



# Goals

- Be aware of where you are: in academic, human, spiritual terms.
- Discover how where you need to grow and how you can engage better.
- Share what you can achieve together.
- Understand how this is part of following Christ more fully.





# Ratio Fundamentalis, 8 Dec. 2016

202: “The **greatest** attention **must be given** to the theme of the protection of minors and vulnerable adults, being vigilant that those who **seek admission** to a seminary or a house of formation, or who are **already petitioning to receive Holy Orders**, have not been involved in any way with any **crime** or **problematic behavior** in this area.

Formators must ensure that **those who have had painful experiences** in this area receive **special and suitable accompaniment**.

**Specific lessons, seminars or courses on the protection of minors** are to be **included in the programmes of initial and ongoing** formation. Adequate information must be provided in an **appropriate fashion**, which also gives attention to areas of dealing with **possible exploitation and violence**, such as, **for example, the trafficking of minors, child labour**, and the sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable adults.”



# Formation

- The scandals, the public interest, the Church's reaction to sexual abuse have changed the point of departure in formation in all (?) parts of the world
- Sexual abuse and Safeguarding need to be addressed throughout the whole formation period, without becoming the centre of attention in formation
- Open, trustful and respectful communication
- Ecclesial documents state the necessity of an integral and integrative formation that touches the principal aspects of the life and personality of the ones in formation



# Formation

## Major challenges in Formation today

- difficulty to form a stable Self: communication, mobility, values
- digital natives
- fragile / “floating” relationships, broken families
- religious knowledge and practice?
- sufficient intellectual capacity?
- → ¿Standards?



# Formation

## Points for clarification

- criteria for admission?
- quantity vs. quality?
- attention to development throughout the steps of formation, esp. transition periods → importance of formation delegates in contact with local superiors
- initial *and* ongoing formation
- formation of formators?







# Reflection

**Take 3 minutes to become aware of what your main needs and requests are for your human and spiritual development.**

**Share in groups for 20 minutes what your thoughts are and come up with one or two questions.**

**Write one or two points for yourself that you would like to work on concretely for the next 6 months.**



# Spiritual lessons

- Dealing with one's own resistances, uncomfortableness or questions (around sexuality, faith, Church leadership etc.).
- Where is the space for survivors in our midst?
- What is at the centre of our attention: our role, our institutions, our reputation etc. or the victim, the vulnerable, the other and the Other, God?
- Credibility as a by-product







# Why should we act?



- Mk 9,42: “If anyone causes one of these little ones – those who believe in me – to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea.”
- Mk 10,14: Jesus said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”
- Jn 8,32: “The truth will set you free.”



