AQUINAS INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY SYLLABUS

FRM-D501 **Lay Spiritual Formation I** **Credits 1**

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Fall 2012
Mondays 6:30-8:10pm
9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8
10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26

Semester Retreat: TBA

Course Description: The focus of Lay Formation I is lay ministerial identity in the Church and in the world, with a particular focus on spiritual and human formation for lay ministry. Development in Christian faith is explored along with attending issues of spiritual and psychosocial development. Attention is given to individual and spiritual growth by exploring the elements of a mature spiritual life and the processes that contribute to the formation of a full spiritual life. Students will engage in personal and spiritual assessments and develop goals for further growth and development. Participants will also engage in reading, theological reflection, written reflections, discussion and sharing. Each participant will develop and lead group prayer over the course of the semester, and attend a one day retreat as a group.

Course Objectives:
1. To present and develop the concept of lay spiritual formation, ministerial identity and the spiritual foundation needed to support it.
2. To explore the integration of spirituality, psychology, theology and ministry as wholistic aspects of mature development for lay ministry.
3. To create an atmosphere of openness and trust for community, prayer and discussion in a group.
4. To offer the participants the tools and support for growth in self-awareness through spiritual and developmental assessment.
5. To offer the opportunity and support for growth in confidence and ability to lead prayer for others around key themes and topics.
6. To provide an opportunity to meet with the formation director at least once a semester to review and discuss assessments and goal development; to be available for issues and concerns that require support and direction as needed.

Required Texts:

1. Hernandez, Wil. *Henri Nouwen: A Spirituality of Imperfection.* Mahwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2006. ISBN 13: 978-8091-4434-1
2. Sofield, Loughlan, ST, and Juliano, Carroll, SHCJ. *Collaboration: Uniting Our Gifts in Ministry.* Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2000. ISBN 10-0-87793-683-8
3. Streeter, Carla Mae, O.P. *Seasons of the Soul: an Intimate God in Liturgical Time.* St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2004. Available at AI $10
4. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry.* Washington, D.C.: USCCB Publishing, 2005, 2008. ISBN 978-1-57455-724-4

Articles as assigned on SLU e-reserve – password: frm1