



SPIRITUALITY 280:
THE WOUNDED HEALER: THE MAKING OF A PASTORAL
PERSON

Winter Quarter 2010

Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries
Santa Clara University

Donald D. St. Louis, D.Min., MFT

Classes will be held in Kenna Hall 109

For appointments, please call: (415) 776-4110

Email: dstlouis@scu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:

With his classic image of the “wounded healer,” Henri Nouwen reminds us that imperfect people do effective ministry. Drawing on the insights of developmental psychology, *The Spiritual Exercises*, and contemporary theologies of ministry, this course will examine the psychological and spiritual formation of the pastoral person. Students will discover within their own human imperfection the deepest wellsprings of pastoral identity and ministerial effectiveness. They will also experience a model of theological reflection on ministry which will help them:

Integrate more deeply personal and spiritual development
Explore their call to ministry in the context of their personal developmental process
Articulate their personal, operative theology of ministry
Deepen self-awareness and spirituality as the ground of ministry
Expand their capacity for empathy, compassion and service
Practice using a model of ministerial reflection which will deepen their facility with the tools of discernment

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Kurtz, E., and Ketcham, K. *The Spirituality of Imperfection: Storytelling and the Search For Meaning*. New York: Bantam Books, 2002.

May, Gerald G. *The Dark Night of the Soul*. New York: Harper Collins, 2004.

Nouwen, Henri J. M. *The Wounded Healer*. New York: Doubleday, 1972.

Richo, David. *When the Past Is Present*. Boston and London: Shambala, 2008.

Wicks, Robert J. *Bounce: Living the Resilient Life*. New York: Oxford Press, 2010.

SUPPLEMENTAL READER: (on ERES)

Aschenbrenner, George, S.J. "Consciousness Examen," *Review for Religious* 31 (1972): 14-21.

_____. "A Check on Our Availability: The Examen," *Review for Religious* 39 (1980): 321-24.

_____. "Consciousness Examen: Becoming God's Heart for the World," *Review for Religious* 47 (1988): 801-810.

Au, Wilkie. "A Perceptual Approach to Effective Ministry," *Handbook of Spirituality for Ministers, Vol. 2*, Robert J. Wicks, ed., New York: Paulist Press, 2000, pp. 628-641.

Barry, William A., S.J. "Trusting the Action of God in Ministry," Wicks, op. cit., pp. 178-195.

Burghardt, Walter J., S.J. "A Spirituality for Justice," in Wicks, op. cit., pp. 527-545.

Coffey, Steve, OFM. "The *Spiritual Exercises* and the Examen: Some Relationships," *Review for Religious* 42 (1983): 90-96.

Cunningham, Lawrence S., and Egan, Keith J. *Christian Spirituality: Themes from the Tradition*, New York: Paulist Press, 1996. Cf. Ch. 1, "Christian Spirituality," pp. 5-28, and Ch. 6, "Asceticism," pp. 105-122.

Dreyer, Elizabeth A. "A Tradition of Spirit: Breathing New Life into Ministry," in Wicks, op. cit., pp. 276-298.

Hauser, Richard J., S.J. "The Minister and Personal Prayer: Evoking the Spirit of Jesus," in Wicks, op. cit., pp. 375-395.

Kornfeld, Margaret. *Cultivating Wholeness: A Guide to Care and Counseling in Faith Communities*, New York: Continuum, 2008. Cf. Ch. 3, "Caregiver, Counselor: Yourself as Gardener," pp. 45-66, and Ch. 10, "Tending Yourself," pp. 281-305, and Ch 10, "Tending Yourself," pp. 281-305.

Larkin, Ernest E., O.Carm. "Contemplative Prayer: The Soul of the Apostolate," in Wicks, op. cit., pp. 456-468.

Reiser, William, S.J. "The Interior Life of Jesus as the Life of the People of God," in Wicks, op. cit., pp. 396-417.

St. Louis, Donald D. "The Ignatian Examen: A Method of Theological Reflection on Ministry," in *The Way Supplement*, No. 55, Spring, 1986, pp. 66-76.

