

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Institute for Pastoral Initiatives, University of Dayton

List of Courses

Below is a list of line course titles and descriptions from the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) available from the University of Dayton. The course title, continuing education units and difficulty level noted in black corresponds with the University of Dayton's assigned levels. **Catechist Formation Process credit for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is noted in green.** 5-week courses may be taken for 10 hours of Catechist Formation credit at the designated category and level. 3-week seminars qualify for 5 hours of Catechist Formation credit. Course information printed in italics indicates a course that is not on the current VLCFF calendar and may have been discontinued altogether.

A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry (2.5 CEU: Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry is a five-week course introducing students to the vision and principles for developing a comprehensive framework for youth ministry. Students will explore the historical development as well as contemporary models of the Catholic Church's efforts to reach out to young people and their families. Finally, students will be introduced to a leadership system for creating a stable, vibrant, and lasting ministry within their ministry setting.

Administration in Ministry (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Intermediate Level) ~ Administrators only

Whether your area of ministerial expertise is in catechetics, pastoral skills, social justice, liturgy, youth ministry, working with young adults, or music, as one who manages others, in either a paid or volunteer capacity, you will be called on to use the tools and skills of administration. Almost all ministers find themselves at some time in an administrative or supervisory role, being asked to plan, make decisions, set goals and priorities, facilitate meetings, prepare budgets, mediate conflict, and evaluate people and processes which will require skills in giving effective feedback. Another aspect of ministerial life that leaders are responsible for is to invite others to volunteer their talents and time, to activate the gifts of the gifted and facilitate their willingness to serve. Ministers are expected to do all these tasks in an atmosphere of calm and control, while keeping within the frameworks provided by civil law and canon law.

Other coursework for this certificate addresses a variety of leadership skills, including effective communication and collaboration. Participants will integrate those skills with the role of administrator/manager/supervisor. Basic information on some Human Resource related practices that impact administrative roles will also be introduced.

Advanced Catholic Social Teaching (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Catholic Social Teaching/Modern Moral Issues (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

Designed to deepen the understanding of the basis for social justice by looking at specific encyclicals, Advanced Catholic Social Teaching is a course for those who have had some prior background. People taking this course should be familiar with the 7 tenets of Catholic social teaching presented by the US Catholic bishops. Catholic Social Teaching 1 and 2 are not pre-requisites if the student has other experiences leading to basic knowledge of Catholic social concerns. The ART process for working through a problem in a transformative, practical way is also presented.

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Advent: A Holy Waiting (2 CEU; Basic Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (7.5 hours, Any Level)

Advent: A Holy Waiting is designed as an e-retreat experience. Participants will find enrichment for the season through scripture, spiritual reading and listening, group discussion, prayer, and sacred music. This e-retreat is intended to provide an oasis of peace and quiet reflection as we wait for the coming of the Light in an over-busy world.

Autism in Faith Formation (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

Any Church community, if it thinks it can comfortably go its own way without creative concern and effective cooperation in helping the poor to live with dignity and reaching out to everyone, will also risk breaking down, however much it may talk about social issues or criticize governments. It will easily drift into a spiritual worldliness camouflaged by religious practices, unproductive meetings and empty talk. (His Holiness, Pope Francis, 11/24/13, no. 207)

The above quotation from Pope Francis echoes in the halls of our faith formation settings, in our hearts, our homes and gathering places. It is important that all persons involved in faith formation, understand what it takes to minister to persons with special needs.

This e-course introduces catechetical leaders, catechists, catholic school educators and parents to a deeper understanding and the impact of autism spectrum disorders on faith formation. It can be perceived as a guide for cultivating faith learning environments that support and incorporate persons with autism within the catechetical environment. Understanding developmental disorders, including autism, will make it easier to embrace individuals with these disorders and their families in parish life. The course will also cover proven suggestions and techniques to engage and communicate effectively with individuals with autism spectrum disorders within catechetical settings.

Basic Catechist Formation Seminar 1.1: Catechesis is... (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Methodology Part I or II (5 hours, basic level)

Understanding the significance of catechesis for both nurturing an encounter with Jesus Christ within those we catechize and appreciating one's sense of vocation as a catechist.

Basic Catechist Formation Seminar 1.2: Vocation of the Catechist (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Methodology Part I or II (5 hours, basic level)

This e-seminar explores the meaning of the Vocation of the Catechist. Pope Francis states: "The catechist, is a Christian who is mindful of God, who is guided by the memory of God in his or her entire life and who is able to awaken that memory in the hearts of others". As a catechist, you are responsible to hand on the authentic Catholic Faith. Yet, this faith needs to be rooted in our own lives as catechists. It is essential that catechists have a sense of 'vocation' for their high calling to proclaim the Good News. What is your sense of an authentic meaning of the vocation for being a catechist?

Basic Catechist Formation Seminar 1.3: The Person of the Catechist (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

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Methodology Part I or II (5 hours, basic level)

Description pending...

Basic Catechist Formation Seminar 2.1: Methodology (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Methodology Part I or II (5 hours, basic level)

A basic level catechesis for beginners on the use of scripture as methodology for ministry. This is the second seminar in a series of three basic level seminars. The course objectives are to understand the importance of scripture as a methodology tool in catechesis, to analyze the pedagogy of parables and adapt them to specific age groups and to create a sense of belonging for persons being catechized.

Bereavement: A Christian Perspective (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

General Course Objectives

- Discovering grief from a Christian perspective
- Understanding bereavement, grief and loss – development of current understandings
- Reflecting on personal experiences of grief and loss
- Responding to people who are bereaved
- Living with loss

Bible Basics (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Introduction to Scripture (10 hours, Basic Level)

This course presupposes that an individual has not had a general overview of the bible. This is a great place to begin. The course cannot cover everything one needs to know for navigating into the world of the scriptures but one is given a few basic concepts to begin the journey. If you have ever wondered how the Bible is arranged, what types of writings can be found in it, how to navigate through the Bible, and how to interpret the Bible as a Catholic, you are about to begin an interesting discovery.

Bioethical Issues, Including Care for the Aging and Support for Families (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Catholic Social Teaching/Modern Moral Issues (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

In today's rapidly changing technological world, evolving science and Catholic theology often seem to conflict. For many, it can be difficult to discern how far we should go with medical science. This discernment needs to be made across the lifespan, from family planning through the end of life. From fertility technology to abortion to stem cell research to assisted suicide, the impact on advancing technologies on the dignity of life continues to increase. This course addresses bioethics across the lifespan, including terminal illness, aging, and end-of-life decisions. Participants will also discuss how science and religion can work together to support and minister to patients and families who face difficult decisions about their lives.

Catholic Beliefs (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Overview of Catholic Teaching (10 hours, Basic Level)

A clear understanding of our central belief system is essential for any Catholic. This course will enable the student to appreciate the function of doctrine and the process of theology through which doctrines develop in the Roman Catholic Tradition. In addition, students will develop the skills to articulate

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personal beliefs, explain the role and function of faith in theology, and describe the role of the catechist in passing on the tradition.

Catholic Identity and Culture (1.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (5 hours, Any Level)

This e-seminar is specifically designed for Catholic school administrators, faculty, staff, Board Members and families to enhancing their understanding for what it means to be a Catholic School in the 21st century. The e-seminar presents the newest Standards, Benchmarks and Catholic Church teaching for nurturing the Catholic ethos of our Catholic schools. This e-seminar was designed by Bro. William Campbell, SM, PhD, who has been a Catholic School Principal, Superintendent, former NCEA staff and now serving on the Marianist Provincial Council. He articulates the basic practical wisdom that can animate profound conversations within the Catholic School community. There are a variety of models for implementing this e-seminar for an effective planning process within the Catholic School.

Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life and Human Sexuality Education (1.5 CEU: Basic Level)

Methodology Part I or II (5 hours, Intermediate Level)

In their 2007 Chaste Living Guidelines the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) stated that chastity education—teaching the proper use of sexuality within relationships—should be mandatory for all Catholic schools, religious education programs for children, and youth ministry programs. While many dioceses today have a chastity/human sexuality/family life requirement in their catechetical guidelines, few have a course of instruction to prepare teachers and catechists to teach the topic. For this reason, many teachers and catechists feel unprepared, and so are reluctant to teach this part of the Church's message. The lack of qualified teachers also limits the number of parishes and schools who can even offer such a course of study.

This three-session course will introduce teachers and catechists to the Church's documents pertaining to chastity education, help them to understand what is expected of a teacher in chastity education, and offer appropriate teaching methodologies for teaching such a course of study. Included in this course is pertinent information a teacher or catechist will need if he or she is responsible for teaching a child-safety educational component.

Christology (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Jesus (Christology) (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

This understanding of Jesus Christ is the fruit of the study of person and mission of Jesus Christ: Christology. This has been a central focus of study for theology since the beginning of the Church. What we believe and argue today about whom Jesus is and what He did was earned through much prayer, thought and argument. This course will enable students to learn and understand the foundations upon which all Christology rests, the theology developed from the apostolic age through the Council of Chalcedon in the fifth century A.D.

