

Intensive Level

Spirituality/Theology Segment

The intent of these courses is to present theology in a manner that not only informs, but also helps to form the spiritual life and practice of the participant. The curriculum of the Intensive Level was developed locally using input from the experiences of the Deanery "Schools of Ministry" over the past fifteen years, combined with material from New Wine A Program for Ministry Formation, Paulist Press, 1995. The spirituality/theology segment consists of 3 retreat experiences and 7 core courses.

Retreat Experience 1: Being a Person of Prayer (minimum 5 clock hours)

OBJECTIVES: Participation in this retreat experience will help participants to:

- understand the central place of prayer in the life of the minister;
- identify their own prayer preferences and growth in their life of prayer over the years;
- experience a variety of ways of praying;
- grow in their relationship to God and their desire to pray

Course 1: Sacred Scripture (minimum 15 clock hours)

Session 1: Catholic Approaches to Scripture

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- explain the process of how lived faith experience was turned into a text;
- know the Catholic approach and understanding of Scripture, and how Catholics use Scripture;
- elaborate on the various forms of critical tools used to study Scripture and described in The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church by the Pontifical Biblical Commission.
- understand the limitations of a fundamentalist interpretation and approach.

Session 2: Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- explain the significance of the Exodus event for the Hebrew people;
- describe the differences in the Yahwist and Elohist accounts of the covenant narrative in Exodus and the historical developments that influenced the two traditions;
- describe the development of the Deuteronomistic tradition with its emphasis on law and the Priestly tradition which arose out of the crisis of the Babylonian exile;
- distinguish the major types of writing contained in the Hebrew Scriptures.
- appreciate more fully the role of the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament in the life of the Church today;
- grow in their desire and commitment to study and pray the Scriptures

Session 3: Christian Scriptures/New Testament

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- begin to approach the Christian Scriptures as faith documents of the first and early second centuries;
- identify the major communities from which the Christian Scriptures came, along their major characteristics and historical/cultural influences;
- appreciate more fully the role of the New Testament in the life of the Church today;
- grow in their desire and commitment to study and pray the Scriptures

Course 2: Church History (minimum 15 clock hours)

Session 1: The First through the Sixth Centuries

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- consider the cultural implication of the Jewishness of Jesus and the apostles, and the Hellenism that influenced the early communities;
- express some problems that arose with the expansion of the early Christian church;
- recognize the adaptation and synthesizing of religious beliefs;
- acknowledge that the structure of the church developed over the centuries;
- articulate the impact that the Edict of Milan had on Christian life and practice.

Session 2: The Seventh Century through the Reformation

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- recount the long-lasting effects of Constantine moving from Rome to Constantinople;
- explain the impact of the Germanic invasions, the Muslim sweep, and the Vikings' attack on the Holy Roman Empire;
- analyze the positive and negative aspects of church-state intermingling;
- describe the variety of causes and reasons that led to the East-West Schism;
- explain why the twelfth and thirteenth centuries are referred to as the Golden Age of Christianity;
- list various trends and developments which set the stage for the Protestant Reformation;

Session 3: Post-Reformation to the Present

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- look objectively at the Reformation/Catholic Renewal of the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries;
- appreciate the influence of the age of enlightenment on the western world and Catholic Church during the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries;
- be aware of the development of the Catholic Church in the colonial, federal, immigrant and modern periods of US history.
- understand the developments leading up to Vatican Council II and its impact

Retreat Experience 2: Images of God (minimum 5 clock hours)

OBJECTIVES: Participation in this retreat experience will help participants to:

- reflect on the images of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, given to us in Scripture and in the rich tradition of the Church
- experience through prayer the immanence/presence of God imaged various ways
- understand the transcendence of God and our limited comprehension of God
- deepen their commitment to relationship with God

Course 3: Faith Foundations: The Creed (minimum 15 clock hours)

Session 1: God and Humanity

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- understand the formation of the creeds;
- deal with the topic of the existence of God;
- deal with different images and descriptions of God;
- discuss the meaning of our belief in "God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen";
- explain what it means to be human and explore why God became human.

