

AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION OF ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC SEMINARIES

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ABSTRACT

This article aims to investigate the psychological assessment and ethical considerations in the setting of evaluating candidates for Roman Catholic seminaries. Some of the candidates who come to priesthood or religious life face myriads of psycho-social issues, such as deep-seated same-sex attraction, sadness, anger, poor body image, severe psychopathology, serious emotional instability, intellectual impairments, psychosexual disorders, addictive behaviours, severe personality disorders, pervasive developmental disorders, inclinations toward sexual activity with a minor, history of psychopathic deviance, criminality, and unethical, illegal, and unconscionable behaviour, multiple physical and medical concerns that significantly impair the ability of the candidate to function responsibly and inability to be formed, rigidity or inflexibility that precludes openness to guidance and influence. Therefore, it is time to assess candidates with a focus on balancing confidentiality, ethical principles, psychological screening tools, and ethical frameworks and culturally sensitive assessment practices. This article explores the multifaceted dimensions that impact the psychological evaluation of Roman Catholic seminary candidates. Further, this study provides a comprehensive understanding of the complexities inherent in the discernment process for individuals aspiring to serve in the priesthood.

KEYWORDS: Psychological Assessment, Ethical Considerations, Roman Catholic Seminaries, Confidentiality, Teachings of the Church.

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