

**Supervised Practice and Appropriation of the
Ministry of Spiritual Direction**

RGP 3269/6269 H Y

2011-2012

Course Title: *Supervised Practice and Appropriation of the Ministry of Spiritual Direction*

Course Description: This course is designed to intensify and integrate the experience of individual spiritual direction and the supervision process initiated in the Practicum in Spiritual Direction and the Retreat in Everyday Life courses and practiced in this nine month practicum. The supervised ministry of spiritual direction is followed by writing a theological reflection paper demonstrating the appropriation of the theology, theory and practice of spiritual direction. The final requirement of this course is a Competency Interview which includes the student, the supervisor and the director of the spiritual direction program.

The object of supervision in this program is the person of the spiritual director. Through supervision and discernment the director grows in a deeper awareness of responses to a perceived presence or absence of God in the ministry of spiritual direction. Supervision is valued as a way to enable the spiritual director to help others recognize and integrate God's presence and direction in every aspect of life.

Course Number: RGP 3269/6269 HY

Instructor: Maureen McDonnell, D.Min./Michael Stoeber, PhD.

Course Format: Regular

Practicum: Signed covenant with supervisor, supervision with Contemplative Reflection Forms prepared by student, final integration paper and Competency Interview

Schedule: Year-long

Learning Objectives:

Students successfully completing this course will learn

- 1) to accompany another in their life and prayer as a spiritual director while demonstrating a contemplative stance in this practice of ministry
- 2) to appropriate a capacity for genuine self-awareness (authenticity) and identity with the charism of spiritual direction
- 3) to expand their appreciation for the growing variety of topics arising in the ministry of spiritual direction
- 4) to apply their knowledge of theology, spiritual direction, the dynamics of the *Spiritual Exercises* and the *Rules of Ignatian Discernment* as they direct each individual
- 5) to deepen their conscious awareness of the relationship between human development and spiritual direction
- 6) to deepen their practice and skill in the use of a Contemplative Reflection Form as a tool for supervision
- 7) to participate in a method of contemplative supervision in which the object of the process is the person of the spiritual director
- 8) to integrate and appropriation the theory and practice of spiritual direction for growth in the praxis of this ministry
- 9) to confirm their gifts and their challenges for the ministry of spiritual direction
- 10) to discern the on-going call to the ministry of spiritual direction

Detailed Course Outline:**RGP 3269/6269 HY Supervised Practice of the Ministry of Spiritual Direction**

consists of Phase III and IV of the four-phase Practicum of the Regis College Diploma in Spiritual Direction.

Phase III: *Supervised Practice of the Ministry of Spiritual Direction*

Phase III is designed to intensify the experience of individual spiritual direction and the supervision process initiated in Phases I and II. The object of supervision in this program is the person of the spiritual director. Through supervision and discernment the director grows in a deeper awareness of responses to a perceived presence or absence of God in the ministry of spiritual direction. Supervision is valued as a way to enable the spiritual director to help others recognize and integrate God's presence and direction in every aspect of life. The *integrative process* of practice and supervision includes:

Practice of Spiritual Direction:

- 1) Meet with three directees over a period of nine months
- 2) Have at least eight spiritual direction sessions with each directee
- 3) Contemplative reflection before and after each spiritual direction appointment

Practice of Supervision:

- 1) Reflective preparation of the *Contemplative Reflection Form (CRF)*
two CRF's are to be completed each month- 16 in total completed at end of Phase III
- 2) Contemplative reflection before and after each supervision appointment
- 3) Critical awareness of responses to the perceived presence or absence of God
- 4) Engage in supervision as a way to serve directees in recognizing and integrating God's presence and direction in every aspect of life
- 5) Participate in supervision for the growth and integration of the theory and practice of spiritual direction
- 6) Ongoing reflection on growth and development in ministerial competencies
- 7) Ten appointments with supervisor: initial covenant meeting with supervisor, eight supervision appointments with the *Contemplative Reflection Forms* and a final appointment to process experience of Phase III and for dialogue on ministerial competencies: areas for continued growth in spiritual direction and supervision.

Phase IV: *Appropriation Experience*

- Signed Supervision Covenant
- Theological Reflection Paper on the Ministry of Spiritual Direction
BD Students – 20 pages
AD Students – 30 pages
- Sixteen Contemplative Reflection Forms
- Pastoral Competency Interview

Theological Reflection Paper Requirements:

A final theological reflection paper on the Ministry of Spiritual Direction will integrate reflection on the experiences of Phase III, a reflection on growth and development in the “ministerial competencies” and the integration of the sixteen Contemplative Reflection Forms. The paper is intended to reveal the director’s learned and appropriated theology and practice of spiritual direction as a ministry developed throughout the formation program. The paper is to include:

- creative reflection on continuing growth in the “ministerial competencies,” which are integral to the Spiritual Direction Practicum
- creative reflection on experience, including the integration of specific examples from Phase III practice
- an integration of theory from their courses and readings
- demonstrated awareness that this ministry occurs in the context of diverse cultures and within various church/faith communities

Length: BD students 20 pages; AD students 30 pages. **Bibliography is required.**

The sixteen **Contemplative Reflection Forms** and the **Signed Supervision Covenant** will be submitted with the paper.

Pastoral Competency Interview

A pastoral competency interview is held after the integration paper, sixteen Contemplative Reflection Forms and signed Supervision Covenant have been reviewed by at two staff persons. The interview process will enable the staff to facilitate a dialogue around the director’s competency in the theory and practice of the ministry of spiritual direction.

Evaluation:

Expectations for Basic Degree Students

- A. Participate in each dimension of the covenant
- B. Complete 20 page theological reflection paper, including bibliography

Grading: Pass/ Fail

Expectations for Advanced Degree Students

- A. All of the above plus
- B. Thirty page theological reflection paper, including bibliography

Grading: Final Mark

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review by Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference databases solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

