

Description: This course examines the theological and sacramental foundations of contemporary Christian ministry, with a special emphasis on ministry in the Roman Catholic Church. Students will survey the evolution of ministry from biblical times to present, examine the sacraments of baptism and orders as a foundation for contemporary theologies of lay and ordained ministry, and explore new ministerial questions surfacing in the Church today.

Objectives:

To draw from an in-depth study of scripture the foundational model for all ecclesial ministry, both lay and ordained

To give an overview of the evolution of ministry structures in the Roman Catholic tradition including the episcopacy, presbyterate, diaconate, and lay ecclesial ministry, with some attention as well to religious life .

To explore the current liturgical rites of ordination and the theology of ministry implicit within

To seek to derive from the rites, writings of theologians, and Church teaching a contemporary theology of ministry

To invite students to examine and articulate their operative theology of ministry with consciousness of both personal and ecclesiological implications

Procedures: This course will be constructed in a hybrid fashion so that it is accessible to students both in the St. Louis area and at a distance. The intensive course date is February 14-16, 2012. All students must be present for this intensive. Before and after the intensive, students will have the option of either participating in a regular on-campus seminar or submitting written papers on the readings. Assignments for the course will include academic synthesis, personal reflection, and preaching.

Evaluation: The student's grade will be determined by his or her participation in class sessions, knowledge of assigned reading materials, and the quality of oral and written work.

Required Texts:

Bernier, Paul. *Ministry in the Church: A Historical & Pastoral Approach*. NY: Crossroads, 2006 (earlier edition also acceptable)

Brennan, Margaret R. *What Was There for Me Once*. Toronto: Novalis, 2009.

Fox, Zeni. *Lay Ecclesial Ministry: Pathways Toward the Future*. NY: Rowman & Littlefield, 2010.

Hahnenberg, Edward P. *Ministries: A Relational Approach*. NY: Crossroads, 2003.

Philibert, Paul. *The Priesthood of the Faithful*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2005.

Wood, Susan K. *Sacramental Orders*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2000.