



PROPAEDEUTIC IMMERSION YEAR

BORROMEIO SEMINARY



WHAT IS THE PROPAEDEUTIC IMMERSION YEAR?

The Propaedeutic Immersion Year (PY) is the church's response to living in a culture that is becoming increasingly antagonistic to living the faith. God still speaks quite profoundly in His silent love language, but it is growing ever more difficult to hear and receive His message in an age of constant distraction and noise. The PY, therefore, presents an opportunity to step out of the prevailing culture for a time so that seminarians can wisely critique the culture and learn to listen deeply to the voice of God. Then they can reengage with the culture, embracing what is good in it and letting go of what is detrimental, as they undertake the rest of their seminary formation.

INTRODUCTORY VIDEO ON THE PROPAEDEUTIC IMMERSION YEAR





TIMELINE

The propaedeutic experience will be tailored to fit each individual student. For those coming to the seminary having already acquired a Bachelor's degree, they will enter directly into the Propaedeutic Immersion Year (PY), lasting from mid August until the end of July. For those entering seminary directly after graduating high school, they will first spend two years at Borromeo Seminary, taking introductory and general education courses, primarily at John Carroll University. Thus, for those who already have an undergraduate degree, the PY is expected to take one year. For those entering right after High School, it will be three years, including two preparatory years and one PY immersion.



ACADEMICS

There will be classes on weekday mornings, which will be audited. This is so that the seminarians can enjoy learning simply for the sake of learning, without any academic pressure. Topics will include biblical literacy, spirituality, writing and study skills, and Christian living.

MINISTRY

At least once per week there will be time for ministry, usually ministry to the poor. Most of the month of January will also be a "poverty immersion," in which the seminarians will spend the month off campus, living and working in a ministry to benefit the disadvantaged.

FINANCIAL

There will be no financial obligation for the seminarians, because they will not have any time to work a job to earn money.

SEMINARY INTEGRATION

Men participating in the PY will interact with seminarians at the seminary in a limited way. They will join in large community celebrations at the seminary, such as, Candidacy, institutions of Acolyte and Lector, and Ordinations. They may also join in community events like holiday parties, Eucharistic Devotions, and John Paul II Night of the Arts. The PY men will be able to use the gym facilities at the seminary, and perhaps participate in Wednesday evening open gym.

MISC

Seminarians will be free most Saturdays, from 9 am to 9 pm to visit with family and friends. They will also take short (3-8 day) breaks for Fall, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring, and Easter. There will be a two week break in early August, before the beginning of the next school year.

Typical Day

- 6:30am** HOLY HOUR
- 7:30am** MORNING PRAYER
- 7:45am** BREAKFAST
- 8:15am** SILENT REFLECTION AND STUDY
- 9:30am** CLASS TIME
(non-credit immersion in Catholic culture and love of learning)
- 11:45am** MASS
- 12:30pm** LUNCH
- AFTERNOON UNSTRUCTURED TIME FOR EXERCISE, HOBBIES, FORMATION MEETINGS, HOUSE CLEANING, OR OTHER PERSONAL PURSUITS**
- 5:30pm** EVENING PRAYER
- 6:00pm** SUPPER
- 6:45pm** ROSARY
- 7:00pm** UNSTRUCTURED TIME
- 9:00pm** NIGHT PRAYER
FOLLOWED BY GRAND SILENCE

MONDAY - FRIDAY:

The students will take on a technology, media, and commerce fast.

SATURDAY:

Free time from 9:00am to 9:00pm. After morning Mass, the seminarians will be able to use the phone and internet, and enjoy time away to visit family and friends. They will return by 9:00pm to enter back into the new week in prayer.

SUNDAY:

The seminarians will go to morning Mass in a parish together. Afternoons and evenings will be for recreation.

