

Aquinas Ministry Formation Program in Oklahoma City Distance Learning Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry [MAPM]



Program Description

The *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity* promulgated by the Second Vatican Council, says: "As sharers in the role of Christ, the Priest, Prophet and King, the Laity have an active role to play in the life and activity of the Church" (#10). The decree continues, "Indeed everyone should painstakingly ready himself or herself personally for the apostolate, especially as an adult. . .to exercise more effectively those charismatic gifts which the Holy Spirit has bestowed on all for the good of others (#30).

Throughout the years since Vatican II, the Bishops have issued many calls for formation for ministry, especially for the laity who increasingly serve in the local church, along with priests and deacons. Most recently, in *Co-workers in the Vineyard*, issued in 2005, the Bishops recognize that "Lay ecclesial ministers, just like the ordained, need and deserve formation of high standards, effective methods, and comprehensive goals." The bishops further "encourage dioceses and academic institutions to seek creative ways of providing opportunities for the preparation and formation of lay ecclesial ministers, especially in mission and rural areas, and for meeting the needs of various cultural groups."

In response to the calls of the U. S. Bishops for ministry formation, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City began the Pastoral Ministry Program in 1983 to provide solid grounding in theology to prepare persons for Church ministry. Within 10 years, the need for further education and formation to prepare persons for leadership in ministry became evident. The Archdiocese responded by offering the *Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry* degree program. This degree is offered in affiliation with Aquinas Institute of Theology.

Impelled by the Catholic Faith and in the Dominican spirit, Aquinas Institute educates men and women to preach, to teach, to minister and to lead. In accord with this mission, the *Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry* degree provides formation for pastoral ministers who can serve in a variety of parish, hospital, education and diocesan ministries. The program is designed to engage and complement the unique gifts of experienced pastoral ministers through graduate level theological and ministerial formation in the Catholic tradition. A unique feature of this degree program is its openness to both lay and ordained, to anyone desiring to become a well prepared minister in the local Church.

Many potential ecclesial ministers, either by reason of distance from theological schools or of full-time employment, cannot participate in standard resident degree programs. In response to this challenge, the MAPM degree is offered in Oklahoma City as Internet-enhanced cohort

learning including face-to-face classroom sessions with professors from Aquinas Institute. In the spirit of Dominican itinerancy, Aquinas Institute in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City meets the needs of the diocese for well trained ministers and the needs of individuals for excellent theological education and formation through the on-site MAPM degree program.

a) Purpose of the MAPM Degree

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM) degree program has as its primary purpose the preparation of a cohort of men and women for leadership in a variety of pastoral ministries in the local Church. The program offers a broad overview of the theory and skills needed for effective pastoral ministry. The program is designed to engage and complement the unique gifts of experienced pastoral ministers as well as those who seek, for their own enrichment, graduate level theological and ministerial formation in the Catholic tradition. As a collaborative initiative between Aquinas Institute and the diocese, the goals, structure, and implementation of the MAPM degree will reflect both the unique pastoral needs of the local church as well as the standard requirements for graduate-level, accredited theological education for ministry in the Church.

b) Program Content

The MAPM degree is a 48 credit-hour program consisting of 15 courses in academic theology and ministry, a three-month experience of supervised practice of ministry (field education), and four credit hours in spiritual and personal formation that runs concurrent with the academic portion of the degree program. The MAPM degree is designed to offer the student an integrated experience of academic theology, field education, and spiritual formation for ministry. In the spirit of the Dominican tradition, moreover, the individual components of the program come together in the context of community—and, specifically, that of the student cohort of learners who matriculate together through the total degree program process. The cohort experience serves as an integrating feature of the various components of the MAPM degree.

c) Supervised Practice of Ministry Requirements (3 hrs.)

