

Essay Expectations

An Essay is required with all Applications whether you are applying through an Episcopal seminary or through the Alternative Scholarship Program.

About your ESSAY: The ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing is absolutely essential to the formation of priests. Since it is impractical for SIM to conduct an interview with each postulant, we look to the essay both to demonstrate each applicant's competence in communication and to better understand them as future ordained leaders of the church. The essay should show a command of language (spelling, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure).

As to **content** of your required essay: If this is your **first** application, select **one** of the following questions. **Please identify which question you are answering.**

1) Tell us about one incident in your life that has been particularly formative in your spiritual life and preparation for ordained ministry.

OR

2) Tell us about a situation in which you were able to provide leadership that helped a group of people accomplish some goal; then relate this to the work of a parish priest.

If you are a Middler or Senior applying for a **renewal** grant please select one of the following questions. **Please identify which question you are answering.**

1) Tell us how your understanding of the Church and the work of ordained ministry has changed based on your academic work and your growing participation in the life of the Church.

OR

2) Do you believe that stewardship of your personal resources affects the stewardship of your call to ministry? Please provide examples from your experience where personal financial stewardship either supported or otherwise impacted aspects of your ministry.

We ask that you make the effort to write something new in response to the above descriptions. Re-cycled sermons, essays prepared as a part of your diocesan discernment processes, CPE verbatims or the like will be inadequate to the task. Neither are we seeking statements about "why I feel called to be a priest," or other issues of vocational discernment. These are the province of rectors, parish discernment committees, commissions on ministry and bishops. Please remember that an essay is **required each time** you make application to SIM.

Please number the pages of your essay and place your name at the top of each page. Please do not exceed 750 words.