

# THE PROCESS OF *Formation*

## Old College

LENGTH OF TIME:  
3 Years (Freshman - Junior)

DEGREES SOUGHT FROM:

- University of Notre Dame
- Holy Cross College

CHARACTERISTICS:

- 30 credits of philosophy
- 12 credits of theology
- Can major in any subject

## College/ Working World

- After completing an undergraduate degree from a 4-year accredited college or university, a young man may inquire about admission to the postulancy program
- The age limit is 35 years old

## Postulancy

LENGTH OF TIME:  
1 Year

LOCATION:  
Moreau Seminary

CHARACTERISTICS:

- 30 credits of philosophy
- 12 credits of theology
- Introduction to community life
- Introduction to the Liturgy of the Hours
- Towards the end of the year, the postulant makes the decision whether or not to apply to the novitiate
- The summer after this year, the postulant spends 6-8 weeks at a Holy Cross apostolate, getting to know the religious there while doing active ministry

## Novitiate

LENGTH OF TIME:  
1 Year

LOCATION:  
Cascade, Colorado

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Formal reception into the community
- Decision to pursue training as a seminarian or scholastic
- Contemplative silence
- Learning to pray
- Minimal contact with the world
- Upon the completion of the novitiate, the novice professes temporary vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience for the first time
- He makes these vows for 1 year

## Professed Seminarian

LENGTH OF TIME:  
4+ Years

LOCATION:  
Moreau Seminary

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Training to become a Holy Cross priest
- Completion of a Master of Divinity Degree
- Yearly renewal of vows
- Possible pastoral year in any Holy Cross apostolate
- Increasing ministerial work and responsibilities

## Professed Scholastic

LENGTH OF TIME:  
4+ Years

LOCATION:  
Moreau Seminary

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Training to become a Holy Cross brother
- Completion of a master's degree in theology
- Yearly renewal of vows
- Possible pastoral year in any Holy Cross apostolate
- Increasing ministerial work and responsibilities

## Final Vows/ Ordination

LOCATION:  
Basilica of the Sacred Heart &  
Moreau Seminary Chapel

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Seminarians and scholastics profess their Final Vows together
- Seminarians profess Final Vows on a Saturday in the fall with diaconate Ordinations the next day
- The new deacons spend 8 months doing full time ministry before their Ordination to the priesthood

## Final Vows

LOCATION:  
Basilica of the Sacred Heart

CHARACTERISTICS:

- Scholastics and seminarians profess their Final Vows together
- A scholastic professes forever the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in the Congregation of Holy Cross
- After his final profession, he enters into full-time ministry in the Church as a Holy Cross brother