

The Society for the Increase of the Ministry

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Expectation for the Essay Which Accompanies Each Application

The ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing is absolutely essential to the formation of priests and deacons. Since it is impossible for SIM to conduct an interview with each postulant we look to the essay to demonstrate a person's competency 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).

In terms of the content in the essay, we seek evidence of the transforming power of God's Holy Spirit at work; either in and through the postulant to others; or an account of the love of Jesus being radiated from others; or helping others find Christ in all the challenging ambiguities of life.

We ask that you make the effort to write something new in response to the above description. Recycled 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 interested in statements about "why I want to be a priest," or other issues of vocational discernment. These are the province of Bishops and Rectors and parish discernment groups. Our interest is in what has happened in the crucible of life that has transformed the postulant.