Michael Stancil

Course Description: Offered every Fall, this course places students in a field education setting aligned with their professional ministerial interest, for five hours a week, in partnership with a qualified field education supervisor. The SPM student and supervisor jointly structure and evaluate the student's ministry experience and meet biweekly (six-eight times/semester) for theological reflection. In addition, the student participates in a weekly seminar with a member of the field education faculty and other SPM I students. In the seminar, students reflect upon and develop their pastoral leadership abilities through case presentations and discussion on selected readings. An emphasis is placed on basic knowledge and skills needed to successfully enter professional ministry including an awareness of professional ethics and legal concerns, an understanding of community development and dynamics, conflict management, and helping skills.

Prerequisites include: CDS-D500, Proseminar; PST-D500 Foundations of Pastoral & Ethical Care; SPM Orientation Session (offered in Spring); submission of the SPM prerequisite paperwork by May 2, 2013 with subsequent negative findings for the required criminal background screening; and for lay students, FRM-D501, Lay Formation I and FRM-D502, Lay Formation II.

Course Objectives: Supervised Practice of Ministry I aides the student in developing his/her pastoral leadership through offering opportunities:

- to assess one's own strengths and weaknesses as a pastoral leader
- to set goals for one's growth in pastoral leadership
- to work in a ministerial learning environment that will help him/her meet the determined goals
- to theologically reflect on one's experience in ministry with a local supervisor, peers, and field education personnel
- to preach, in the broadest sense of the word
- to receive feedback from others about one's pastoral leadership and, where applicable, one's readiness for professional ministry

Course Format: practicum, case study using theological reflection model, lecture and discussion

Course Requirements:

- negotiation of a ministry site and supervisor before the semester begins
- consistent and active participation in ministry approximately five hrs. per week w/ bi-weekly supervisory appointments
- timely negotiation of the learning contract and evaluation with supervisor
- faithful and active participation in weekly seminars, reflecting an understanding of assigned reading
- satisfactory completion and presentation of a theological case study

Required Texts:

Briggs, Lauren Littauer. The Art of Helping. Colorado Springs: RiverOak Publishing, 2003.

Donovan, Vincent. Christianity Rediscovered. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2003.

Dykstra, Robert C. Images of Pastoral Care: Classic Readings. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2005.

Friedman, Edwin H. A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix. New York: Seabury Books, 2007.

John Paul II, Redemptoris missio [Encyclical letter, 1990]. Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 1990.

Moschella, Mary Clark. Ethnography as a Pastoral Practice. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2008.

Stone, Douglas, Bruce Patton, and Sheila Heen. Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most. New York: Penguin Books, 1999.

Note ~ Familiarity with the following three texts is expected:

Gula, Richard M. Ethics in Pastoral Ministry. Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1996.

Killen, Patricia and John de Beer. The Art of Theological Reflection. New York: Crossroads, 1994.

Whitehead, James and Evelyn Eaton Whitehead. Method in Ministry: Theological Reflection and Christian Ministry. Kansas City: Sheed & Ward, 1995.