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I have long been aware of the need to help seminarians understand that philosophical and theological studies are an essential aspect of their priestly formation, not only as pastors, but as well-rounded human beings.

One of the greatest obstacles to recognizing the vital importance of their seminary studies is their sense that philosophy is barely connected to theology, and that theology seems, in fact, to get on without philosophy. And because philosophy and theology fail to cohere, seminarians find that the study of each disintegrates even on its own terms.

The new Map Year, devised by the Fathers of the Oratory, is from this perspective a highly desirable complement to existing programs. Judging from the experience of my own Norbertine students, the Oratorians have developed an outstanding program, which offers a challenging and exciting integration of sacred studies.

I pray that others responsible for the formation of future priests will make use of this opportunity.

Sincerely in Christ and St. Norbert,


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