

**AQUINAS INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY**  
**Lay Spiritual Formation IV**

FRM D504

1 Credit

**Marian Love**  
**love@ai.edu**  
**314-256-8883**

**Spring 2013**  
**Mondays, 4:20-5:50pm**  
**1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25**  
**3/18, 3/25, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22**

**RETREAT DATE: TBD**

**Course Description:** The focus of Lay Formation IV is dialogue in the areas of interpersonal and communal issues impacting those who lead and minister in the name of the Church. Participants will present and discuss choices and challenges in lay ministry both ecclesial and secular. Reading and reflection will be on major topics concerning the issues of gender, power, lay ecclesial ministry, the spirituality of work and staying centered, stress, burnout, sexuality, conflict and collaboration. Ongoing evaluation of formation goals will be focused on ministry or work beyond Aquinas. Continued emphasis will be placed on challenging and supporting each other in integrating knowledge and experience, spiritual growth, community building and collaboration. Each participant will develop and lead group prayer over the course of the semester, utilize prayers from various faith traditions and attend a one-day retreat.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To present readings focused on spiritual, ecclesial and secular choices and challenges in lay ministry that facilitate personal reflection discussion and deeper understanding and response to these issues as well as deeper integration of theology with personal experience and spirituality.
2. To create an atmosphere for a "wisdom community" in which students can realize the value of having this type of peer support beyond their time at Aquinas.
3. To provide an opportunity to meet with the formation director at least once a semester to review and discuss goal development focused on ministry or work beyond Aquinas and to provide other opportunities for participants to present issues and concerns that require support as needed.
4. To offer the opportunity to lead prayer for others, utilizing prayers from a variety of faith traditions.
5. To develop and facilitate a day of reflection for the students that provides an atmosphere for spiritual growth and encourages a deeper sense of community.

**Required Texts:**

Gula, Richard. *The Way of Goodness and Holiness: A Spirituality for Pastoral Ministers*. Collegeville, MN, Liturgical Press, 2011.

Gallagher, Timothy M. *Discerning the Will of God: An Ignatian Guide to Christian Decision Making*. New York: Crossroad Publishing, 2009.

**Recommended Text:**

Carotta, Catherine Cronin and Michael. *Sustaining the Spirit: Callings, Commitments, & Vocational Challenges*. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2005.