

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION PRACTICUM II & III

Harry Byrne, OP & Marian Love

MIN-D 562/563

2 credits each semester

**Description:** The spiritual direction practicum is a two-semester opportunity for students in the certificate program to engage in spiritual direction under supervision, having as its ultimate goal the discernment of whether each student 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. There are also monthly small group discussions of articles in which specific topics are explored from the perspective of the practical aspects of a spiritual direction.

**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 of spiritual direction.

**Procedure:** There are assigned monthly readings for each class, with topics that complement the ministry of spiritual direction and related subjects with an emphasis on practice. Each intern keeps a log of all spiritual direction sessions, completes a "contemplative reflection" on each session and writes a verbatim once a month. These become the tools for supervision. Before the end of the course each student enters into a formal period of evaluation and discernment of his or her call to be a spiritual director. There will be two 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:** Looking into the Well: Supervision of Spiritual Directors. Maureen Conroy. Loyola University Press, 1995. Students should attempt to read all of this book during the summer before the fall course begins

Each month there will be several required readings which will be available online through E-Reserve at St. Louis University Library.