The Supervised Practice of Ministry (field education) requirements are offered approximately midway during the MAPM program. The Aquinas Director of Field Education works with the program's on-site Director to determine a list of potential ministry sites and qualified supervisors. Students already working in ministry may continue working in their present position or choose another approved site, depending on their overall learning goals. During the on-site sessions of SPM the cohort meets with the Aquinas Director of Field Education, focusing on issues such as the art of pastoral supervision and the formation of the field education contract and for theological reflection based on their ministerial experiences.

d) Formative Spirituality for Ministry

The formation component stretches throughout the entire course of the program. It includes regular meetings with the Formation Director for goal setting and feedback; spiritual direction; an annual retreat; and participation in the formation group itself. Formative Spirituality for Pastoral Ministry I extends over the first two years of the MAPM degree process. This seminar is concerned with fostering a deeper awareness of each person's personal spirituality and the role of ongoing conversion in the Christian life. Formative Spirituality II extends through the second half of the degree program. It emphasizes the development of ministerial identity and the foundations of spirituality for ministerial service in the Church. It also builds on the students' skills in individual and group theological reflection. The members of the cohort, together with the Formation Director, play an important role in shaping the dynamics of this formation experience.

e) Teaching and Learning Model

MAPM courses are offered sequentially and in an intensive model. Each course includes a blending of teaching and learning on weekends in the diocese and ongoing web-based instructional units at a distance. A typical course is designed around two face-to-face teaching and learning "moments:" an overnight *On-site I* [6:30 PM Friday evening-Saturday 4 PM], followed four weeks later by *On-site II*, an intensive teaching weekend [Friday-Sunday]. In the weeks between face-to-face sessions, students and faculty use course webpages to continue their work. The design of each course, developed by the instructor, is laid out in the syllabus. Online help in course design and technical assistance for students and faculty is available from Fisher's Net (http://www.fishernet.net/), a company that specializes in web-based teaching and learning in the theological disciplines.

e) Sample Course Schedule

Monday, October 24 Course launches on-line

Friday-Saturday, Nov. 12-13 On-site I [6:30-9 PM, 8:30 AM-4 PM]
Friday-Sunday, Dec. 10-12 On-site II [6:30 PM Fri-2 PM Sun]

January 29 On-line closing session

Formative Spirituality seminars are a part of both *On-site sessions*.

Courses are generally 11 weeks in length, with 1 week breaks in-between courses, and longer breaks at Christmas and in the Summer.

f) Program Dates

Actual coursework in MAPM is scheduled to launch in March 2011, and conclude in December 2014.

g) More Information

For more information, contact the on-site Program or Formation Director in Oklahoma City or personnel at Aquinas in Saint Louis:

In Oklahoma City	
Program Director	Formation Director
Sr. Diane Koorie, RSM	Rev. David M. Lafferty
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City	Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
7501 N.W. Expressway	Holy Trinity Church
PO Box 32180	P. O. Box 185
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73123-0380	Okarche, OK 73762-0185
405-721-4208 ext 118	405-263-7930
dkoorie@catharchdioceseokc.org	dlafferty@cox.net
At Aquinas Institute:	
George Boudreau, OP	Mary Wavada
Director of Distance Learning	Administrative Assistant
Aquinas Institute of Theology	Aquinas Institute of Theology
23 S. Spring St.	23 S. Spring St.
St. Louis, MO 63108	St. Louis, MO 63108
314-256-8883	314-256-8873
boudreau@ai.edu	wavada@ai.edu

Visit Aquinas' website at: http://www.ai.edu/

Visit the Archdiocesan website at: www.catharchdioceseokc.org



The Archdiocesan Development Fund [ADF] supports this ministry.

MAPM-OKC COHORT 5 CURRICULUM AND SCHEDULE (REVISED 6/2010)

Spiritual Formation (4 cr.)

Spiritual Formation Year I (1 cr.) Spiritual Formation Year II (1 cr.) Spiritual Formation Year III (1 cr.) Spiritual Formation Year IV (1 cr.)

Proseminar/Introduction to Theological Method (3 cr.)

March 6, 2011 Start Date March 25-26 On-site 1

April 17-24 Holy Week/Easter Break

April 29-May 1 On-site 2 May 28 End Date

1 week break

Bible Interpretation (3 cr.)

