

George J Bilotta, PhD, Formation Consultation Services, has advanced degrees, formation, and years of experience in psychology, systems theory, philosophy, theology, group dynamics, and spirituality. He has worked along with religious and clergy for twenty-five plus years. January 2010 will mark his seventh trip to Australia within the past five years. These working trips have him involved with many religious communities and individual formators in NSW and Victoria. His expertise is human formation. As a dynamic presenter and engaging facilitator participants experience his content helpful and growth-filled, and his style warm and supportive. He fosters leadership formation with individual leaders and leadership teams by focusing on the rebalancing of a leader's self-interest-ego strivings. Through FCS he has developed human formation programs for formators. He assists formators and their communities to inaugurate practical, comprehensive human formation processes particularly for their initial formation candidates, as well as for ongoing human formation within the religious institute. For additional information email George directly at georgebilotta@mac.com You can explore his work and FCS on their web page at www.fcs-bilotta.com

The workshop will be held at

**Good Samaritan Centre, 2 Avenue Rd, Glebe
Enter via Arcadia Rd**

Do not park in the centre of the street: council fines apply

Tea, coffee and registration from 8.30am each morning

Cost: \$600 per person

Morning tea & lunch provided

Live-in accommodation (bed and breakfast) available at \$50.00 per night at the Good Samaritan Centre. Please phone 02 8586 6936 or fax 02 9692 8701 or email accombookings@goodsams.org.au to make arrangements.

Complete the registration form accompanying this flyer and return with your cheque by November 1, 2009 to secure your place in the workshop.



Human Formation's Essential Role throughout Vocational Discernment

George Bilotta
Formation Consultation Services

26-28 January 2010
9.00am-5.00pm
Good Samaritan Centre, Glebe



This three-day workshop is designed for formators who accompany individuals within initial vocational inquiry and discernment. It is for Vocation Directors, vocation teams and committees who value human formation. Formators who desire to incorporate significant human formation processes as part of their vocational discernment will experience this three-day seminar as innovative, helpful and practical.

Whether the inquiring individual is 20, 30, 40 or more years of age, the seeking person possesses a complex human story. It is a story relating joy and sorrow, success and struggle, meaning and insecurity, growth and obstacles. When initial vocational discernment attends to the inquiring person's historical human formation underpinnings, two phenomena appear. First, both the formator(s) and the aspirant increase significantly their capacity to see, hear and feel the aspirant's past. Second, the authentic truth concerning the individual's vocation becomes visibly apparent. When substantive and meaningful human formation protocols are assimilated into the vocational discernment journey, clarity and assurance results.

The purpose for including a focused and methodical piece on human formation during vocational discernment is to provide the inquiring person, the accompanying formator(s), and the religious institute with a high degree of certainty that the individual will be able to undertake the formation prescribed for the next stage of initial formation, e.g. postulancy. It is unfortunate and often painful for everyone concerned when unnecessary surprises within the human dimension arise during postulancy because of incomplete initial vocational discernment. This seminar has the purpose of assuring that no unpleasant surprises come forth during postulancy.

It has been FCS's experience that when human formation considerations during vocational discernment are properly implemented that there are few surprises in postulancy and later in novitiate. This is especially true for communities inviting older women or men to join them. A little extra investment in time, energy and resources focused on human formation during pre-postulancy vocational discernment pays a substantive dividend for the religious institute later on.

Part of vocational discernment provides formators with the opportunity to assist inquiring individuals, pre-postulants:

- to mature into fuller and more reflective human beings
- to understand and appreciate the various people, situations, and their particular circumstances of life that have contributed toward forming them into the people that they are today with their helpful and unhelpful dimensions
- to cultivate their capacity to articulate who they are, with gifts and strengths, with areas needing attention for growth and continued human maturity as they clarify their vocation
- to uncover areas that might frustrate, hinder and ultimately diminish a pulsating vocation
- to take up the essentials of Reflective Living.

Seminar participants will be introduced to the nuances of human formation. FCS's expertise is human formation. In part FCS understands human formation as the vital earth from which other formation dimensions grow, i.e. the spiritual/charism, the communal, the educational/professional, and the apostolic/ministerial. In addition, seminar participants will receive FCS's innovative and helpful human formation protocols and processes to integrate into their programming for vocation discernment. They will learn the subtleties of the protocols and processes, as well as how to adapt and to be flexible with these process tools. The goal for the workshop would be to empower participants with additional competence and confidence in their role as accompaniers along the journey of vocational discernment.