

Summer 2023 PMIN 225: Preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation SYLLABUS

Graduate Programs in Pastoral Ministries

- Tuesday's beginning June 20, 6-9pm (Online via Zoom)

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Office hours: by appointment only

COURSE DESCRIPTION: PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

This course explores the theology and history of the Sacraments of Initiation while delving into the practical application of sacramental preparation in the 21st century Church within the context of youth ministry, children's ministry, and young adult ministry. This course does so within the context of parishes who observe and celebrate the Sacraments most typical of Catholic parishes in the United States (infant baptism, first Eucharist at the age of reason, adolescent confirmation). This course is framed within a solid understanding of the model for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults and uses that as a guidepost to develop effective sacramental preparation strategies for children and adolescents, addressing the important need for accompaniment in the sacraments.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course addresses the following Goals and Objectives of the GPPM Program:

- **Objective 1B:** Students will integrate their core theological competencies in their chosen area of concentration.
- **Objective 3A:** Students will employ historically informed knowledge of the tradition to assess theological positions and pastoral issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Texts:

Directory for Catechesis, Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization,
United States Catholic Conference of Bishop, 2020. (ISBN 978-1-60137-669-5)

Rebuilding Confirmation: Because We Need More Than Another Graduation,

Christopher Wesley, Ave Maria Press, 2017. (ISBN 978-1594715853)

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Study Edition, United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, Liturgy Training Publications, 1988. (ISBN 978-0-93046-794-4)

The Order of Baptism of Children/Ritual para el Bautismo de los Niños: People's Edition/ Edición del pueblo, Liturgical Press, 2020 (ISBN 978-0814665541)

Understanding the Sacraments: Baptism, Lawrence E. Mick, Liturgical Press, 2007. (ISBN 978-0-8146-3188-1).

Purchase for \$.50 at <https://litpress.org/Products/3188/Baptism>

Understanding the Sacraments: Confirmation, Lawrence E. Mick, Liturgical Press, 2007. (ISBN 978-0-8146-3189-1).

Purchase for \$.50 at <https://litpress.org/Products/3189/Confirmation>

Understanding the Sacraments: Eucharist, Lawrence E. Mick, Liturgical Press, 2007. (ISBN 978-0-8146-3191-1).

Purchase for \$.50 at <https://litpress.org/Products/3191/Eucharist>

Your Parish is the Curriculum, Diana Macalintal, Liturgical Press, 2018. (ISBN 978-0-8146-4465-2)

Other readings as assigned.

Course Work:

1. **Informed and Engaged Class Participation (20 points):** Attendance is expected at all face-to-face and online classes. Thoughtful and reflective participation is expected, including sharing comments and questions throughout the course and via Camino, our online class platform. For each class session, you will be awarded up to 2 points: 1 point for attendance in class and 1 point for participating in the online discussion. To earn full credit for each class, participation in class and in the online discussion forum is required.
2. **Theological Reflection (30 points):** A Theological Reflection will be evaluated on quality of content, organization, clarity of expression, grammatical correctness, and appropriate citations.
 - a. Theological Reflection: Due by Friday, July 21. (3-4 pages; double-spaced, 12 pt. font; submit via Camino).
 - i. Theological Reflection defined:
 1. “Theological reflection is a method to help people learn from their meaningful experiences. It is action-oriented and also change-

oriented. It implies a group. Theological reflection helps a person to look at experience in light of their religious beliefs and understanding of their beliefs. It tries to help a person and group to discover God's presence in experience. As this happens, theological reflection asks the person and/or group to consider what difference God's presence makes and what God expects as a result. This integration of action and experience is what ultimately makes theological reflection theological. To have its full effect, it is a skill that must be practiced regularly."

- Helpful tips regarding how to do theological reflection:
 - The Theological Reflection Paper is an invitation to others in the class to enter into your experience in ministry in order to support and facilitate, with a collective wisdom, the experimental/personal/religious dialogue of the Theological Reflection Process.
 - Begin with the ministerial experience: describe it (the actual event or encounter, your personal reaction/response to the ministry)
 - Move to social analysis of the experience (the socio-cultural setting, its structure, meanings and values, are there real or potential conflicts present, are there liberation or justice issues, cultural tensions)
 - Look at any feelings: name them, reflect on what they may be saying to me; see if an image is readily forthcoming.
 - Move deeper into the theological reflection: engage with the religious tradition, including scripture, and personal faith commitment what does the Church and the Word of God have to say about this event.
 - Revisit the feelings: how has Tradition, Scripture, my prayer informed my feelings and vice versa?
 - Conclude with personal planning for future ministry (new insights, sensitivities, convictions, behaviors for continuing ministry)
 - Keep in mind that Theological Reflection is not a product but a process: it answers questions less frequently than it questions answers.
3. **Final Project and Class Presentation:** (15 min.) Each student will select a topic of particular interest or concern regarding the sacraments of initiation in their existing ministry. In consultation with the instructor, the student will develop a specific project that will describe, evaluate, and propose suggested changes to the process of initiation in

your ministry setting. There is a lot of room for creativity on this project. The key is that this project be something that you can implement in your ministry. I am not interested in a purely theoretical project, but one that is practical and realistic. On the day of our last Saturday session, students will give a brief (15 minute) presentation on the project. A written report is required that documents the scope and development of the project (8-10 pages). PowerPoint presentations and other media tools are required and should be submitted along with the paper. Guidelines will be presented in class.