June 5, 2011 Start Date
June 24-25 On-site 1
July 22-24 On-site 2
August 20 End Date

1 week break

Ministry in the Scriptures (3 cr.)

August 28, 2011 Start Date September 16-17 On-site 1

October 14-16 On-site 2: **St. Louis**

November 12 End Date

1 week break

Critical Moments in Church History (online only) (3 cr.)

November 20, 2011 Start Date December 18-January 7 Christmas Break

February 25 End Date

1 week break

Christology and Christian Anthropology (3 cr.)

March 4, 2012 Start Date March 23-24 On-site 1

April 1-8 Holy Week/Easter Break

April 20-22 On-site 2 May 26 End Date

1 week break

Theology of Church and Ministry (3 cr.)

June 3, 2012	Start Date
June 22-23	On-site 1
July 20-22	On-site 2
August 18	End Date

3 week break

SPM-I (3 cr.)

September 9, 2012 Start Date September 28-29 On-site 1 October 26-28 On-site 2

November 18-24 Thanksgiving Break

December 1 End Date

No break – week off at Thanksgiving; 3 weeks for Christmas coming

Theology of God (3 cr.)

December 2, 2012 Start Date

December 16-January 5 Christmas Break

January 11-12, 2013 On-site 1 February 8-10 On-site 2 March 9 End Date

1 week break

Foundations of Catholic Morality (3 cr.)

March 17, 2013 Start Date

March 24-31 Holy Week/Easter Break

April 12-13 On-site 1
May 17-19 On-site 2
June 8 End Date

Note: this course has 3/5/3 breakdown to avoid On-site 2 on Mothers Day Weekend

3 week break

Theology of Worship and Sacraments (3 cr.)

June 30, 2013 Start Date
July 19-20 On-site 1
August 16-18 On-site 2
September 14 End Date

1 week break

Proclamation for Evangelization (3 cr.)

September 22, 2013 Start Date October 11-12 On-site 1 November 8-10 On-site 2

November 24-30 Thanksgiving Break

December 14 End Date

3 week Christmas Break

Foundations of Pastoral Care (3 cr.)

January 5, 2014 Start Date
January 24-25 On-site 1
February 21-23 On-site 2
March 22 End Date

1 week break

Canon Law (3 cr.)

March 30, 2014 Start Date

April 13-20 Holy Week/Easter Break

April 25-26 On-site 1 May 16-18 On-site 2 June 21 End Date

3 week break

Catholic Social Teaching in American Context (3 cr.)

July 20, 2014 Start Date
August 8-9 On-site 1
September 5-7 On-site 2
October 4 End Date

1 week break

Integrative Seminar (2 cr.)

October 12, 2014 Start Date

December 5-7 On-site [only one]

December 13 End Date

Graduation: May 2015

Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry Degree Aquinas Ministry Formation Program in Oklahoma City

ESTIMATED TUITION/FEES/COSTS ~ Current as of August 2010

Aquinas Institute

Application Fee [one time only]

\$50

MAPM tuition/per credit hour/payable to AI

\$352

[Note: current <u>for 10-11 Academic Year</u>. Regular tuition is \$640/credit hour. MAPM students receive 55% discount/credit hour.]

Technology Fee

\$200/year

Graduation Fee [not due until graduation; may increase]

\$172

Copies of transcript

Free, up to five/year; \$5 each/afterwards

Admissions Process

MAT [Miller Analogies Test] Approximately \$65-85 depending on test site [Information on locations/dates/fee will be provided.]

<u>Archdiocese</u>

Most Meals and snacks/course: Formative Spirituality

\$30/course

\$150/year

Overnight lodging at the Catholic Pastoral Center [\$17.50/doubles; \$25/single] Lodging costs are for rooms only and do not include meals. Dining room meals are extra. Program provides continental breakfast foods and snacks for overnight students.

<u>Other</u>

Textbooks [vary/course]