Religious Formation Community Interview Protocol

The purpose of these questions is to determine the nature of the structure of the formation community. It is understood that the function of the formation community (seminary) is to train young men to become ministers, therefore the function of the community requires a distinction between the seminarians who have come to be trained and the formation directors who have the role of training.

1. Could you talk about your experience of living in community in terms of how seminarians were distinguished or separated from the directors.

2. Can you give me some specific examples of how the distinction between seminarians and the directors were negotiated, maintained or demonstrated through rules or activities?

3. Tell me about your daily schedule: Who made the schedule?

4. Tell me about the living arrangements:
   a. Was physical space a factor for distinguishing between members of different status (seminarians or directors)?
   b. Who talked to whom within the community; were there subcommunities within the community?

5. Tell me about the rules of the community:
   a. Who made the rules?
   b. Were the rules differentially applied depending upon status in the community?

6. How did you gain admittance or acceptance into the community?

7. What goals or ideas did you have about what community life entailed?
   a. Were these goals different from those of the directors or other seminarians?
   b. How were any differences in goals or ideas about community negotiated?