Autobiographical Guide Sheet

<u>Instructions</u>: Use the following outline to write an autobiography that will help the Fraternity priests to know you better. Be as thorough as necessary to cover the different areas. Please use the outline below and cover the points under each section. The document length should be a minimum of 3 pages up to a maximum of 12.

I. Family Background

- How old are you?
- How many children are there in your family?
- Where do you fall in the age rankings of your brothers and sisters?
- Give a brief description of your relationship with your parents and other members of your family.
- What factors in your "family history" have influenced you (i.e. deaths, separations, environment, family mobility)?
- Have you been permitted to make your own decisions in matters that are important to you?
- Add any additional family information you feel is important to mention.

II. Educational Background

- Did you attend public school, private school, homeschool, or a combination?
- Did you attend college? If so, what was your focus?
- Has school been an enjoyable experience for you? Why or why not?
- Do you like to study?
- What are your areas of interest?
- Add any additional information about your education you feel is important to mention.

III. Personality

- How would you describe yourself, your strengths, and your weaknesses?
- Is there anything about yourself you would like to change?
- What are some of your likes and dislikes?
- How do your ideas of who you are now match with who you "hope to become"?
- Are you are a realist or an idealist?
- Add any additional information you feel is important to mention.

IV. Social Life

- How have your friends influenced your ambitions, ideals, and behavior?
- Is it easy for you to make friends and relate to others? Why or why not?
- What things have you done that have given you great satisfaction?
- Would you classify yourself as introverted or extroverted, and what do you see as the resulting strengths & weaknesses?
- Add any additional information you feel is important to mention.

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V. Health

- Has there been anything about your physical, psychological, or emotional health that has had some effect on you? In what way?

VI. Attitudes

- Comment on your attitudes toward:
  - marriage/dating
  - the Church's role in regard to contemporary issues
  - changes in the Church and in society
  - difficulties and setbacks in life
  - work
  - authority

VII. Spiritual Development

- How would you describe your prayer life?
- What factors from your home nurtured your spiritual life?
- Do you have a spiritual director?
- What have been your most significant spiritual experiences?

VIII. Vocation

- Are you involved in church activities in your parish or in the diocese? If so, how?
- How long have you considered becoming a priest?
- What influenced you most in your decision to aspire to the priesthood?
- What are some of your expectations of priesthood?