Chronic Illness: Mental Illness, Grief, Trauma Support and Counseling (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

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Chronic Illness: Mental Illness, Grief, Trauma Support, and Counseling provides participants with information about living with mental illness and repercussions from trauma, as well as the impact on family, friends, the community, and the Church. Today, mental health and the impact of trauma are beginning to receive attention in the Church and around the world due to increasing deaths from suicide and addiction, as well as the sizeable number of children growing up with a history of trauma, abuse, and neglect. This course is designed for anyone who works with children and adults at the diocese or parish levels, including pastors, deacons, catechetical leaders, catechists, parochial school principals and teachers, and lay ministers. A degree or background in counseling or psychology is not necessary to complete this course. Because conversations about death from suicide, violence, and addiction are essential to address when discussing mental illness and trauma, participants should be aware that these topics will be discussed.

Church History 1 (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Church History (10 hours, Advanced Level)

Basic knowledge and deep appreciation of Church History enables us to understand how the Catholic Church has evolved through time. We see how the Holy Spirit was and continues to be present. We become familiar with men and women who attempted to define the nature and role of the Church in each period of history. The road was not easy as religious, political, economic and social tensions impacted the Church's unfolding story.

Church History I is one of two parts of a basic introduction to the History of the Church. This course covers the period from Pentecost to the beginning of the Reformation. While we cannot cover in depth all the factors which influenced the development of the early Church we are able to begin the journey here.

Church History 2 (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Church History (10 hours, Advanced Level)

There are two parts to our Church History courses: Church History I and Church History II. It is recommended that Church History I precede engaging in Church History II in order to understand the flow and development of the Church through her 2000-year-old history.

Church History II navigates the student from the Reformation (where Church History I ended) through the Second Vatican Council into the 21st century. Students explore the cultural, political, social and religious factors which influenced the Church's journey. Significant men and women emerged to support and challenge the Church's understanding of herself and relationship with the world.

Church: Living System and Sacrament (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

This course is the Capstone for Foundations for Leadership in Ministry certificate program and is available only to those who have completed Foundations for Leadership in Ministry levels I and II.

Collaboration and Community (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

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Just as Jesus chose a community model for His followers in His day, we also experience community as a fundamental component of living as Catholic Christians. Those who minister in community settings need to be able to be together in a healthy and productive way. The ministers themselves need to minister as a community and not as a collection of individuals, each carrying out their specific roles and tasks. Sometimes this happens naturally. More often than not, they need to understand how to do that well and understand both the obstacles and advantages of collaboration. There are theological reasons for collaboration, which underpin our style of ministry. There are predictable obstacles that can be met in a healthy way if we understand them. There are skills that can easily be used to make the process productive and even holy. Those situations with multiple parishes sharing staff are particularly in need of collaborative ministry.

Communication and Community (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

If you are convinced that the Good News deserves effective communication, and if you have experienced ineffective communication in a parish, this is the course for you! Through a series of readings and exercises, participants in this course will acquire theological knowledge, some intercultural communication constructs, communication skills in listening, assertion and conflict management and the ability to begin to plan for effective communication. No matter your previous experience or skill level, this course will offer you a chance to once again be convinced that ecclesial leaders need concepts, constructs and skills to hand on the good news of Jesus Christ.

Conscience (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Introduction to Morality (10 hours, Basic Level)

Helping the student see morality as a response to the universal call to holiness and as a response to the invitation of eternal life with God, this introductory course relies heavily on the Scriptures, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and Thomas Schindler's series of articles on morality to explore the theology and the process of moral decision-making.

Creative Methodologies: ADHD in Parish Life - Pastoral Implications (SN 3) (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

This e-course is an attempt to introduce catechists to understanding the meaning and impact of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) on faith formation. It is a guide for cultivating faith learning environments that support and incorporate the person with ADHD within the catechetical environment. Understanding ADHD will make it easier to embrace individuals with this condition and their families in parish life. This course is designed to help participants to understand the symptoms of ADHD syndrome. E-Learners will also be presented with suggestions for techniques that work to engage individuals with ADHD in catechesis and facilitate appropriate behavior.

Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan (1.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Methodology Part I or II (5 hours, Any Level)

The following are prerequisites for this seminar: Overview of the GDC and NDC, and National Directory for Catechesis. This seminar will guide you through setting up a plan for implementing the directives of the NDC in your parish.

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Designing and Implementing Adult Learning and Faith Formation (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

This course concludes the Certificate in Adult Learning and Faith Formation. The major goal of this course is to assist you in developing and implementing an ongoing process for adult learning and faith formation in your parish or area, incorporating what you have learned in the six previous courses of this certificate. This course will look at pastoral planning, how it applies to adult learning and faith formation, the role of technology in adult learning, the importance of marketing and communication, the role of evaluation and guidelines for choosing resources for adult learning and faith formation. In this course you will be asked to apply what you have learned and discovered in the previous six courses. The ongoing planning for the development and implementation of adult learning and faith formation will create a solid foundation for lifelong learning and growth of adults.

Digital Catechesis; Web Literacy (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

For many adult learners - students, teachers, and catechists - the World Wide Web remains one of the first places to go for information at every level and for every taste. Once we have found information, how do we examine the content, read a URL, and discover who publishes or is linked to a Web site? This course will help you effectively find, sort, and evaluate faith information on the Web. As a result, catechists will be comfortable in using the Internet to identify reliable online material that may be used in a catechetical learning setting.

Directory for Catechesis 2020 (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I or II (10 hours, Basic or Intermediate Level)

The Directory for Catechesis, presented to the universal Church on June 24, 2020, was developed to address the current needs of catechesis such as the globalization of culture, the rise of a digital culture, the need for the “way of beauty” in catechesis, and other pastoral needs and opportunities for catechesis. This e-course will explore those issues as well as practical guidelines for catechesis within the work of evangelization. The e-course is recommended for all involved in formal religious education.

Directory for Catechesis 2020: A General Overview (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Methodology Part I and II (5 hours, Basic Level)

This e-seminar is an overview of the Directory for Catechesis which presents how-to guidelines for catechesis within the work of evangelization. This e-seminar gives primary consideration to key concepts that are new, expanded, or changed from previous directories. It is recommended for clergy, parish staff, volunteer catechists, teachers, ministry heads, and all involved in formal religious instruction.

Disabilities in Parish Life: An Overview (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

Disabilities in Parish Life: An Overview (hereafter, Disabilities: An Overview) seeks to provide participants with a basic understanding of the perspectives of people with disabilities and their family and friends, relevant issues of concern, and ways in which participants can create accessible parish and

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diocesan environments. It includes information on the less-than-obvious aspects of disability ministry not always apparent to the casual observer, such as stigma, grief, poverty, attitudes, family dynamics, and culture.

The Disabilities: An Overview course is designed for diocesan personnel as well as pastors and associates, deacons, seminarians, catechetical leaders and catechists, parish nurses, members of the liturgy or social justice committee, teachers, family members, and parish council members...all those whose ministries impact Catholics with disabilities. It is important for these church leaders and the total body of Christ to gain an understanding that:

- One in five persons in every parish across the world has a definable disability. When family members are included this comes to a sizeable if silent part of most parishes.
- Disability is not always obvious. It is important for parish leadership to understand the need, and to reach out. Simple accommodations can yield great results.
- The life and dignity of every person is an integral part of Church teaching. Learning effective ways of including people with disabilities in the life of the Church affirms this truth.

Disability Across the Life Span: Prenatal Diagnosis – End of Life Care (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

This course will examine disability at all ages and stages of life, including pre-natal and end-of-life considerations, within the context of Catholic parish life and teaching. A global and U.S.-national overview of disability prevalence and key considerations will provide participants with important context for understanding the presence of disability in their faith communities.

Special attention to faith formation and parish ministry for persons with disabilities will enable Course participants to consider ways they might better and more fully welcome persons with disabilities into parish life. Also included are discussions of use of technology to more fully welcome persons with disabilities into parish life and other methods of communication that create a sense of belonging for all members of the faith community.

Discovering Integral Ecology in *Laudato Sí* (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

This is a study of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Sí: On Care for our Common Home* (June, 2015). Each of the first four week's work is devoted to the first four chapters. Chapters 5 and 6, are the application to action and will be combined in the concluding week. Showing his inclusive nature and invitation to all people, Pope Francis ends *Laudato Sí* with two prayers: A Prayer for Our Earth and A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation. You are encouraged to use these regularly as part of your prayer and reflection during this course. May we each be inspired and transformed in our spiritual work and partnerships with others as we join together to better Care for Our Common Home.

Ecclesiology: A Theological, Historical and Pastoral Summary (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Vatican Council II Documents/Survey of Church History (5 Hours, Advanced Level)

Draw a historical line from the origin of the Church its present and future. Strengthen the knowledge that the participants have of the Church its structure, its theology and spirituality. Establish continuity

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between the mission of Jesus and the Church. Advance the concept of an evangelization for today's world.

Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Vatican Council II Documents/Survey of Church History (10 Hours, Advanced Level)

As a topic *Ecclesiology*, the theology of church, studies the church in itself, that is, as an institution with a 2000-year history. This course is the first in a series of three courses, which together will give the student a basic understanding of a topic that is essential for effective catechesis. The first part, *Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church*, introduces the student to the theological study of the Church. The student will become familiar with basic terms and concepts that are essential for understanding the Church's nature and mission, and how these have been a constant theme in the Church's evolution as a "living organism" throughout history.

Ecclesiology: The Pilgrim Church (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Vatican Council II Documents/Survey of Church History (10 Hours, Advanced Level)

The Pilgrim Church is the second in a series of three courses in ecclesiology, the theology of church. Building on the understanding of church developed in *The Beginnings of the Church*, this course continues to explore how the Church, as a living organism through the centuries, both maintains its continuity with Jesus and reshapes its own self-understanding. We will see how the Church continually reconstitutes itself through its decisions in meeting the challenges of each age.

