

COURSE SYLLABUS MNS 350 -- 2009 -2010

TITLE: DIACONAL CANDIDATE REFLECTION SEMINAR

Academic Year: 2009-2010. Two Credits.

Instructor : Sister Mary Finn, hvm

Fall Term: 14 Class hours.

Winter Term: 14 Class hours of group theological reflection.

This is the Year of the Priesthood.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

From SHMS internet

MNS 350: Diaconal Candidate Reflection Seminar

2 cr

This course is taken during a diaconal candidate's parish placement. Candidates will learn the theory and methods of theological reflection and demonstrate these skills in theological reflection groups. Each student will do a theological reflection **on an experience that occurs during the candidate's parish placement**. Each candidate is required to be engaged in this group experience for two consecutive semesters (Fall/Winter).

Registration is required in the fall. This course is graded "pass" or "fail."

PRELIMINARY "CLARIFYING" NOTES:

- (1) During Fall term, the students in IS895 Course will have their class meetings with students in MNS 350. We do this to foster collaborative learning and ministry.
- (2) During Winter Term the students in each are in "mixed groups" for *doing group theological Reflection*. We do these "mixed" TR groups to foster collaborative reflection in ministry.
- (3) Deacon Franz Hofer, Mrs. Rennie, Sr. Mary, Ms Szczepanski will be the faculty member in the Winter TR Groups **In early-mid November students "sign up" for membership in the Winter Reflection Group.**
- (4) "Required Course Work" in MNS 350 does not include reading Fr. Anthony Gittens, WHERE THERE'S HOPE THERE'S LIFE. Ligouri 2006 (**optional for MNS 350**) .

II. REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. The Sun Gospel for appropriate Liturgical Year (Fall 09 Year B. Mark. Winter 2010, Year C. Luke)
2. Killen, Patricia. THE ART OF THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION. Crossroads, 94.
3. McKenna, Thomas. PRAYING WITH VINCENT de PAUL. St. Mary's Press 1994.
4. (**optional for MNS 350**) Gittens, Fr. Anthony. WHERE THERE'S HOPE THERE'S LIFE. Ligouri 2006
5. a "Journal"

III. STUDENT OUTCOMES: At the end of this Course the student will:

1. Demonstrate an ability and ministerial skill to:
 - Participate in Group theological reflection;
 - Be the Presenter of a personal narrative on a critical incident for Group TR;
 - Be the facilitator of a Group TR.
2. Manifest an appreciation for Group Theological reflection and foster the HABIT of personal TR.
3. Demonstrate introductory skill with the dynamics of theological reflection.
4. Respect and maintain appropriate ministerial confidentiality.
5. Appreciate how theological reflection on pastoral situations helps integrate theology, spirituality, and Ministry, and clarifies one's ministerial – vocational identity in that situation.
6. Learn and appreciate the person and spirituality and servant works of St. Vincent de Paul **AND** the privilege **YOU** have of being a servant of the sick and in direct service with people who are poor.

IV. REQUIRED COURSE WORK AND DUE DATES.

FALL TERM: Includes

- (1) Learn various definitions of “**What ?**” theological reflection is; “**Why ?**” we do personal and group theological reflection; “**how ?**” to select an experience (called a “critical incident”, and write a “narrative”, and learn a Process of Group Theological Reflection.
- (2) Reflection and conversation on several significant “topics” that help us to “Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus” and be God centered servants.
- (3) Develop the art and habit of thinking theologically.
- (4) Learn the text by Patricia Killen - The Art of Theological Reflection. “Peer-Teaching” of each chapter.... **(This assignment for IS 895 –not for students in MNS 350)**
- (5) Pray and practice lectio divina on themes in PRAYING WITH VINCENT de PAUL. Do a personal Journal on each chapter.... **(This assignment is for students in MNS 350 and 895)**
- (6) Class attendance.
- (7) Live each week “under the influence” of Jesus revealed in the Gospel of the next Sunday.
- (8) Before Winter Term write a “practice” narrative “under the influence” of a topic in Praying with Vincent.de Paul.

WINTER TERM: DO Group theological reflection. Each Presentation is two hours.

Students in MNS 350 and students in IS 895 will be in “mixed groups”-for doing group theological reflection.

- (1) Write a narrative of a **critical incident from your ministerial experience**, and be the presenter of that narrative in a group theological reflection.
- (2) Each student will participate in a theological reflection group, be the presenter of a “critical incident”, and facilitate the presentation of another student’s incident.
- (3) The week you are the Presenter you and your facilitator prepare the opening and closing class prayer.
- (4) Continue to “unwrap” the 10 requirements we began to consider in Fall term.

FINAL SYNTHESIS: (due before end of Winter term)

Write a two page synthesis of the READING, LEARNING, and INTEGRATION that has occurred in your spiritual and pastoral life during this Course.

On ONE page describe: How you are learning to think theologically? What is your intention to develop the HABIT of TR? What is your appreciation for the process of theological reflection? Describe the value of the REQUIRED TEXTS. What adjustments would you make in the Course?

On the second page write a One Page Plan for continuing to do Group Theological Reflection – such as **WHO** would be in the group? **HOW** would you prepare the group? **WHEN** would you do TR?

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- CO-WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD. USCCB. 2005
Coll, Regina. SUPERVISION OF MINISTRY STUDENTS. Lit press. 92.
DeBary. Edward. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION. Collegeville, 2003
Gros, Joye. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION. Connecting faith and life. Loyola Pres.2001
Hug, James. (ed) TRACING THE SPIRIT. Paulist. 83.
Kinast, Robert. LET MINISTRY TEACH. Lit Press. 96.
Kinast, R. WHAT ARE THEY SAYING ABOUT THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION? Paulist 2000.
Kinast, R. MAKING FAITH SENSE. Lit Press, 99.
Martini, Carlo. IN THE THICK OF HIS MINISTRY. Lit Press, 89.