Session 2: Jesus and the Spirit

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- distinguish between two approaches to Christology, from above and from below, and give implications for each starting point;
- explain the two extremes in Christology, Docetism and Arianism, and how they still survive;
- know the relationship between Christology and Mariology, and its implications for the life of the Christian;
- articulate the variety of ways in which the Christian tradition has tried to make sense of Jesus' death;
- explain the meaning of the Paschal Mystery as it is rooted in Jesus' redemptive action, and as it is lived in our everyday lives and the Liturgical cycle;
- trace the development in the understanding of the identity and function of the Holy Spirit, especially as articulated in the east-west controversy.

Session 3: The Resurrection and the Life of the World to Come

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- address the concept of divine judgment; relate it to the Catholic view of purgatory;
- distinguish between resurrection and resuscitation, and how this relates to the Catholic belief in the resurrection of the body;
- explain the implications of our belief in the immortality of the soul, and in the resurrection of the body;
- know how the use of symbols and symbolism relates to how we understand and

articulate the life of the world to come.

Course 4: Experiences of Church (minimum 15 clock hours)

Session 1: Models of Church and The Church of Vatican Council II

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- understand some of the developments in theology and ecclesiology that led to the Vatican II Council;
- articulate Vatican II's vision of the church and contrast it with the vision of previous eras;
- understand the development of documents of Vatican II and their impact on the church's self-understanding today;
- define how the four marks of the church have been traditionally understood and how we understand them in the light of Vatican II's teachings today;
- become familiar with Dulles' "Models of the Church" as a tool for ministry in the church

Session 2: The Church in New Mexico

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- trace the major historical developments in the church's presence in New Mexico;
- identify significant characteristics and contributions of the primary cultures that intersect in New Mexican church history;
- compare the development of the church in New Mexico with its development in other parts of the United States and understand the reasons for those differences;
- Appreciate the uniqueness of the various spiritualities expressed in New Mexico.

Session 3: Ministry and the Minister in the Church

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- acknowledge that God calls each person to live his/her faith in an active and public way;
- explain how each of us has been shaped by our experience, and can either enhance or block the development of God-given gifts;
- name their own gifts and affirm and validate one another's gifts;
- trace briefly how ministry in the church has developed over time;
- use biblical images, and thoughts of bishops, Vatican II, the papacy, and other religious leaders to develop their own vision of ministry.

Retreat Experience 3: Praying the Scriptures (minimum 5 clock hours)

OBJECTIVES: Participation in this retreat experience will help participants to:

- understand and practice God's first language—silence
- Explore the levels of meaning in Scripture, and the value of praying with Scripture
- Understand self-knowledge, healing, and contemplation through praying with

- Scripture
- Experience the Jesus Prayer, Lectio Divina, and centering prayer

Course 5: Sacraments and Worship (minimum 20 clock hours)

Session 1: Symbols, Sacramental Experiences, Ritual, Liturgy

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- recognize the power behind symbols used in sacramental moments;
- understand the basic elements of ritual and the principle of sacramentality;
- name the multiple elements that constitute liturgy;
- clarify common liturgical terms;
- understand the process and ritual of Christian Initiation of Adults as an example of ritual;
- understand the experience of Christian Initiation as a conversion experience and as a major influence in the parish community and the development of sacramental programs;

Session 2: Sacraments of Christian Initiation

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- connect the history of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist;
- connect the theology of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist;
- articulate the meaning of Christian Initiation as contrasted with the Sacraments of Initiation as they are celebrated today;
- explore the difference between the early church's sense of Baptism and the reasons baptize infants and some alternative ways of viewing Baptism;
- recognize the central place of Eucharist in the church; express essential concepts about it;
- explore our sense of Confirmation today and various pastoral responses to it;

Session 3: Sacraments of Healing

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- identify and describe an experience of conversion, reconciliation, healing they have had;
- understand how the sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are rooted in human experience and in Scripture;
- explain how these sacraments developed historically;
- recognize changing perceptions of these sacraments and distinguish essential concepts about them.