Ecclesiology: Reframing Church (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Vatican Council II Documents/Survey of Church History (10 Hours, Advanced Level)

Reframing Church is the third course in the VLCFF track Introduction to Ecclesiology and builds on the learning in the first two courses in this track, Reframing Church concentrates on the developments at Vatican II. Like the preceding courses, *Beginnings of the Church* and *The Pilgrim Church*, this course intends both to help the student build his or her knowledge base about the Church but also to acquire skills for thinking about the Church in itself. All of the major events of Church history either caused or resulted from a change in the Church's self-understanding. There is no "big bang" theory of how the Church came to be! Although the event of Vatican II startled many inside and outside the Catholic Church, it, too, was a result of social, cultural, and political change in society that demanded fresh responses from the Roman Catholic Church. As in the previous courses, the image of the Church as a "living organ" (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*) will again focus our attention. Specific topics such as the Council's teaching on liturgy, Scripture, hierarchy, laity, and the Church's relationship with the world are examined for their cumulative effect on the Church as a whole. The title of this course, Reframing Church, indicates the essential first step we must take to achieve this understanding: seeing the Church within the frame of assumptions, beliefs, and values underlying the texts. Although Vatican II dealt with issues we know have been with the Church from the beginning, the Council's framing of the issues casts them in an entirely new light. Our response to the Council will be more informed to the extent that we understand the frame surrounding the word "Church" after Vatican II.

Echoes of Racism: Whispers of Healing (1.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (5 hours, Any Level)

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Racism has plagued most countries for centuries. This seminar is an attempt to understand what Catholic Christians are called to do in the face of racism. In Genesis 1: 26, scripture tells us we are made in the image and likeness of God. If so, then human beings must endeavor to see the image of God in all persons whom they encounter. This seminar will address socio-cultural underpinnings of racism, and then, discuss possible solutions from a faith perspective.

Ecumenism and Parish Life (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

The call for unity among all Christians is based on Jesus' prayer "that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me," (John 17:21) Because of that request, seeking unity is a task set before all Christians. Since Catholics interact every day with other Christians in community and parish life, it is important to understand how we relate, what we share, and what we can learn from each other. Elements of ecumenism in relation to catechetical formation, worship, sacraments, essential teachings and missionary witness will be addressed. This course will concentrate on the role of ecumenism (the relationship and quest for unity among Christians) and not interfaith affairs (i.e., relationships with members of non-Christian world religions).

Emotional Intelligence and its Impact on Faith Formation (1.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology I or II (5 hours, Intermediate Level)

This seminar seeks to apply the principles of Emotional Intelligence to Faith Formation. The concept of Emotional Intelligence has been around for almost two decades. It has been widely accepted that great leaders know about their emotional intelligence quotients, and are able to tap into this as they assist others in their growth – of themselves and their various ministries. Participants will be introduced to the concepts of Emotional Intelligence, and guided to practice them within their ministries.

Evangelization and Discipleship (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Discipleship/Spirituality (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

This course will explore our call to conversion and discipleship, the meaning of evangelization from a Catholic perspective, and its relationship to the ministries of Word, Worship and service. It includes useful suggestions related to evangelization efforts within parishes and has tools for evaluating current needs.

Facilitating Adult Learning and Faith Formation (AFL 4) (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

This course builds on Course Three by looking at important foundations and principles for adult learning and principles for facilitating adult learning and faith formation for all ages of adults. This course may appear to be academic, but it seeks to explore the insights and building blocks for understanding adult learning and faith formation today. While looking at different approaches to adult learning, each session will focus on specific principles for facilitating adult learning.

Faith and Human Development (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

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Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Basic Level)

The course provides an introduction to stage theories of human development and spiritual growth. Participants will consider the relationship between the maturation of human beings and their growth in the spiritual life. The works of Fowler, Erikson, Kohlberg, Gilligan, Piaget and others will provide the foundation for examining psychological and spiritual growth during childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, middle age, and older adulthood. Particular attention is given to moral and ego development in relationship to spiritual progress.

Faith Formation for Adults with Special Needs (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

Adults who have Intellectual Disabilities have spiritual needs. Many welcome the opportunity to become more aware of God's presence with them when they have an appropriate catechesis. An appropriate catechesis, such as the one presented at the end of this course, will help them become, using one example, more knowledgeable of sacred articles that are part of Catholic prayer and worship at the Sunday liturgy. Hopefully this course will promote a better sense of belonging for them.

Rooted in the Gospel healings of Jesus, and stepping out of a dark history, many adults with developmental disabilities are now welcomed into a full life within the Catholic Church. Having been included in parish life in the recent past, and to hasten a better sense of belonging, adults with cognitive developmental disabilities can now be offered opportunities to enrich their faith.

One such opportunity is using a sensory-based methodology and a curriculum in order to learn about sacred articles, i.e. sacramental, that are used within Catholic prayer and the Sunday liturgy. Becoming familiar with these articles, it is hoped that they will be able to participate more fully in the prayer life and liturgy of the church, and at the same time increase their sense of belonging to their worshiping assembly.

This method and model of adult catechesis for persons with developmental disabilities differs from models of typical catechesis where there can be much activity, conversation, lively music, and movement. The method presented here uses an approach that is somewhat counter-cultural in today's world. In this model it is important and necessary to have momentary periods of silence and a quiet environment enhanced with calming instrumental music. With this model there is less emphasis on activity or audio techniques that may be a distraction. Thus, this model may or may not be appropriate for some groups or individuals. However, it needs to be tried because experience shows that it does bring results for many groups of adults with even severe developmental and/or cognitive disabilities.

For the beginner who wants to do this sensory-based catechesis with adults who have Intellectual Disabilities it is important for them to know the historical progression that has taken place in the lives of persons with cognitive disabilities. The five sessions of this course present this historical progression and concludes with a model for catechesis.

Foundations and Vision for Adult Learning and Faith Formation (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

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The Catholic Church, through a series of international and national documents, has called for more emphasis on adult faith formation since Vatican II. This emphasis on adult faith formation will necessitate a greater understanding of how to foster lifelong catechesis in adults ages 18-108. This course will lay the foundation for the remaining six courses in this Adult Faith Formation certificate program.

Adult learning and faith formation need to be situated within the vision of lifelong catechesis. This course looks at the vision for lifelong catechesis; the vision of adult faith formation; the role of evangelization and conversion; the goals, tasks and principles for adult faith formation; and roles in adult learning and faith formation.

Foundations for Liturgy (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

In this course, students will be able to explain the basic parts of the Mass including prayers, the three components of a church building, and, the basic signs, symbols and rituals in liturgy that help us understand how God communicates with us.

Fundamentals in Deaf Faith Formation Methodologies (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Basic Level)

This course is designed to provide an informative base and understanding regarding: Deaf Culture, perspectives on deafness, methods of communication, spectrum of deafness, sacramental, faith formation and RCIA accommodations, adaptations and resources. This course will address the unique experiences of Deaf people from various perspectives. This course is designed for Catholic School teachers who need to familiarize themselves with faith formation methodologies; as well as catechetical leaders and catechists who need to familiarize themselves with the lingo and fundamentals of ministering to families with Deaf people. This course may also be beneficial to parents of Deaf children who may wish to learn more about approaches to educating their children in the faith.

Galatians (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Themes in Scripture (10 hours, Advanced Level)

This course is an in-depth study of Paul's letter to the Galatians. In this course students will learn about the location and ethnic makeup of the Galatian community, and they will learn about key Pauline terms such as "works of the law," "justification," and "faith in / of Christ," which will assist students as they interpret other Pauline letters. Galatians will also introduce students to one of the earliest conflicts in Christianity--the place of non-Jews *or* Gentiles in the Christian community. Moreover, this letter will inform students about the opponents of Paul, commonly called *Judaizers*, and the differences between the theology of the Jerusalem church and Paul himself. Study of this letter will help students understand many of today's theological differences between Protestants and Catholics that go back to the time of the Reformation, and study of this letter will help students better understand the conflicts between the Church and the Synagogue that started as early as the late first-century CE. Finally, this course will give students a glimpse of early Christian ethics and what it meant to live a virtuous life in the early Christian communities.

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Gaudete Et Exultate: Apostolic Exhortation - Rejoice and Be Glad - Call to Holiness (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Discipleship/Spirituality (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

Course Summary:

- Introduction to the Apostolic Exhortation – Call to Holiness
- Highlighting the Beatitudes
- Exploring Discernment for Nurturing one's spiritual life
- No prerequisites

Giving with God: Reflections on Wealth (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Catholic Social Teaching/Modern Moral Issues (5 hours, Intermediate Level)

Seminar participants are invited to reflect deeply upon the economic social justice principles of the Church. Using scripture as their touchstones, seminar participants will gain a better understanding of the meaning and importance of these principles for their own lives and as guides for building a more just society.

History of Catholic Social Action (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Catholic Social Teaching/Modern Moral Issues (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

The Catholic Social Tradition is often identified with the official social documents of the church. As valuable as these teachings are, they only tell part of the story of Catholic social ministry. These official teachings have been influenced and shaped by the activism of Catholics around the world. The documents, in turn, have motivated and encouraged various forms of Catholic Social Action and Ministry. This course exposes the participants to some of the highlights of this rich tradition of Catholic Social Action.

