

Course Number RGP3687/6687HF

Course Title: INTEGRATION FOR MINISTRY I: PRACTICUM AND SEMINAR

Professor: Maureen McDonnell, D.Min
Michael Stoeber, PhD. (advanced degree students)

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Through the development of the skill of theological reflection, the participants learn to reflect on their personal and ministerial and work experiences to discern the call of transformation and integration in the midst of the Christian tradition and world realities. This group process takes place in a peer faith setting.

3. STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THIS COURSE WILL BE ABLE TO REMONSTRATE THE FOLLOWING LEARNING OUTCOMES.

(A) In Respect of General Academic Skills

1. to read theological and spiritual texts while attending the call to conversion
(Method of Horizon Analysis)
2. to critically consider the context of experiences: who is burdened; who benefits? (Method of Contextual Analysis)

(B) In respect of the Understanding of the Content of one or more Theological Disciplines

1. to practice a contemplative method of theological reflection (TR)
2. to grow in an understanding of a method of Theological Reflection
3. to grow in an understanding of foundational skills for pastoral ministry and community service
4. to grow in an understanding of Ignatian spirituality and forms of Ignatian prayer
5. to deepen experiences of reflection and engaging forms of contemplative prayer which assist in discerning responses to theological reflection

(C) In Respect of Personal and Spiritual Formation

1. to understand new theological insights for a deeper integration with life/ministry
2. to integrate life experiences through holistic self-awareness, prayerful contemplation, individual journaling, and communal dialogue
3. to discern the call of the Spirit to transformation and integration in everyday life

(D) In Respect of Ministerial and Public Leadership

1. to grow in the capacity to listen contemplatively and share in faith sharing groups
2. to grow in the ability to give leadership to small faith sharing groups

4. READINGS WILL BE ASSIGNED FROM THE FOLLOWING TEXTS & SOURCES

- McAlpin, Kathleen. *Ministry That Transforms: A Contemplative Process of Theological Reflection*. Toronto, Novalis, 2009.
- Leddy, Mary Jo. *Radical Gratitude*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2003.
- O'Meara, Thomas F. *Theology of Ministry*, Revised Edition. New York: Paulist Press, 1999.
- Ety Hillesum, *An Interrupted Life*. Foreword and pp. 95 – 109.
- Elizabeth A. Dryer, *Earth Crammed With Heaven*. "The Liturgies of Culture and Cosmos." And "All Is Grace." 163-181.
- Douglas John Hall, *Thinking the Faith*. "The Meaning of Contextuality in Catholic Thought" Chap. 1 pp. 69-144.
- Ronald Rolheiser, *The Holy Listening: The Search for a Christian Spirituality*. "Consequences of the Incarnation for Spirituality." 82-107.
- Constance FitzGerald, OCD, "The Desire for God and the Transformative Power of Contemplation" in *Light Burdens, Heavy Blessings*. MacKinnon, McIntyre, & Sheehan, eds. pp. 203-222.
- Killen and de Beer, *The Art of Theological Reflection*. "Personal Theological Reflection," pp. 76 - 89.
- Elizabeth Johnson, *Friends of God and Prophets*. "Communion of Saints: Friends of God and Prophets," pp. 219-243.
- Beth R. Crisp, *The Way*. "Ignatian Spirituality and the Rebuilding of Self-Esteem," 66-78.
- Jon Sobrino, *Where Is God?* "Being Honest toward Reality," 29-48.
- Sandra Schneiders, "God is the Question and God is the Answer," in *Spiritual Questions for the Twenty-First Century* Mary H. Synder, ed. pp.69-74.
- Anne M. Clifford, *Introducing Feminist Theology* "Feminist Perspectives on God," pp.92-132.
- Wilkie Au and Noreen Cannon, *Urgings of the Heart*, "Holistic Spirituality," pp. 7-23.

5. THE FOLLOWING TOPICS WILL BE CONSIDERED:

1. Introduction to process of theological reflection, process of horizon analysis, themes of Integration for ministry
2. Group processes, contemplative prayer, understanding desires for integration and response, adult transformative education

3. Engaging the process of contemplative theological reflection; Contemplating experience (how did I get from there to here?) and exploring the context, reflecting theologically and understanding of spirituality
4. Responding to the invitation to transformation through the engagement of the theological reflection process
5. Theological reflection on a story at the heart of your ministry or work
6. Ignatian discernment and spirituality
7. Engaging a variety of prayer forms eg. Gospel contemplation, lectio divina, meditation
8. Spirituality- How are you living out or called to live out your story?
9. Faith sharing in small groups, contemplative listening skills, asking evocative questions
10. Overnight retreat and sharing of symbols of the responses to invitation to transformation and growth

6. THE FOLLOWING TEACHING METHODS AND FORMATS WILL BE USED:

Lecture, seminar discussions, small faith sharing groups

7. THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN & ORAL ASSIGNMENTS, TEXTS, AND EXERCISES WILL DEMONSTRATE STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENT OF THE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Weekly Horizon Analysis paper, based on the assigned reading (one page)
- Small group sharing
- Two reflection papers (4-5 pages) based on the two Theological Reflection processes
- Final closure retreat and presentation of symbols in closing ritual

8. THE COURSE GRADE WILL BE CALCULATED ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS:

Pass/Fail grade

- Attendance
- Horizon analysis papers and reflection papers
- Class Participation