Session 4: Sacraments of Vocation and Christian Lifestyles

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- identify and describe their own experiences of vocation;
- understand how Marriage and Holy Orders have developed historically;
- explain the Biblical roots of Marriage, Holy Orders and the single vocation;

- describe the differences in emphasis in all Christian vocations since Vatican II and the 1983 Code of Canon Law;
- outline some key concepts for a contemporary theology of vocation.

Course 6: Morality (minimum 15 clock hours)

Session 1: Personal Morality and Conscience Formation

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- express their understanding of the context of morality and the problems that may be encountered in making moral decisions;
- outline the elements involved in the Christian search for a good moral decision and apply them to an actual moral dilemma;
- understand the impact of self-awareness and freedom and the distinction between Human Acts and Acts of a Human.
- distinguish between levels of moral development;
- explain different understandings of the reality of sin;

Session 2: Social Morality

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- understand that all behavior has moral implications and no behavior is totally private but is communal in nature;
- express that justice is constitutive of the Christian life and involves the systems and structures of societies and institutions as well as personal actions;
- explore the Catholic Church's teaching on selected social justice issues;
- apply the core justice principles to a current issue

Session 3: Reflection Day: Integrating Moral Values into Daily Life

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- evaluate their own moral decision making in terms of a well-formed conscience;
- understand that Catholic morality is primarily rooted in love and is a response to God's initiative;
- explore the meaning and practice of the cardinal and theological virtues;
- understand better the relationship between law and love;
- consider morality as a response to God's offer of friendship;
- live more completely their response to the Gospel way of life;

Course 7: Ministry Leadership Skills (minimum 25 hours)

Session 1: Reflective Listening: Person to Person and in Groups

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- identify the components of attending and following skills;
- understand the importance of "I" messages;
- practice reflective listening by responding to the presenter and the other participants;
- articulate how principles of reflective listening apply to cultures as well as

- individuals;
- apply skills to a cultural setting

Session 2: Understanding Self and Understanding Others

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session participants will:

- become familiar with Myers Briggs Preferences (types);
- understand types in relation to self, as well as ministry implications;
- understand and discuss Erikson's Stages of Development with focus on self and ministry implications.

Session 3: Working With Groups: Assertion and Feedback Skills

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- distinguish between reflecting content and reflecting feeling in a reflective message;
- understand assertion as a behavior and a learned skill;
- distinguish between passive, aggressive, and assertive responses;
- practice use of assertive messages;
- distinguish between affirming and defending assertive messages;

Session 4: Conversion: Stages in Faith Development

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- understand the concept of stage theory as it is used in various theories;
- discuss stages of faith development and how they are reflected in their lives;
- understand some of the ministry implications of faith development theory;
- discuss how understanding a stage theory of faith development affects one's ministry style as well as one's own spiritual development.

Session 5: Situational Leadership

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, develop;

- understand that leadership is a set of definable skills that can be practiced and used rather than a position of authority;
- relate gospel and ministerial values to areas of leadership and ministry;
- reflect on the concept of situational leadership;
- understand the Task and Relationship functions of leadership;
- review various leadership styles and how they are used to help a group grow and develop;
- begin to integrate the various leadership styles with stages of group development.

Session 6: Conflict Management

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- apply their knowledge of communication skills to their handling of conflict situations;

- understand their own background, experience, and learning as these impact their conflict management style;
- relate gospel and ministerial values to areas of conflict;
- use problem solving techniques to help them work through conflict situations.

Session 7: Families as Systems and Family Life Cycles

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- have a basic understanding of systems theory and how it relates to families;
- interpret the vital signs of a family system of which they are a part;
- relate the various stages a family passes through in its life cycle;
- understand the ministerial implications of family system theory and family life cycles.

Session 8: Decision-making, Organizational Systems, and Planning

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- recall the basics of a "systems approach" to family and relate it to other systems, i.e., parish, groups, organizations;
- begin learning skills for diagnosing a group and planning for change;
- understand the advantages and disadvantages of various ways of making decisions and how these relate to ministry;
- practice the skills of consensus decision-making