Hope in Times of Crisis (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (5 hours, Any Level)

In its magnitude, the Covid-19 pandemic has overwhelmed us all and the world as we work around the clock to seek answers. Its repercussions have shaken the very pillars of human society and culture which we see and follow in the media. In fact, such a moment of crisis creates its own panic and fear, justifiable or unjustifiable. But for the Christian, crisis is not the end of human aspiration which is truly and fully realized in the redemption of Christ. So, in the face of crisis, we take courage in the hope that the Lord will redeem us. In the light of Christian hope, we draw inspiration from the early Christian practice of fellowship which bonded our forebears (as demonstrated in the acts of the Apostles) both spiritually and materially; they held on to one another in faith and material support to overcome the adversities of their days. In much the same way, Christians are going to pull through this crisis, holding on to one another in faith and material support and knowing very well that kindness to one is kindness to all and vice versa. It was perhaps providence that propelled The Holy Father Pope Francis to invite us to return to the reading of scripture early this year, as he instituted the Sunday of the Word of God, (Aperuit Illis).

This e-seminar is designed to draw our attention to our humanity, and its fullness which is realized in Christ. It calls for reflection on who we are as a people, and our relationship with the other. Compelling us to bond

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together amid fear and panic, and other forms of human crises, our hope in the Lord becomes the guiding light. In as much as there is unity in strength, there is always hope in the face of the unknown because Christ stands with us. "Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth." (Ps.124:8)

Images of Jesus (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Jesus (Christology) (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

Through this course the participant will have the opportunity to examine, from a variety of theological perspectives, what we know and believe about the central figure of the Christian faith and arguably the most influential person who ever walked the earth. After looking at many different resources, the student will be able to form a personal answer to "Who do you say that I am?"

Images of Mary (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (5 hours, Any Level)

Our Blessed Mother, Mary, is seen as a mother-figure in many cultures. The goal of this seminar is to present the basic concept of Mary as Mother of God as seen in art, and some global perspectives for enrichment, as well as a deeper appreciation of the role she plays within other cultures.

Introduction to Catechesis (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Basic Level)

Becoming familiar with the aims, norms and tasks of authentic catechesis, catechists will develop both theoretical and practical understandings for teaching religious education to a variety of age levels and in a variety of cultural situations.

Introduction to Christian Morality (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Introduction to Morality (10 hours, Basic Level)

As Christians, we are called to a standard of living that reflects not only the Ten Commandments but also the Beatitudes. We are created in the image and likeness of God and thus challenged to live the way of Christ. Jesus is the "way, the truth, the life." This course introduces participants to moral principles and convictions that give meaning to our actions, the role Scriptures, the Church and conscience play in shaping how we act and how our behavior is a response to our love relationships in the human community. The nature of sin, grace and virtue will be explored.

Introduction to Liturgy (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Sacraments in Depth (10 hours, Advanced Level)

As central to the life of the Christian person, liturgy engages the heart, body and soul in praise, thanks and worship of God as Trinity. In this course, participants will study the ritual and symbolic meaning of liturgy, its structural elements and its importance to Christian worship and life.

Introduction to Media Literacy Education (2.5 CEU; Unknown Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

The Introduction to Media Literacy module is designed as a foundational course for the Certificate in Media Literacy Education.

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This course takes as its point of departure the five key themes in the National Directory for Catechesis (USCCB; 2005) that recommends throughout, and in Chapter 10 in particular, that catechists acknowledge the media culture of students, that they teach students how to critically engage in popular culture created by media through the lens of faith, that catechists use media in their teaching, that catechists and students evangelize the media, and that, when appropriate, catechists and students be advocates of authentic media that respects human dignity and the common good.

The Introduction to Media Literacy explores the Core Concepts and Key Themes of Media Literacy and suggests a practical strategy for engaging in the media culture called “media mindfulness.”

Introduction to Pastoral Care (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

In this introduction to pastoral care, a course for lay parish workers and volunteers, you will be introduced to some essential scriptural, pastoral and relational considerations for effective and sensitive pastoral care in parish and community ministries.

During the course you are invited to bring your personal understanding of our loving and merciful God to the task of forming the foundations for effective and empathetic pastoral care in lay ministry. It is designed to help you to appreciate the relational nature of care and the diversity of people to whom you will minister within the parish or community. You will develop an understanding of what it means to be a minister of care and become aware of the personal qualities needed as you accompany people in their times of need. Your disposition and skills for pastoral care will be developed through personal and theological reflection on the Scriptures and readings. Through the discussion boards you will have the opportunity to engage with your on-line learning community and make connections between your own experience, theological reflection and the practical skills of the ministry of care and presence.

Introduction to Paul’s Life and Letters (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Themes in Scripture (10 hours, Advanced Level)

This course is an intermediate introduction to Paul’s life and letters. The course begins with an in-depth look at Paul’s autobiography according to his letters and then moves on to discuss the seven authentic letters of Paul as both history and theology. Topics such as Paul and Politics, Paul and Women, Paul and the Second Coming, Paul and Slavery, Paul and Judaism, and Paul on Salvation and Suffering will be discussed throughout the five weeks of this course. Students will read a variety of materials including some of the most important articles written about Paul in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. At the completion of this course students will be able to situate Paul in his first-century environment and talk intelligently about how Paul’s theology is relevant for today’s church.

Introduction to Practical Morality (2.5 CEU: Intermediate Level)

Introduction to Morality (10 hours, Basic Level)

This course is designed to provide participants with knowledge of the foundations of moral theology and conscience formation. A focal point for the course will be an understanding of the human being’s relationship with God who created us in His image and likeness and what that means for moral living.

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The sacred and social and dimensions of being human will be explored. Participants will learn a process for moral decision-making and will practice applying the process in practical life situations.

Introduction to Prayer (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (10 hours, Any Level) or Discipleship/Spirituality (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

As in all relationships, communication is vital to its sustained growth. Prayer is the means by which God and we communicate. In prayer, God invites us to a deepening and continuing relationship. At the same time, we express our thoughts, desires and needs. Prayer guides us in our everyday lives and helps us to foster an abiding relationship with the One who loves us beyond all others. This course introduces the participants to the rich tradition and experience of prayer that will enable them to continually grow in the way in which God and we communicate.

Introduction to Scripture (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Introduction to Scripture (10 hours, Basic Level)

This presupposes that an individual has not had a general overview of the bible. This is a great place to begin. The course cannot cover everything one needs to know for navigating into the world of the scriptures but one is given a few basic concepts to begin the journey. If you have ever wondered how the Bible came about, what were some of the cultural factors which influenced the events around the writing of the Old and New Testaments, or what Church document today tell us about the Bible, you are about to begin an interesting discovery.

Introduction to Sacraments of Initiation (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Sacraments in Depth (10 hours, Advanced Level)

The sacraments of initiation draw us deeply into Christ's life and life within the Christian community, and through them we are sent out in mission in Christ's name. This course will provide a foundational study and reflection on the history and theology of these key sacramental moments.

Islam (3.0 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

This **six week** course will introduce you to the basics of Islam, which is the second largest religion in the world and the fastest growing faith in the United States. The course will discuss the origin, development and spread of Islam and include a study of major practices and beliefs, the role of the Quran, perspectives on gender roles and how Islam views people of other faiths. Consideration will also be given to factors that give rise to either fundamentalist or democratic movements in the Muslim world.

Leadership in Ministry (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

Leadership in Ministry invites participants to encounter some of the scholarship and tools within the field of leadership/management studies with an eye to their applicability in an ecclesial setting. If you take this course, you will be introduced to Robert Greenleaf, Warren Bennis, Jim Collins, Juana Bordas and others, familiar and new, whose work can enable the development of a leadership perspective that

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serves the ecclesial minister. In this course, you will consider the relationship between leadership and management, Jesus as a model leader, and some trends in ecclesial leadership. While the Church is not a corporation or a business, it does have some of the same organizational demands, and leadership/management is one of them. What general principles of leadership apply in an ecclesial setting? What are some of the unique leadership characteristics for those who serve Christ and the Church? What is your individual leadership style? Finally, lest you think this is just a theoretical course, you will have the chance to consider some of the skills necessary to serve as an ecclesial leader: planning, community building and running a meeting to name three.

Leadership Roles and Skills for Adult Learning and Faith Formation (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

During this course, you will discover your leadership strengths and learn the various tasks of Christian leaders. Leadership for adult learning and faith formation calls for skills in collaboration, along with ways of forming and empowering others for roles in adult learning and faith formation. Included will be learning how to facilitate effective meetings, methods for communication, dealing with conflict and ways for leaders to create a balanced approach to Christian life.

Let This Be the Time: Spiritual Essentials for Life's Second Act (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Discipleship/Spirituality (5 hours, Intermediate Level)

If we don't listen to the world's stereotypes, myths and jokes about getting older, our lives are filled with possibilities, growth, depth and joy, particularly in the things that matter. The spirituality of our maturing years enables us to be maturing persons of integrity, touching the world with gifts that are so needed. This seminar explores the needs of people in their later lives: what is happening and how to maximize these times for the deepening of our spirituality.

