

Adult Christian Formation

PST-D510

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2 Credits
Rm 212

Course Description: The course is an introduction to adult development theory as relevant to lifelong growth in Christian faith and the challenge of ongoing conversion. The course will provide the opportunity and experiential process of faith development. These theories, etc. will be examined in light of the principles guiding the progression of initiation and ongoing formation in the Roman Catholic tradition and will be used as a means to examine and critique the various contemporary approaches proposed. The goal of the course is to prepare ministers to facilitate growth toward Christian maturity through all dimensions of the human life cycle; that is, for individual development in the Christian faith and conversion as members of a faith community (parish, campus ministry community, faith groups, etc.). Participants will be asked to critique and correlate their own faith journeys with the theories and principles studied.

Course Objectives:

- To begin to develop in the student an understanding of the role of the minister and the faith community as formators.
- To deepen the students' understanding of faith and conversion as developing realities in the life of the adult Christian; particularly, that it is a lifelong process.
- To familiarize students with theories of adult development in relation to adult ways of faith and moral development.
- To understand Christian mystagogy as a paradigm of adult Christian formation.
- To broaden the students' understanding of the present situation in adult Christian formation programs in parochial and related settings.
- To help the student become more aware of the technique and resources useful to the effective faith formation of adult Christians, especially in the Roman Catholic tradition.
- To enable students to articulate a theology and spirituality of adult Christian formation based on principles found in over two thousand years of the Christian tradition.
- To enable students to minister in multi-cultural situations

Required Texts:

Law, Eric. *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community*. Chalice Press, 1993.

Mongoven, Anne Marie. *The Prophetic Spirit of Catechesis: How We Share the Fire in Our Hearts*. Paulist Press, 1999.

Regan, Jane E. *Toward an Adult Church: A Vision of Faith Formation*. Loyola Press, 2002.

Whitehead, Evelyn and James. *Christian Adulthood: A Journey of Self-Discovery*. Ligouri, 2005.

United State Conference of Catholic Bishops. *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. USCCB, 2006.