural reality of the Church through meaningful engagement with music, the fine arts, science, social concerns, and cultural achievements.

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Draw New Missionary Disciples by Building Bridges to Local Churches

Objective 1:

Bring to bear the wisdom of local churches and other stakeholders on the formation of priests and other missionary disciples for the New Evangelization

- Action 1*** ■ Provide the best resources with collaboration of local bishops to assist those discerning a vocation to make a generous and healthy response to God's call in light of the needs of the Church.
- Action 2*** ■ Engage all our stakeholders in a better understanding of the work of priestly formation and the required resources, so that they can discern appropriate responses to this emerging need in the life of the Church.
- Action 3*** ■ Deepen collaboration between vocation directors and the admissions committee towards improved strategies for assisting applicants to discern, prepare for, and transition into seminary life.
- Action 4*** ■ Create new opportunities to consult bishops, vocation directors, rectors, and other experts on best practices to help men respond to and care for the gift of a priestly vocation.
- Action 5*** ■ Empower sending bishops to become ambassadors of St. Patrick's Seminary to other dioceses.



Objective 2:

Employ new communications and information technologies and strategies to connect West Coast and the Pacific Rim to St. Patrick's unique mission

Action 1

Consult with local experts to develop norms, recommendations, and best practices for priests and their collaborators on the use of social media for evangelization and catechetical purposes.

Action 2

Develop public relations strategy that differentiates St. Patrick's from seminaries, illustrates our way of life, and draws new dioceses, religious communities, and benefactors.

Action 3

Enhance seminary marketing technology to support future initiatives, such as a metrics dashboard, improved website infrastructure, and better systems for the tracking and development of subscribers.

Action 4

Improve programs to support more effective Advancement strategies and activities.

3

Advance an Ethos of Stewardship for St. Patrick's Mission

Objective 1:

Put forth a stewardship spirituality in St. Patrick's seminary community that empowers the Board of Trustees, the administration, the faculty, and the student body to more effectively engage the New Evangelization

- Action 1*** Provide opportunities for a better understanding and spirituality of stewardship for all our stakeholders including Board members, the faculty, seminarians, recently ordained, and those who collaborate with them in the emerging context of the Bay Area and trends in higher education..
- Action 2*** Engage the community in discussions leading to a Master Plan that discerns the long-term infrastructure, operational, programming, personnel, and financial challenges and opportunities confronting priestly formation in the Bay Area.
- Action 3*** Develop existing efforts and find new ways for alumni, friends, and local churches in the St. Patrick's seminary community to provide unrestricted funding, grow the seminary endowment, and address developing infrastructure needs.
- Action 4*** Mentor seminarians and faculty to share their witness in parish appeals and other fundraising efforts throughout the Bay Area.
- Action 5*** Enable future priests to advance a spirituality of stewardship in the parishes that they serve.
- Action 6*** Engage local Catholic business and non-profit management schools in the creation of best business practices for the parish level.



Objective 2:

Spearhead a greater conscious awareness of Catholic Social teaching to build up an attitude of greater respect for creation, the dignity of the human person and concern for the common good

- Action 1** Evoke dialogue and collaboration with other institutions of higher education, industries, and other organizations to promote the role of goodness, truth and beauty in the advancement of society, culture, and the human person.
- Action 2** Assess and align current institutional practices under the standard of *Laudato si*, so that St. Patrick's witnesses the Gospel through its respect for creation and good human ecology as an ecclesial educational community.
- Action 3** Introduce resource conservation and waste minimalization into the *Rule of Life* and human formation of the Seminary community.
- Action 4** Model "caring for our common home" with an eye to enriching parish ministry and the life of local churches.
- Action 5** Promote governing and administrative practices that safeguard the dignity of the human person, participation, subsidiarity and solidarity of the St. Patrick's family.