AQUINAS INSTITUE OF THEOLOGY
SYLLABUS

PST-D500 Foundations of Pastoral and Ethical Care 3 Credits
Fall 2014 Tuesdays: 8:45 to 11:15am Jose M. Santiago, O.P., MSW, D.MIN

1. **LEARNING AT AQUINAS:** The faculty and students of Aquinas Institute value and commit themselves to acquiring the following five practices in the course of their common theological endeavor as a means of moving toward our desired academic and ministerial outcomes. A high degree of skill and practice in the following areas is the goal of study and formation at Aquinas Institute.

   *written and oral communication
   *close reading of texts
   *analysis of social context
   *theological reflection
   *collaboration

2. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The aim of this course is to introduce the student to what is foundational to the offering of diverse types of pastoral care in the Christian Church. This course is designed to explore the historical (tradition) and contemporary components of pastoral care and to help in the formulation of appropriate religious (communal), spiritual (personal) and professional and ethical (ministerial) responses to the various needs and situations that are presented to the pastoral minister in service in the church.
3. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To familiarize the student with the history and practice of pastoral care in the Christian tradition [close reading of the text]. To assist the student in growing in self-awareness as a pastoral care minister in his or her personal and professional (vocational) identity [collaboration]. To begin to develop in the student a theological and ethical perspective on the practice of pastoral care [oral communication]. To provide an opportunity for the student to develop a code of professional ministerial responsibility with accountability and some fundamental skills (e.g., to guide, to reconcile, to nurture) essential for effective pastoral ministry [oral and written communication]. The first third of the semester will concentrate on the basic principles of Christian ethical pastoral care. The second two thirds will look more precisely at the elements of pastoral practice useful for providing good pastoral care.
4. **CURRICULUM NOTES:**
   A. Required Texts:
      1. Cahalan, **Kathleen A.** ***Introducing the Practice of Ministry***. **Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2010**.
      2. Doehring, Carrie. *The Practice of Pastoral Care: A Postmodern Approach.* Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2006.
      3. Gula, Richard M. *Ethics in Pastoral Ministry.* New York: Paulist Press, 1996.
      4. Lynch, Peter. *The Church's Story: A History of Pastoral Care and Vision.* Boston: Pauline Books and Media, 2005.
      5. Shaughnessy, Mary Angela. *Ministry & the Law: What You Need to Know.* New York: Paulist Press, 1998.
      - Additional readings on special topics from other sources will be assigned by the professor, including some via Blackboard Learn.