

COURSE SYLLABUS MNS 350 -- 2008-09

TITLE: DIACONAL CANDIDATE REFLECTION SEMINAR

Academic Year: 2008-09. 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 St. Paul.

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 this 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 this Course IS 895 and students in MNS 350 may be in "mixed groups" with seminarians in Field Ed 690-695 for *doing group theological Reflection*.(?) We do these "mixed" TR groups to foster collaborative reflection in ministry.
- (3) Fr. Bignall, Mrs. Rennie, Sr. Mary, Ms Szczepanski will be the faculty member in the TR Groups
In early-mid November students in all three Courses will participate by email in a process of "signing up" for a mixed group.
- (4) "Required Course Work" is different for each Course.
- (5) During the Fall Fr. Bignall will "guest teach" one-two hours of MNS 350 - IS 895. ?
- (7) During the Fall Mrs. Rennie will "guest teach" one-two hours of MNS 350 - IS 895. ?
- (8) During Fall Term Mrs. Rennie and Sr. Mary will each "guest teach" one-two hours of FE690 ?
- (9) Sometime toward the end of the Winter 07 Term Fr. Bignall Mrs. Rennie, Sr. Mary will make an "assessment" of this plan and recommend a revision or continuation for 09-10 (??).

II. REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. The Sun Gospel for appropriate Liturgical Year (Fall 08 Year A. Matthew; Winter 09, Year B. Mark
2. Killen, Patricia. THE ART OF THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION. Crossroads, 94.
3. McKenna, Thomas. PRAYING WITH VINCENT de PAUL. St. Mary's Press 1994.
4. Gittins, Fr. Anthony. WHERE THERE'S HOPE THERE'S LIFE. Ligouri 2006 **(optional for MNS 350)**
5. a "Journal"
6. **In this Year of St. Paul read, synthesize any one of the LETTERS OF ST. PAUL as a source of pastoral grace in your ministry and reflection.**

III. STUDENT OUTCOMES: At the end of this Course during the YEAR OF ST. PAUL 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. **Appreciate that St. Paul's gift of ministry - which you discover in one of Paul's Letters - is a source of joy in your personal ministry, prayer, and REFLECTION.**
7. 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 895IS –not for students in MNS 350)**
- (5) Practice “lectio Divina” / Theological Reflection on the various stories in Fr. Gittins book, **Where there's Hope there's life.** Do a teaching on one of the chapters)
- (6) Pray the book, PRAYING WITH VINCENT de PAUL. Do a personal Journal. “Peer-Teaching” of each chapter.... **(This assignment is for students in MNS 350 and 895 IS)**
- (7) Class attendance.
- (8) Live each week “under the influence” of Jesus revealed in the Gospel of the next Sunday.
- (9) Before Winter Term write a “practice” narrative “under the influence” of a topic in Praying with Vincent.de Paul.
- (10) **During this Year of St. Paul “Learn” the ministry of St. Paul from your personal prayer with one of his Letters. Synthesize the Letter as a source of pastoral grace in your ministry and reflection.**

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”-perhaps with seminarians in Field Ed 690-695 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:

Any one Letter of St. Paul

- 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.