SPIRITUAL DIRECTION PRACTICUM (Online) MIN-D512 & MIN-D513

Harry Byrne, OP & Marion Love 6 Credits (two one-week summer sessions and year long supervised practicum)

Description: The spiritual direction practicum is year-long opportunity for students in the certificate program to engage in spiritual direction under supervision, having as its ultimate goal the discernment of whether each participant has a genuine call to be a spiritual director. Class participants are considered "intern directors" who practice spiritual direction with two or three directees on a regular and frequent basis and meet monthly with their supervisor. The first summer session is primarily preparation for the practicum year and the second summer is an integrative session to complete the certificate.

Objectives:
-- To provide the reality base of meeting with and guiding directees needed for discerning one's call to be a spiritual director.
-- To provide practice in spiritual direction with the reflection and supervision necessary for the student to grow as a spiritual director and to develop skills in this ministry.
-- To assist the intern directors to integrate theoretical knowledge with experiential insights into an operative approach to offering the ministry.

Procedure: There are assigned readings with topics that complement the ministry of spiritual direction and related subjects with an emphasis on practice. During the Practicum year, each intern keeps a log of all spiritual direction conferences, does contemplative reflections and writes verbatims to process with the intern's supervisor. Before the end of the course the students enter into a formal period of evaluation and discernment of their call to be spiritual directors. There will be written assignments that will allow students to express their personal understanding and approach to the ministry of spiritual direction.

Evaluation: Grading is done on a Pass/Fail basis. Besides participation in all class sessions and group work, all required work, including written assignments, must be completed satisfactorily to pass the course.

Required Text: Relevant readings will be available through the course website and/or through the E-Reserve (St. Louis University Library) to be read during the year-long Practicum course.

Recommended Text: Looking into the Well: Supervision of Spiritual Directors**.**
Maureen Conroy. Loyola University Press, 1995. (Several Chapters from this text will be required reading. There will be several copies on reserve in the Aquinas library.)