Liturgical Books (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Overview of Catholic Teaching (10 hours, Basic Level)

This course on Liturgical Books introduces students to some of the most utilized liturgical books of the Roman Catholic Church. Each week there will be a focus on a specific book or rite of the church. Week One will be an introduction to the Liturgy of the Hours, the official prayer of the Church outside of Eucharistic liturgies. Week Two will focus on the Lectionary, and the history of the cycles of readings. The Rites of RCIA and of Baptism, how the faithful are initiated into the Church, are central to the discussion of Week Three. Week Four details the Roman Missal, the book which contains the prayers and instructions for celebrating Mass in the Catholic Church. Finally, in Week Five, the Rite of Christian Funerals, an essential piece for all those in ministerial settings in the Church, will be examined. The goal of each session is not to just to become familiar with the texts, but to draw on them as resources for the ministerial and liturgical life in the Church.

Many Faces of Adult Learners (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

In *Catechesi Tradendae*, (*On Catechesis in Our Times*, #43), Pope John Paul II wrote that the catechesis of adults is "the principal form of catechesis, because it is addressed to persons who have the greatest responsibilities and the capacity to live the Christian message in its fully developed form." In 1999, the

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bishops of the United States presented us with a pastoral plan for fulfilling the challenge of forming and transforming adults into persons with mature faith. This document is *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States*.

Before we can successfully catechize adults, however, we must first understand who the adults in our Church are. In this course we shall briefly explore the elements which determine how we plan for and implement adult learning and faith formation opportunities in our parishes.

Marianist Prayer Circle (1.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (5 hours, Any Level)

“Mental prayer” is defined by Saint Teresa of Avila as “an exchange of friendship in which we converse one-to-one with this God by whom we know we are loved.” To engage in mental prayer, then, is something other than giving ourselves up to thoughts and reflections, even if these play a part in mental prayer.

To perform mental prayer is to enter into personal relationship and conversation with God, to remain in God’s company and be glad, knowing we are loved, and desiring to respond to God’s love. -- Marcel Coulin, SM

William Joseph Chaminade, Founder of the Marianist Family, writes, “Prayer is the common and unique source of all the virtues.” As we join to explore the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity, participants commit to spending a total of an hour a day in prayer and bringing the challenges and the treasures of their prayer to our prayer circle.

Marianist Studies: Celebrating the Life and Legacy of William Joseph Chaminade (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

“I am like a brook that makes no effort to overcome obstacles in its way. All the obstacles can do is hold me up for awhile, as a brook is held up; but during that time it grows broader and deep and after awhile it overflows the obstruction and flows along again. This is how I am going to work. (In an article by Jean Baptiste Lalanne, SM, “The Society of Mary” in *Dictionnaire des orders religieux*, 1854.)

2011 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of William Joseph Chaminade. We are commemorating this event by offering this course exploring the events in his lifetime and the legacy of his vision today.

If you are new to learning about Marianist topics, learning about the life of Father Chaminade will be a perfect starting point. If you have been involved in the Marianist family in any capacity, this course will be a great place to celebrate how the life of Father Chaminade has helped shape your Marianist identity.

Throughout the three weeks we will look at the life of Father Chaminade, explore how Mary inspired Father Chaminade and how this inspiration continues to influence the Marianist family today, and read about how current members of the Marianist family are feeling called to continue his legacy today.

Marianist Studies: Charism (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

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What does it mean to be Marianist? In this course, we will explore the concept of charism and what is special about the Marianist charism. We will delve into spirituality and the principles and practices of Marianist spirituality. We will become familiar with the Marianist apostolate and its importance in forming Marianist life. We will understand the real and potential impact of the Marianist mission on the wider Church and global community. And finally, we will have a deeper and broader understanding of what it means to be Marianist.

Marianist Studies: Community (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

From the first days of the Church, people longing to know and live the Gospel of Jesus gathered into small communities. "The letters of Paul and the Acts of the Apostles both make clear that the early communities of Christians ordinarily gathered in the homes of members." (Lee and Cowan). This way of being Church evolved into structures we now know as parishes. However, the need for smaller, more personal ways to develop one's faith remained. Within Marianist tradition, community is a key component of its spirit and charism. This course will investigate both the general elements of Church life and the principles around which small faith communities operate and the particular characteristics of Marianist faith communities. Class members will be introduced to the Marianist Family, religious as well as lay communities. Various ways are described of how communities support members and address critical needs of our world. The impact of these communities on Church and culture also will be addressed, as well as their importance to the future of the Church.

Marianist Studies: Education (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

General Course Objectives

- *to ground the characteristics of a Marianist education in the Marianist charism*
- *to expand one's understanding of the characteristics of a Marianist education*
- *to articulate what it means to educate in the Marianist tradition*
- *to reflect on one's experience of being an educator (staff, faculty, administration) in a Marianist school*
- *to more deeply align one's educational philosophy with the philosophy and pedagogy of Marianist education*

Marianist Studies: Founders (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

On September 3, 2000, Father William Joseph Chaminade was beatified. Pope John Paul II, in his remarks at St. Peter's Square, commented on how Father Chaminade gave the Church a "new way to bear witness to the faith." Also, on that day, Father David Fleming, SM, Superior General of the Society of Mary, reminded the Marianist Family of how Father Chaminade "understood the need to renew institutional structures of the Church, but, above all, to enhance the attractive force of the gospel in the life of ordinary people. He thought that all could live a style of Christian community modeled on the first community of Jerusalem, with 'one heart and one soul'".

Many ask to know more about the life of Blessed Chaminade. We cannot know him, though, without becoming acquainted with Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon and Marie Thérèse de Lamourous, two of his closest collaborators and persons now regarded as co-founders of the Marianist Family. Here, then, is a course designed to convey the

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basic stories of these three remarkable people - how they faced the challenges of their times and left a legacy for us to draw on for our times.

Marianist Studies: Leadership (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." John F. Kennedy

This course invites those holding leadership roles in the Marianist family to learn and discuss how to integrate excellent leadership skills with goals and principles of the Marianist Mission. Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences and challenge each other to become purposeful, developmental, adaptive, collaborative, and transformational Marianist leaders of the present and future.

Marianist Studies: Mary, Holy Possibility (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

"With God all things are possible." In this course we will visit with Mary as believer, prophet, God-bearer/mother, disciple, and companion reflecting on the events of her life and the life of her son Jesus.

The kaleidoscope of events in Mary's life, the various historical and Marianist voices relating the meaning of Mary in their lives, and times for sitting with Mary and Jesus in Scripture will present the challenge of discipleship. Mary will become our teacher, a woman of challenge, and our companion on the way as we continue to grow in holiness.

Whether you have a relationship with Mary or are indifferent to her, whether you do or do not have "devotion" to her, we will encounter Mary, our gift from God. We will ponder as she does and ask her to journey with us, as we would ask a favor of a friend.

Marianist Studies: Prayer (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (10 hours, Any Level)

Father Chaminade asks his followers to devote an hour each day to prayer (perhaps in two or three shorter periods). Each week this course will explore various "methods" or practices of prayer, both individual and group prayer, and collectively reflect on the journey.

Father Chaminade wrote, "Prayer is to be kept with the discretion of a great love." Because many insights will be personal, you will be encouraged to keep a prayer journal. The Spirit of God is always at work, everywhere—including in our own hearts.

Marianist Studies: Social Justice (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Catholic Social Teaching/Modern Moral Issues (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, faced with a Church and a social order that had been torn asunder during the French Revolution, fashioned a vision for rebuilding both the Church and French society. Chaminade challenged his followers to "think big" in defining their mission. He called them to participate in creating a community of communities (a network that today we call the Marianist Family), which would be the vehicle for "multiplying Christians" throughout France.

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Today, 200 years later, we live in a very different world, yet one in which many people believe both Church and society are in need of renewal and revitalization. In light of contemporary challenges, how can we tap into Chaminade's original vision for making positive change? This course will help participants consider ways that they can be involved in promoting changes that will build a more authentic and credible Church community and social order. They will be challenged to integrate the insights of Chaminade with the realities of modern life in envisioning a Marianist approach to social change for the 21st century.

Marianist Studies: Three Offices (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Elective Credit (5 hours, Any Level)

This course is based on a talk given by Father Joseph Stefanelli to the NACMS staff in September of 2009. We felt his talk answered many of the questions we have heard regarding the Three Offices throughout the years. So we took his talk and supported his words with other writings of Marianist religious and lay to offer a course that discusses the origins the Three Offices as well as supports using this system in contemporary times.

Marianist Studies: Virtues for Mission (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Elective Credit (5 hours, Any Level)

Using the book Virtues for Mission by Joseph H. Lackner, SM, we will explore the System of Virtues practiced by Father William Joseph Chaminade. "The method [of Marianist virtues] is a spiritual journey of being changed gradually by progressively taking on certain attitudes of Jesus Christ. The process leads you to a new awareness of yourself, of others, and of God. Although you must give your own best efforts to this undertaking, growth in the virtues of Jesus will always be a collaboration of your efforts, the action of the Holy Spirit, and the transforming presence of your Spiritual Mother Mary. At first you will be aware mostly of your own efforts, but as you grow you will become more aware of the grace of the Holy Spirit and of the presence of Mary shaping your life in the virtues of Jesus." (Growing in the Virtues of Jesus, Quentin Hakenewerth, SM, pp. ix, x)

Mary in Scripture and Tradition (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Themes in Scripture (10 hours, Advanced Level)

Fathers Johann Roten, S.M. and Bert Buby, S.M., two professors at the International Marian Research Institute, and Sister Jean Frisk, an expert in catechesis, designed this course on Mary to foster an appreciation of the place which the Virgin Mary occupies in the history of salvation and in the life of the Church. They also hope to build a more conscious awareness of the Marian dimension of the Catholic life. This advanced level course is enhanced by its link to the Mary Page of the Marian Library at the University of Dayton that contains ecclesial documents, iconography, a listing of apparitions, and practical answers to questions raised about the role of Mary in the Church today.

