

Rejoice in the Lord

By Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark



Giving and receiving thanks

November is sometimes called gratitude month. It's the time of year when we Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, a time when we are invited to be grateful for all the gifts we have received from a good and gracious God.

I spent 20 years living in Rome and traveling all over the world on behalf of my religious community, the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists). Nothing unites Americans abroad more than the annual Thanksgiving celebration. It's part of our DNA, and no matter where we are in the world, when Thanksgiving Day comes around, we Americans find a way to celebrate!

This year, I'm giving thanks for nearly three years here in the Archdiocese of Newark! In a very special way, I am giving thanks to Pope Francis who sent me here to serve all God's people in this local Church, and who inspires us all to serve as missionary disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am also grateful to the people of Archdiocese; to my brother bishops, priests and deacons.; to all who serve in parishes, schools and archdiocesan agencies in every deanery; and to my dedicated co-workers at the Archdiocesan Center. All have shown me what hospitality truly means, and I am grateful.

Gratitude is a powerful virtue. It opens our hearts to the healing power of God's grace. It helps us look beyond our own selfish wants and fears to the gifts we receive from others and to the opportunities we have to share with others and to return thanks to God for all that he has generously given to us.

When you go to Mass this weekend, say a special word of thanks to God for all his blessings. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for all the people in your life who have shared their gifts with you. Say a prayer of contrition for your sins and ask for the grace to forgive those who have harmed you in any way.

For us, Thanksgiving is a moment of grace for all of us who have been blessed by God to say thank you. May we thank God always for his goodness to us! May our hearts be filled to overflowing with gratitude for all the gifts we have received from a loving and generous God.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,



Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

Revised Program of Priestly Formation formally introduced to bishops

Mark Pattison

Nov 12, 2019

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BALTIMORE - The U.S. bishops heard Nov. 11 of plans to revise the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' existing Program of Priestly Formation for U.S. dioceses.

The revision was introduced by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, chairman of the bishops' Committee for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, on the first day of their Nov. 11-13 fall general assembly in Baltimore.

Known among the bishops as "the PPF," the Program for Priestly Formation had been due for an updating.

The Vatican's *recognitio*, or approval, on the fifth edition of the PPF expired in 2015, according to Tobin in a message to his fellow bishops. That year, though, the Vatican extended the *recognitio* for five-years, through 2020.

In 2016, a working group was selected by the committee to begin work on a sixth edition. In 2017, that group, run by Bishop Earl A. Boyea of Lansing, Michigan, began its deliberations. In 2018, input from bishops was sought given the Vatican's issuance the year before of the new *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* ("The Gift of the Priestly Vocation").

"The draft has been reviewed by the designated (U.S. bishops') collaborative committees," Tobin said, citing the committees of Doctrine, Canonical Affairs and Church Governance, Child and Youth Protection, Divine Worship, and Cultural Diversity.

"In July 2019, having revised the draft document based on the recommendation of the doctrine and (Canonical Affairs and Church Governance) committees, the (Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations) Committee approved the Program of Priestly Formation, sixth edition, and recommended that the draft be presented to the body of bishops."

The PPF sets forth the nature and mission of the ministerial priesthood, norms for the admission of candidates, norms for the formation of candidates, and norms for the governance and administration of seminaries.

“It is not an entirely new document,” Tobin said of the proposed revision Nov. 11. “It retains and builds on those aspects of PPF 5 which have proven to be the most effective.”

Based on “the overwhelming feedback we received” from bishops when they were queried, the proposed sixth edition “calls for flexibility while adhering to the ratio’s insistence on not less than a year and not more than two years,” in any one aspect of formation, he said.

The document, Tobin added, “allows latitude for individual dioceses, provinces and regions” so bishops can “adapt this to individual circumstances.”

“The PPF’s focus is on benchmarks - the outcomes that must be achieved by the seminarian before advancing to the next stage in his formation, rather than on chronological times,” the cardinal said, adding that “new weight is given to stages rather than years.”

He said the document is “the least prescriptive as possible due to the vast diversity of circumstances around the country.”

Tobin added his belief that the revisions, should they be approved, will lead seminarians more surely through the stages of formation, “and ultimately, please God, to ordination.”

If approved by the bishops, the sixth edition of the PPF will likewise need to receive the Vatican’s *recognitio* before it can be applied in the United States.

Sharing God’s Blessings Annual Appeal

As members of the Catholic Church of Newark, we are united by a common mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ - to proclaim the Gospel, to pass on the faith to the next generation through the celebration of the sacraments, and to care for the poor and vulnerable. The 2019 Sharing God's Blessings Appeal binds us more closely to this mission through our stewardship of God's many gifts.

Your support of this year's Sharing God's Blessings Appeal will have a direct impact on the lives of those served through the ministries and programs of this Archdiocese.

With this in mind, we encourage the faithful to consider making a pledge to the Annual Appeal. Committing to a recurring monthly gift may allow you to give more generously and in a way that best aligns with your budget. Thank you for your kind consideration!

To make a gift, visit
www.rcan.org/sharing



A Message from Pope Francis: Words of Challenge and Hope



An appeal to generosity. Generosity belongs to everyday life; it's something we should think: 'How can I be more generous, with the poor, the needy... How can I help more?' 'But Father, you know that we can barely get through the month.' 'But surely you have at least a couple of coins left over? Think about it: you can be generous with those...' Consider the little things. For example, look through your room or your wardrobe. How many pairs of shoes do I have? One, two, three, four, fifteen, twenty... Each of us knows. Maybe too many... I knew a monsignor who had 40... But if you have many pairs of shoes, give away half. How many clothes do I not use or use only once a year? This is one way to be generous, to give what we have, and to share. (Homily on Lk 21:1-4)

My Prayer for You

My prayer for our country and for the world at large is that God will make us grateful and generous so that we can help one another and live together in justice and in peace.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.