Thompson, Helen, BVM. *Journey Toward Wholeness: A Jungian Model of Adult Spiritual Growth*, New York: Paulist Press, 1982. Cf. Ch. 2, "A Journey to the Center: A Comparison of Teilhard and Jung," pp. 10-28.

Van Breeman, Peter G., S.J. "Examination of Conscience," in *Review for Religious* 49 (1990): 600-609.

METHODOLOGY AND REQUIREMENTS:

Class attendance and active participation. Class meetings will combine lecture and student activity (discussion, group work, etc.). because of the highly interactive nature of our meetings, consistent attendance is expected.

A personal journal. The journal is a place for you to record your own personal experiences and reflections, and might include:

--your experience of praying the Examen: e.g., what are you noticing about your personal relationship with God, and about the nuances of God's movement in your life and your response.

--your learnings about yourself from the readings and discussions: strengths and weakness; areas for continued growth and healing; how to transform your perceived weaknesses and sufferings into sources of grace and healing for others.

--your reflections on the various exercises from the readings: e.g., practices in Richo and Wicks (to be discussed in detail in class)

Article Presentation. You will be assigned a specific article to read. Please prepare a **one-page** overview of the article with copies for all in the class. You will give a **ten-minute** summation of the article and its relevance for becoming a pastoral person.

Operative Theology Paper.

There are two parts to this **six-page** assignment:

Your **personal definition of pastoral care/ministry** with an explanation and two appropriate scripture references. (2 pages)

Your **personal operative theology of ministry** (4 pages). There are two elements for you to discuss:

Your personal **religious identity**: i.e., your personal particular lived experience, imaging and understanding of who your God is.

Your **pastoral identity**: i.e., who you are personally as God interacts with you and you interact with God in doing ministry.

“Operational theology, in contrast to professed theology, looks beyond an individual’s verbally and intellectually articulated theology to the dynamic images, mental representations of God, world view, maps of reality, belief systems, and value systems which actually dominate the life experience of people....Operational theology refers to the implicit religious story by which one is living, including unconscious material.”

Merle R. Jordan, *Taking on the Gods: The Task of the Pastoral Counselor*, Nashville, Abingdon, 1986, p. 29.

GRADING:

Class Participation	30%
Article Presentation	30%
And Journal	
Operative Theology Paper	40%

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

01/06/10 **Class #1:**

Introduction to Course; Personal experiences of “pastoral persons”; Introduction to Ignatius Loyola and his spirituality; a contemporary reading of the Examen; Syllabus review.

For next class: Reader: Articles by Aschenbrenner (3), Van Breeman, Coffey, St. Louis; Nouwen: *The Wounded Healer*

01/13/10 **Class #2**

Family of Origin: whence it all begins. “Roots or Ruts?” Initial Genogram work; what do you bring from the “basic learning lab”?

For next class: Richo, Chs. 1-4.

01/20/10 **Class #3:**

Family of Origin, continued. What you carry with you; its impact on your pastoral relationships. Issues of Discernment and Mindfulness; SpEX: *First Principle and Foundation*

For next class: Read Richo, Chs. 5-10.

01/27/10 **Class #4:**

Transference in relationships; “unfinished business”; Tool for deepening awareness: exercises from Richo.

For next class: Read Richo, Chs. 11-14.

02/03/10 **Class #5:**

Transference, continued. Facing one’s own demons; Personal asceticism; SpEX: *The Two Standards*. How deal with the projections of others in ministry?

For next class: Read May.

02/10/10 **Class #6:**

Spiritual Growth: light and darkness; SpEx: Third Week Annotations; How do we understand the Dark Night of the Soul? SpEX: Rules for Discernment

For next class: Read Wicks.

02/17/10 **Class #7:**

Self-Care: Ministry and Burnout; Boundaries in Helping. Exercises from Wicks; "Overextended and Undernourished"

For next class: Work on personal self-care plan.

02/24/10 **Class #8:**

Personal Spirituality; Ignatian world vision; parallels between the *First Principle and Foundation* and the *Contemplatio Ad Amorem*

For next class: Read articles for student reports. Work on Papers.

03/10/10 **Class #9:**

_____ Student Reports

03/17/10 **Class #10:**

Student reports; Course Conclusions; Journals and Operative Theology Papers Due