Mercy (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (5 hours, Any Level)

This seminar will provide 3 weeks of reflection as we explore and embrace a fuller meaning of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, and the importance of incorporating spiritual practices of prayer to continuously seek a life of being merciful like our heavenly Father is merciful.

We will use various methodologies: articles, excerpts from the Adult Catholic Catechism, and several biblical passages. There will be two discussion boards prompting reflection and discussion of the

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Jubilee Year of Mercy, by participants along with sharing personal theological reflections with the instructor.

Ministering in Times of Scandals and Divisions (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (5 hours, Any Level)

St. Paul VI wrote that the Church "exists in order to evangelize" – but how do we share the Good News and form missionary disciples when reports of scandals and divisions so often dominate the news? How do we help those who are struggling to make sense of everything that is happening? This seminar will look at the roots of scandals and divisions in the Church and the response of the Church, while offering suggestions on ways to help ourselves and others find healing through grief, work and prayer.

Ministry Leadership in the Church Today (1.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I or II (5 hours, Any Level)

We are all called to serve the Church and serve as missionaries among the people of God. Each according to their specific skills and talents will serve the Church. During these three weeks we will know, what is the theoretical, theological and pastoral framework that today's leaders need to serve the Church. We will study several documents of the Church among them is the *Christifideles laici*, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* and *Redemptoris Missio*. During this course we will analyze organizational, communication and pastoral skills.

Successful completion of this course earns 1.5 CEU's.

Moral Injury: When Our Pain Blocks God's Joy (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Catholic Social Teaching/Modern Moral Issues (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

This course will introduce participants to the topic of moral injury, its potential origins, including from war or other highly stressful professions or situations, and ways to help people suffering from it. Through a focus on how Christian faith and Catholic religious practice can support and encourage those affected by moral injury, participants will review Church teaching on military service, war, formation of conscience, and forgiveness and reconciliation. By the end of the course, participants will have acquired a working knowledge of moral injury and how it is distinct from and overlaps with posttraumatic stress (PTS/PTSD) and have information on resources for further education and raising awareness of moral injury at the parish level.

Music in Liturgy (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

This course covers the basic role of music within the liturgical rite of the Roman Catholic Church. Special emphasis is given to introductory best practices in planning hymnody for Sunday Masses and Feast days.

National Directory for Catechesis (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

This course studies the text of the 2005 National Directory for Catechesis, examining the fundamental principles which should guide catechesis and stressing practical applications within parishes, Jesus Christ commanded the

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apostles to preach, to teach, and to bring all nations into communion with God. The National Directory for Catechesis presents the vision of the bishops as to how we can do that in our culture, time and place.

New Testament (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Gospels (10 hours; Intermediate Level)

This course is the third of basic level introductory courses to Scripture. We recommend the courses be taken in sequence especially if a student has had limited previous studies in scripture. The sequencing enables the student to cultivate a strong biblical foundation for understanding and applying the Scriptures in their lives. The sequence is: (1) Introduction to the Scriptures, (2) Introduction to the Old Testament and (3) Introduction to the New Testament.

This course attempts to explore the stories in and behind the writings we call the New Testament. The course is a general overview introducing the student to the cultural context, composition, themes and pastoral application of the New Testament accounts for growing in Biblical knowledge. As in the Old Testament, we will study the texts from the threefold perspective of the World within the Text: Literature, The World behind the Text: History, and the World in Front of the Text: Our Culture. Through the study of Biblical maps, articles and religious art present on authoritative websites, our text and class discussions students can grow in New Testament knowledge, understanding and application to their life and ministry.

Old Testament (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Themes in Scripture (10 hours; Advanced Level)

This course is the second of basic level introductory courses to Scripture. We recommend the courses be taken in sequence especially if a student has had limited previous studies in scripture. The sequencing enables the student to cultivate a strong biblical foundation for understanding and applying the Scriptures in their lives. The sequence is: (1) Introduction to the Scriptures, (2) Introduction to the Old Testament and (3) Introduction to the New Testament.

This course paves the way for students to develop deeper personal understanding and appreciation for the biblical context, structure (Canon), authoring, meaning and historical impact of the Old Testament. Students are introduced to methods of reading biblical texts, understanding the story lines and process of interpretation with cultural contexts, and current trends in biblical research. Students are encouraged to respect the wholeness of the biblical texts. This approach assists students as they acquire new skills and tools to navigate through the Old Testament and apply its wisdom to their spiritual lives and ministry.

On Bended Knee (1.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (5 hours, Any Level)

Based on the Pastoral Letter of Bishop Anthony G. Bosco, Diocese of Greensburg, this online seminar is a spiritual journey for critically reflecting upon one's understanding of the Eucharist and its meaning and impact on our relationships with one another. Eucharist is so much more than getting our attendance card checked off in heaven for attending Mass on the weekend. The Eucharist calls us to service!

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A prayerful environment is important for this topic. While journeying through this seminar it is appropriate, if you are able, to create a special reflective space or environment to enter into the experience. You may need to select a special time to participate in these sessions to ensure your prayerful journey. You may decide to light a special prayer candle. Begin each session by taking a few moments to center yourself in the presence of God. In session #2, you are asked to reflect on a cross (one given to you for the course or one that is particularly special to you). Journal: It is recommended that you keep a personal journal as you proceed through the seminar. You may do this in a handbook or as a Word document. The journal helps us to focus and monitor our reflections for growing in understanding how Eucharist calls you to service!

On the Call to Holiness (*Gaudete Et Exultate*) (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Discipleship/Spirituality (10 hour, Intermediate Level)

This course is an introduction to the Apostolic Exhortation – Call to Holiness and highlights the Beatitudes. Students will also explore discernment for nurturing one’s spiritual life.

Our Hearts Were Burning (1.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I or II (5 hours, Intermediate Level)

Published at the end of 1999, the plan seeks to place adult faith formation where it belongs: at the center of parish catechesis. As the only Church document that uses the term “adult faith formation,” the plan provides not only encouragement to leaders but also practical strategies for embedding adult faith formation within the fabric of parish life.

This three-week seminar gives leaders in adult faith formation the opportunity to read selected key passages from the plan, to reflect on our bishops’ words in light of actual experience, and to share experiences of working with adults in faith formative settings.

Overview of the GDC & NDC (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Methodology Part I or II (5 hours, Basic Level)

Two Church documents which are responsible for guiding and reflecting the practice of catechesis in the twenty-first century are the GDC-General Directory for Catechesis (1997) and the NDC-National Directory for Catechesis (2005). The vision of each of these two documents is closely aligned with the other. This seminar will address how these documents echo each other and where they are unique. The accountability for the message of the documents will be examined.

Parish and Social Action (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Catholic Social Teaching/Modern Moral Issues (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

In his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that “love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to [the Church] as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel.” Ensuring that our parishes reflect this three-part mission is the responsibility of all Catholics, particularly parish staff as well as catechetical and social ministry leaders. This course will explore the roots of the parish’s special mission in Scripture and

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Catholic social teaching. Students will draw on a variety of resources to study key elements of, and learn strategies for, effective parish social action.

Parish as Learning Community (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

In looking at the role of the parish, it is important to discern the cultural context for parish life today. It is this cultural context which leads to an understanding of the role of the parish. To facilitate adult learning and faith formation within the parish's cultural context, it is necessary to review the dynamics and stages of community and group development, clarify the characteristics of a learning community, and develop strategies for developing the parish as a learning community.

Pastoral Approach to Culture (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

Faith is always expressed within a culture. One's culture shapes the way we understand and live the Church's beliefs and teachings. In order to effectively minister to people today it is important that the minister know and understand the culture of the people whom he or she is trying to serve. This course introduces ministers to the field of cultural studies and offers guidance to help the minister better serve the people in his or her community. On completing this course the minister will have a solid grounding in the language of cultural studies, an understanding of the Catholic Church's practice of missiology and inculturation, and a basic awareness of how to work effectively in various cultural settings. Becoming a part of a new culture—the process known as acculturation—takes years to master; this course provides a solid foundation upon which to build that understanding.

Pastoral Letter: 'Why Are You Afraid? Have You Still No Faith?' (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (5 hours, Any Level)

The seminar takes a deeper look at the Pastoral Letter issued by Bishop Paul Hinder, Apostolic Vicar of Southern Arabia, titled: "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" (Mark 4:40). Bishop Paul points out that there are times in our life when we "are terrified, afraid and in great distress," and in these moments there is often a manifestation of God's power. He assures the reader that in these times we need to draw courage from the Lord.

The pastoral letter, while focusing on teachings of the Church, serve to guide a migrant faith community, many of whom are away from their families for long periods of time.

Pastoral Letter: Blessed are the Merciful (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (5 hours, Any Level)

The seminar takes a deeper look at the Pastoral Letter issued by Bishop Paul Hinder, Apostolic Vicar of Southern Arabia, on the occasion of the Holy Year of Mercy. Reflecting on Matthew 5:7 "*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy,*" Bishop Paul challenges the reader to take a fresh look at the Sacrament of Reconciliation as an opportunity of renewal, and at the same time deepen the understanding of the church's teaching on mercy, forgiveness and compassion.