GRADING

- 20% attendance/informed & engaged class participation (20 points total);
- 30% theological reflection (30 points total);
- 50% final paper/project/presentation (50 points total).

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Jun 20, 6pm-9pm:	Topic(s): Class Orientation and Introduction; A History and Theology of the Sacraments of Initiation; Readings: <i>-Directory for Catechesis, paragraphs 69-74</i>
Jun 27, 6pm-9pm:	Topic(s): A History and Theology of the Sacraments of Initiation; The RCIA Readings: <i>-Understanding the Sacraments: Baptism, pgs. 3-18</i> <i>-Understanding the Sacraments: Confirmation, pgs. 6-11</i>
Jul 4, 6pm-9pm:	No Class (Independence Day)
Jul 11, 6pm-9pm:	Topic(s): The RCIA; Broadening our view of Sacramental Preparation Readings: <i>-Directory for Catechesis, paragraphs 55-65, 293-303</i> <i>-Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, pgs. 2-18, 37-41, 63-65, 77-79, 123-125, 151-152</i>
Jul 18, 6pm-9pm:	No Class (Theological Reflection due July 21)
Jul 25, 6pm-9pm:	Topic(s): Broadening Our View of Sacramental Preparation Readings:

-Your Parish is the Curriculum, All

- Aug 1, 6pm-9pm:** **Topic(s):** Preparing for Infant Baptism
Readings:
 -*Directory for Catechesis*, paragraph 232
 -*The Order of Baptism for Children*, pgs. 8-13
 -*Understanding the Sacraments: Baptism*, pgs. 18-23
- Aug 8, 6pm-9pm:** **Topic(s):** Preparing for 1st Eucharist
Readings:
 -*Directory for Catechesis*, paragraphs 236-243
 -*Understanding the Sacraments: Eucharist*, pgs. 6-26
- Aug 15, 6pm-9pm:** **Topic(s):** Preparing for Adolescent Confirmation
Readings:
 -*Understanding the Sacraments: Confirmation*, pgs. 11-20
 -*Directory for Catechesis*, paragraphs 244-256
 -*Rebuilding Confirmation*, pgs. ix-56
- Aug 22, 6pm-9pm:** **Topic(s):** Preparing for Adolescent Confirmation
Readings:
 -*Rebuilding Confirmation*, pgs. 59-102
- Aug 29, 6pm-9pm:** **Topic(s):** Final Presentations
Readings:
 -None

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Academic Integrity pledge is an expression of the University's commitment to fostering an understanding of -- and commitment to -- a culture of integrity at Santa Clara University. The Academic Integrity pledge, which applies to all students, states: I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code. Students are expected to uphold the principles of this pledge for all work in this class. For more information about Santa Clara University's academic integrity pledge and resources about ensuring academic integrity in your work, see www.scu.edu/academic-integrity.

WRITING ASSISTANCE

It is expected that all written assignments reflect graduate level writing. Writing assistance is available for all students. Please contact The Hub, SCU's Writing Center, at www.scu.edu/hub/. Please seek appropriate writing assistance before submitting assignments. See "Written Work" under Course Requirements below for evaluative criteria for written assignments.

The GPPM is happy to offer the assistance of Dorothy Suarez who works for our program to help to be sure that your writings reflect your best possible work. She is skilled, knowledgeable, and experienced having worked with many students to help them to shine. We think you will find her a delight to work with. Dorothy can be reached at 408-828-9204 or GPPM.Dorothy@gmail.com

DISABILITIES RESOURCES

If you have a disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Disabilities Resources, Benson 216, <http://www.scu.edu/disabilities> as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through Disabilities Resources, please discuss them with me during my office hours. While I am happy to assist you, I am unable to provide accommodations until I have received verification from Disabilities Resources. The Disabilities Resources office will work with students and faculty to arrange proctored exams for students whose accommodations include double time for exams and/or assisted technology. (Students with approved accommodations of time-and-a-half should talk with me as soon as possible). Disabilities Resources must be contacted in advance to schedule proctored examinations or to arrange other accommodations. The Disabilities Resources office would be grateful for advance notice of at least two weeks. For more information you may contact Disabilities Resources at 408-554-4109.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN & RECORDING OF CLASS

Cellphones should be turned off during class, and laptops may only be used for authorized collaborations or for viewing course readings. The Student Handbook prohibits video- or audio-recording or streaming of private, non-public conversations and/or meetings, inclusive of the classroom setting, without the knowledge and consent of all recorded parties. If you require the recording of classroom lectures, discussions, simulations, and other course-related activity for a documented disability, make arrangements through Disabilities Resources (see below) and discuss this with the instructor. If for some reason other than disability you would like to record the class, please seek the permission of the instructor first, and then of the class.

DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT (TITLE IX)

Santa Clara University upholds a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct. If you (or someone you know) have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking, I encourage you to tell someone promptly. For more information, please consult the University's Gender-Based Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct Policy at <http://bit.ly/2ce1hBb> or contact the University's EEO and Title IX Coordinator, Belinda Guthrie, at 408-554-3043, bguthrie@scu.edu. Reports may be submitted online through <https://www.scu.edu/osl/report/> or anonymously through Ethicspoint <https://www.scu.edu/hr/quick-links/ethicspoint/>