

**AQUINAS INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY
COURSE DESCRIPTION**

FRM-D503

Lay Spiritual Formation III

1 Credit

Marian Love

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314-256-8876

Office Hours: Call for appointment

Sections meet every other week

Fall 2008

Section 01 Tuesday 3:45-5:35 p.m.

9/2, 9/16, 9/30, 10/14, 10/28, 11/11, 12/2

Section 02 Wednesday 1:00-2:50 p.m.

9/3, 9/17, 10/1, 10/15, 10/29, 11/12, 12/3

Section 03 Thursday 9:30 a.m.- 11:20 a.m.

Section 04 Thursday 6:30-8:20 p.m.

9/4, 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, 10/20, 11/13, 12/4

Course Description: The focus of Lay Formation III is exploring the process of discernment pertaining to gifts, call and ministry, and applying the discernment process to individual context. Emphasis will be placed on the participants to challenge and support each other in spiritual growth, community building and collaboration. Participants will be engaged in reading, theological reflection, journaling, group discussion and sharing. Students will continue to review and update formation goals. Each participant will develop and lead group prayer over the course of the semester, and attend a one day retreat involving all Lay Formation III sections.

Course Objectives:

1. To present a process of discernment useful for life and ministry.
2. To create an atmosphere for a "wisdom community" in which students can experience the support and honest feedback of others 'on the journey'.
3. To offer the opportunity to lead prayer for others around key themes and topics.
4. To provide an opportunity to meet with the formation director at least once a semester to review and discuss goal development, progress and strategies for achieving the goals and to provide other opportunities for participants to present issues and concerns that require support and direction as needed.
5. To develop and facilitate a day of reflection for the students that encourages a deeper sense of community and provides an atmosphere for spiritual growth.

Required Texts:

Benner, David G. *Desiring God's Will: Aligning Our Hearts with the Heart of God.* Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2005.

Hauser, Richard J., S.J. *In His Spirit: a Guide to Today's Spirituality.* Mahwah New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1982.

Ford, Michael, Ed. *Eternal Seasons: A Liturgical Journey with Henri J.M. Nouwen.* Notre Dame, IN: Sorin Books, 2004.

OR Keating, Thomas. *The Mystery of Christ: The Liturgy as Spiritual Experience.* New York, NY: Continuum, 2000.

*****Retreat Date to Be Determined*****