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Bishop Paul Hinder is the Vicar Apostolic of Southern Arabia (comprising parishes in the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Yemen), a vast vicariate that is home to vibrant parishes made up of faithful from all parts of the world. His pastoral letters, while focusing on teachings of the Church, serve to guide a migrant faith community, many of whom are away from their families for long periods of time.

Pastoral Letter: Go Forth I am With You Always (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (5 hours, Any Level)

The seminar takes a deeper look at the Pastoral Letter issued by Bishop Paul Hinder, Apostolic Vicar of Southern Arabia, titled: “Go forth! I am with you always” (Matthew 28:19-20). Reflecting on the Great Commission, Bishop Paul sees in Jesus’ command a challenge thrown to the ‘migrant’ Christian community in the Middle East and invites them to look at ‘Some aspects of our life as a Church of migrants.’ He recounts salvation history and using examples of the patriarchs and the life of Jesus, points out the joys and sufferings of being a migrant.

Pastoral Letter: My Grace is Sufficient (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (5 hours, Any Level)

The seminar takes a deeper look at the Pastoral Letter issued by Bishop Paul Hinder, Apostolic Vicar of Southern Arabia, titled: “My Grace is sufficient for you” (2 Corinthians 12:9). Reflecting on the subject of Grace, Bishop Paul offers the reader the reassurance and comfort that God is always with us despite our human weakness and failings and challenges us to a conversion by leading lives that are open and true.

Bishop Paul Hinder is the Vicar Apostolic of Southern Arabia (comprising parishes in the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Yemen), a vast vicariate that is home to vibrant parishes made up of ‘migrant’ faithful from all parts of the world. His pastoral letters, while focusing on teachings of the Church, serve to guide a migrant faith community, many of whom are away from their families for long periods of time.

Planning Youth Ministry Events (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

This course provides an introduction and understanding of why and how events can and should be an integral component of comprehensive youth ministry. We will consider how to connect youth with their parish community and then will examine events from both a ministerial perspective as well as practical considerations from promotion to logistics to evaluation.

Poverty in the U.S. and Around the World (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Catholic Social Teaching/Modern Moral Issues (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

While this course analyzes some of the conditions, causes and trends of poverty in the United States and abroad, the primary focus attempts to explore these dimensions and responses to poverty through the theological lens of Catholic Social Teaching. In addition, particular emphasis and analysis will be given to two contemporary issues: immigration and economic justice. Central to the course is the idea of praxis: online discussion, readings, written reflection and a service component offer a greater depth

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of understand of the broader structures within which poverty persists, and opportunity for both social analysis and theological reflection that leads to a faith response rooted in justice and love.

Prayer and Worship with Adolescents (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Basic or Intermediate Level)

This course will provide an introduction to the theology of prayer and worship and will explore practical methods and techniques for leading prayer and worship with young people. There will be a special emphasis on the value of a multi-cultural perspective in all opportunities for engaging young people in prayer.

Praying with Children (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

Praying with Children involves a general exploration of spirituality within the Catholic tradition as well as an examination of personal spirituality. The course looks the variety of prayer styles and formulas in the Church and reflects upon the nature of spirituality in general. Praying with children needs to be done in a way that is developmentally appropriate for them, so that it fosters a hunger for the divine and a lifelong appreciation of spirituality.

Principles for Addressing Diversity Issues in Youth Ministry (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

This course provides an introduction to the importance of inclusivity in Youth Ministry in two important areas of diversity: intercultural ministry and the involvement of persons with disabilities. The course involves:

- An exploration of the concepts of “intercultural ministry” and “culture;” the challenges caused by the influx of diverse cultural communities in the Catholic Church, especially in the United States, and how the inclusion of multiple cultural and ethnic groups impacts effective Youth Ministry.
- An examination of ways to promote intercultural awareness and understanding as well as some necessary skills for intercultural ministry, and a review of pastoral principles for effective Youth Ministry in a culturally diverse parish.
- A review of the conclusions of the national Encuentro, a process that identified the needs, aspirations and pastoral commitments of Hispanic youth in the United States and a rationale for focusing on one ethnic group, Hispanics.
- A brief review of Church directives and documents that provide a rationale for the inclusion of persons with disabilities into Youth Ministry programming.

Prophets (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Themes in Scripture (10 hours, Advanced Level)

This course introduces students to the Major and Minor prophets of the Hebrew Bible. This course is a general overview introducing students to the cultural context, composition, themes, and pastoral application of the prophetic literature. As in the courses on the Old Testament and the New Testament, we will study the writings and lives of the prophets from the threefold perspective: literature, history, and our culture. Through the study of images, maps, timelines, and articles present on authoritative

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websites, our text and class discussions, students will grow in their knowledge of the Hebrew prophets. Students will also learn how to apply the message of the prophets to their own lives and ministries.

RCIA: A Process of Conversion, Catechesis and Community (2.5 CEU: Advanced Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Basic Level)

The Rites for Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) has been around for many years and undergone some changes that include rites for children as well. The stages of the rites call for in depth reflection as either converts or candidates for full communion come to a greater understanding of the riches and the beauty of the Catholic faith. This course is designed for RCIA leaders and catechists who assist them. Knowledge of the books of The Rites is expected in order to participate in this course. It is recommended that you check with your pastor or catechetical leader and seek permission to borrow The Rites as you go through this course as many references are made to it. All liturgical rites for RCIA as stated in this course are taken from The Rites, the official liturgical books of the Catholic Church. There are instances when rites may be merged and other instances where rites must be separated. Care must be taken to differentiate between these rites as they bring exceptional meaning to those preparing to be initiated into the Catholic Church.

Relational Ministry with Youth (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

This course provides an introduction to relational ministry with youth. Participants will examine a mindset for relational ministry and its place relative to the Vision of Youth Ministry in the U.S Catholic Church. Specific attention will be given to theological reflection on the Incarnation of Jesus Christ as the starting point for building relationships with youth.

Romero: Pastor, Prophet, Martyr and Saint (1.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (5 hours, Any Level)

The e-seminar is a basic introduction into the life, ministry and select Pastoral Letters of St. Archbishop Oscar Romero.

Sacrament of Marriage: A Holy Calling (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Sacraments in Depth (10 hours, Advanced Level)

Marriage is a sacrament and vocation embracing God's grace to build up the Body of Christ. Saint John Paul II wrote that "The communion of love between God and people, a fundamental part of the Revelation and faith experience of Israel, finds a meaningful expression in the marriage covenant which is established between a man and a woman." (Familiaris Consortio #12)

In this course we will present the historical, theological and scriptural understanding of marriage in the Catholic tradition as we trace the roots of this sacrament. In this online course we will also explore the components of the marriage preparation process as outlined by the Pontifical Council for the Family as it derives meaning from this sacramental understanding. The ultimate goal of this course is to see the sacrament of marriage as an intimate and life giving relationship between a couple established by God which reflects the love of Christ and His Church.

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This course is specifically designed for all individuals who are interested in deepening their understanding of the sacrament of marriage. It is also well suited for those involved in marriage preparation ministry who want to broaden their background

Sacraments (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Sacraments in General (10 hours, Basic Level)

This course is an introductory overview of the theology of the sacraments, the public, liturgical prayer of the Church. The Church is never so much the Church as when it is gathered together for liturgy. Jesus Himself is Sacrament, the visible sign of the invisible God. Eucharist is THE sacrament for it contains all that we are, all that the Church is, and all that Jesus says of God. Each of the sacraments will be discussed within the context of its role in the lives of the faithful: initiation into God's life, healing and reconciliation, and service to God's community.

Scripture and Justice (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Themes in Scripture (10 hours, Advanced Level)

Catholic Social Teaching is the fruit of a rich tradition of ecumenical council documents, papal encyclicals, bishops' conference documents and more, all of which are rooted in the sacred texts of Scripture. The story of the Old Testament is, at its heart, the story of a people striving to achieve and maintain a life-giving community. The writings of the New Testament indicate an emerging Christian community's dawning understanding of Jesus' life, death and resurrection as the culmination of God's plan for the world. This course examines the biblical vision of community, ordered above all toward justice and cooperation, and the way in which both Old and New Testaments provide the framework for living justly in today's world.

This course is part of the Social Justice Certificate Program.

Spirituality and Inclusive Faith Communities (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

It has been said that you can judge a culture by the care that it gives to its most vulnerable members. In America, our most vulnerable members include the children, the poor, the aged, the people with chronic illness, persons with disabilities and the families who care for them. In light of Gospel values and Catholic teaching this course will examine ways to increase awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities and their caregivers and foster a true sense of community for them within the context of our schools and churches. The question is, if we say "Welcome One, Welcome All": do we really mean it?

Spirituality in Adult Learning and Faith Formation (2.5 CEU; Advanced Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

The purpose of this course is to offer the learner a greater understanding of spirituality as it impacts the life of the individual and the community as a whole. Simply put, spirituality is "our effort with grace to become what we have been created by the Lord to be...." (*In His Spirit: A Guide to Today's Spirituality*, Hauser, p. 5).

This course will explore the definition of spirituality offered above and what is necessary for growing in the spiritual life, namely, how to recognize the Spirit in all things. Key to growing in the Spirit and in

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the spiritual life is a keen awareness and desire to grow in relationship with God through prayer. In addition to discussing spirituality, this course will offer guidance and provide the learner with the opportunity to grow in prayer and praying through the exploration of a variety of types of prayer, each rooted in our Catholic tradition.

Spirituality of the Missionary Disciple (1.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Discipleship/Spirituality (5 hours, Intermediate Level)

In this seminar, we will reflect on how to cultivate a spirituality of mission, growing as missionary disciples. To do this, we will acquaint ourselves with some of the Church documents that deal with the spirituality of the missionary disciple, how to be a Church that is alive, attentively looking after the most vulnerable in our society, and some moments of reflection that will help create an experience of encounter with the Teacher through his inspirational message of renewal.

Spirituality of Parenting (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (10 hours, Any Level)

Spirituality of Parenting is designed to introduce parents to a parenthood experience that is deeply Catholic. This course will reflect on how our Catholic faith can and should inform our parenting decisions and overall family dynamic as we seek to create the "domestic church" in our homes, families and hearts.

Study of The Joy of the Gospel: *Evangelii Gaudium* (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

Pope Francis has "a dream: a Church working without hesitation on a path of pastoral and missionary conversion": an attitude that is personal and communal, "capable of transforming" habits, styles, language, and facilities, directing them towards evangelization rather than "self-preservation". (LR 11/29/13). The "dream" is the focus of the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel). It is the fruit of labors of the Synod of Bishops on the "New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Faith" (October 2012). It is clear that the Pope's intentions, though spurred by the recommendations of the Synod Fathers, go beyond. It is not presented as a post-synodal document but expresses his concerns for the Church and the world today. "I wish to encourage the Christian faithful", Pope Francis writes "to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come". There is a sense of newness in The Joy of the Gospel that radiates from the document's originality, style and character than from other Church documents.

Summary of Catholic Social Teaching (1.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Catholic Social Teaching/Modern Moral Issues (5 hour, Intermediate Level)

Discover the indissoluble link between Evangelization and Catholic Social Teaching. Recognize the founding magisterial documents of Catholic Social Teaching. Find an appropriate definition of Catholic Social Teaching that can be taught and applied in ministerial settings.

Survey of Catholic Doctrine (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Overview of Catholic Teaching (10 hours, Basic Level)

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This course will look at some of the major doctrines of the Catholic Church. Participants will come to a better understanding of the Trinity, original sin, church, salvation history, and the communion of saints. Participants will be asked to identify the meaning of magisterium, ecumenism, eschatology, and other Catholic terms.

Survey of Catholic Social Teaching (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Catholic Social Teaching/Modern Moral Issues (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

"Far too many Catholics are not familiar with the basic content of Catholic Social Teaching. More fundamentally, many Catholics do not adequately understand that the social teaching of the Church is an essential part of Catholic faith. This poses a serious challenge for all Catholics, since it weakens our capacity to be a Church that is true to the demands of the Gospel."

United States Catholic Conference Introduction to: *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching*

The goal of this course is to provide the kind of background on Catholic Social Teaching suggested by the bishops as fundamental for living the Christian life. The course relies heavily on documents prepared by the bishops and on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Survey of Catholic Social Teaching will cover the seven key themes of Catholic Social Teaching outlined by the bishops: the life and dignity of the human person; the call to family, community, and participation; rights and responsibilities; option for the poor and vulnerable; the dignity of work and the rights of workers; solidarity; and care for God's creation. Also included is a process for defining and effecting change related to significant social justice issues at the diocesan and parish level.

Sometimes people question whether it is the business of the Church to be involved in these issues. They wish to separate Church and state and relegate to government the solutions to problems that injure others, deny a basic quality of life, or damage God's creation. The course will reiterate the centrality of social justice teachings for all Christians, and its consistent independence from any political ideology of the left or the right. It relies heavily on mainstream teachings of the Church—the Scriptures, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and Father Kevin E. McKenna's *A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching* which summarizes papal encyclicals and statements of the U.S. bishops.

The Mass (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

Provides a basic understanding of the history, structure and central pastoral focus of the Mass of the Roman Rite. Based on the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal and other primary liturgical norms and directives

The Parish Nurse as Counsellor and Spiritual Companion (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)

Parish Nursing is also known as Faith Community Nursing, Congregational Nursing or Church Nursing. In this course, we will use the term "Parish Nursing".

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Parish Nursing Ministry holds spiritual care as essential to a person's health and wellness. The Parish Nurse functions as a member of the health ministry team, caring for the body, mind, and spirit. The aim of the course is to build on previously attained knowledge and skills to further prepare the Parish Nurse in the roles of counselor and spiritual companion. The curriculum is directed toward personal and professional growth, preparing nurses for the role as parish nurse in parish nursing ministry or further development of parish nursing skills.

This five-week parish nursing course will expand our understanding of the Parish Nurse as Counsellor and Spiritual Companion. Three key components include spirituality, professional practice, and wholistic health. Spirituality will be explored through sessions on the topics Pastoral Care, and Grief Loss and Suffering. Professional Practice topics include sessions on Pastoral Counselling and Mental Health and the Parish Nurse. Our Focus on the Wholistic Health topic will be a session on The Parish Nurse as a Facilitator of Wellness.

The Parish Nurse: Facilitating Wholistic Health Through the Lifespan (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level) **Elective Credit (10 hours, Any Level)**

This course will focus on the family, illness and spirituality, discussing wholistic health issues throughout the lifespan. The overall goal of this course is to create excellence in parish nursing ministry while recognizing the unique issues and needs of children, adults and families. Meeting the needs of children and adolescents can be significantly different than those of adults. The needs of the older adult are at times complex. Meeting the needs of individuals and families pose many challenges for the parish nurse. This course builds on previously attained knowledge and skills to further prepare the Parish Nurse for the role as parish nurse in the faith community. Successful completion will contribute toward certification in parish nursing.

The Second Vatican Council: An Overview (2.5 CEU: Basic Level)

Vatican Council II Documents/Survey of Church History (10 hours, Advanced Level)

This course is an overview of the Second Vatican Council. It surveys all of its dogmatic constitutions and key declarations and decrees. By surveying the themes, issues, theology, and proposed pastoral strategies brought up by these documents, the student will gain or be reminded of the purpose of the Council: a renewal of the Church based on a critical retrieval of its theological and pastoral knowledge and experience, a dialogue with the world about its challenges, problems, and hopes for the future, and laying the foundation for an updated pastoral strategy and theology designed so that the Church could address the world constructively in a sacramental and evangelical manner.

Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life (1.5 CEU: Basic Level)

Personal Spiritual Enrichment (5 hours, Any Level)

Too often faith is attended to only on Sundays. During the rest of the week, Sunday' wisdom and challenges, plus its understandings and right judgments, are often left untouched. This course introduces a way to go beneath day-to-day events to find meaning within them, to make decisions about them, and to invite an awareness of the abiding presence of God, any day of the week!

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One of the powerful witnesses of Jesus the Son is that his life was completely intertwined with God the Father. Nothing separated him from his relationship with the Father, and his relationship with the Father influenced all that he did. This course seeks to assist its participants in taking on the ways of Gospel through theological reflection. What does it take to keep faith and life integrated? How can we do that, specifically? What is gained when we do? This is a course that answers those questions and at the same time, provides ecclesial leaders some skills to facilitate theological reflection in groups. Finally, for those responding to a call from God to be leaders within the Christian community, this course will offer a method by which to lead that sets ecclesial leadership apart from leadership in other organizations.

Understanding Culture in Ministry: Building Bridges (2.5 CEU; Basic Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

Ministry in the United States and in several countries around the world is often to and with persons of different cultural backgrounds. What may work for one group in a particular cultural setting, may not work for another cultural setting. Thus, there is the need to understand the skills needed to reach across cultures and build bridges even as ministry takes place. Although the materials used are peculiar to the United States, the suggested steps can be applied to any multicultural settings.

Veteran and Military Family Outreach (2.5 CEU; Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

All parishes need to be aware of both active and veteran military members and families in their midst and their unique needs. This course will allow students to become familiar with the differences and similarities between post-traumatic stress and moral injury. Awareness of Church teaching about military service and options of pastoral support for veteran and military families will be woven into contextual knowledge about the communal celebrations of the sacraments of healing.

Vocation to Ministry (2.5 CEU: Intermediate Level)

Methodology Part I and II (10 hours, Any Level)

The Vocation to Ministry course provides participants an opportunity to develop a deeper comprehension of ministry and to reflect on their own ministry. In the Catholic Church the role of the minister is central to the Church's mission to evangelize and make disciples. Once almost exclusively the province of the clergy and the vowed members of religious communities, a sense of vocation has been experienced by many lay people in the last half century and great numbers are engaged in ecclesial ministry. This course provides participants an opportunity to review the impact of the Second Vatican Council on the Church's appreciation of the ministry done by lay people vis-à-vis the ministry of those who are ordained. The course also reviews the Church's theology of the Holy Trinity, and the Liturgy as a source for understanding the ministerial relationships that are being lived out in the Church today.

Vocation, Spirituality and Discipleship of Catechists (2.5 CEU: Advanced Level)

Discipleship/Spirituality (10 hours, Intermediate Level)

Catechists are called to bring the Word of God to the Christian community as they animate and give witness to Jesus, educate to faith and teach the truths of faith. The course on Vocation, Spirituality and

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Discipleship of the Catechists guides the participants to look into the beginning, trace the unfolding of their vocation to the ministry of catechesis and reflect its implications in actual catechetical praxis. Mary is presented as the exemplar catechist who shows the way to respond to their call “to be and to live” as divine images, children of God, and followers of Jesus, members of God’s Family the Church. The course will also bring the thoughts of Catholic writers on spirituality as guide for their personal reflection on Christian spirituality and the spirituality of catechists and their discipleship.