

PASTORAL THEOLOGY 5576A

2020-2021 Fall

Ethical Issues and Pastoral Ministry

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course aims to heighten students' awareness concerning specific aspects of pastoral ministry in which ethical decision-making is necessary. It serves to facilitate students' integration of their theological and pastoral studies as well as previous pastoral experiences. The course will provide students with foundations, principles and practical resources from which they may make prudent judgments in their ministry and thereby represent Christ and the Church responsibly. The course will highlight effective means of ministering ethically to the needs of individual persons, parish communities and to the minister him/herself.

GOALS:

This course will assist students' growth in the following areas of knowledge, skill and attitudes:

KNOWLEDGE:

- To understand theological foundations (from scripture and church documents) which underpin ethically based practices for decisions of pastoral ministry.
- To gain a base of knowledge regarding ethical principles that inform decision-making and ministry practice in the day-to-day exercise of ministry (i.e. principles regarding: maintaining proper boundaries, the use and limits of confidentiality, collaboration in ministry, conflict resolution methods.)
- To be aware of legal requirements legislated by Church and civil authorities regarding specific aspects of ministry (i.e. confidentiality in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the duty to disclose information about sexual impropriety toward minors, copyright laws)

SKILLS:

- To recognize when proper boundaries are being challenged or violated in circumstances of ministry.
- To develop the skill of dealing with parishioners' projections onto oneself (based on the parishioners' feelings toward God and Church) in a healthy and mature way.
- To perceive challenges to the effectiveness of counseling, such as instances as transference or counter-transference, and to be able to address these appropriately.
- To maintain proper human resources management methods in the workplace (i.e. through proper job postings, development of job descriptions, maintenance of contracts of employees, annual personnel appraisals.)
- To establish norms within one's ministry for the monitoring of parish volunteers (i.e. through proper screening, vulnerable persons checks, ensuring team rather than individual supervision and chaperoning of minors.)
- To be able to respond properly to allegations of sexual harassment in the workplace and allegations of sexual abuse, following proper legal prescriptions and diocesan protocol.
- To facilitate the resolution of inter-personal conflict with others, and to mediate between individuals or groups who are in conflict with one another.
- To develop time management skills which will serve the needs of the community to which one is assigned, as well as the minister's personal needs for health and balance.

ATTITUDES:

- To recognize each person who seeks services in ministry as deserving respect and esteem by virtue of being created in the image and likeness of God.
- To thirst for justice so that no one within his/her community is treated with special preference or consideration because of economic, intellectual, or professional status.
- To accept all persons as ends to be served in themselves, and never to use parishioners as means toward the end of the minister's personal gain, pleasure or advancement.
- To accept that, as a minister, the student has his/her own needs, and should feel comfortable about ensuring that these needs (for rest, relaxation, friendship, and leisure) are cared for - outside of pastoral relationships.
- To desire the maintenance of a healthy workplace, wherein each staff member is supported, appreciated, and given ample opportunity to receive guidance and support in their work.

- To appreciate the calling to be part of a collegiality of ministries, involving others in professional pastoral ministry (i.e. priests, deacons, pastoral ministers, CYM's) as well as the many volunteers who share their expertise, knowledge, and pastoral zeal.

ASSESSMENT:

All assignments are to be submitted via OWL.

CLASS PARTICIPATION - 15%

Students will only gain from the course as much as they contribute to it. It is important for those preparing for ecclesial ministry to develop a common vision and appreciation for ethics in ministry through dialogue. Students therefore are encouraged to openly share their insights and experience with one another.

READING JOURNAL

Due October 30 and December 4- 40%.

Students shall maintain a journal, noting insights gained from the assigned reading materials, together with questions or comments raised by the reading. At two designated dates during the term, these journals shall be submitted for review and grading.

PERSONAL CODE OF ETHICS 45%

Due November 27

As a way for students to personally integrate the many themes discussed in this course, they shall prepare a personal code of ethics (a paper of five to seven pages). This code is to be developed in such a way that it may be used later (during annual retreats or on anniversaries of ordination or mandating for ministry) as a self-reflection and examination of how one has utilized the principles and practices taught in this course during their life and ministry.

Peer Review online until Dec 4

Each Student will review one other Code of Ethic and make comments

REQUIRED READING:

A number of journal articles and excerpts from texts will be assigned weekly to help prepare students' reflection on topics being discussed in each class.

OUTLINE OF CLASS THEMES

SEPTEMBER 11

Overview and expectations of the Course and Reflection on Pastoral Experience

The first document to be read is: Pope Francis'

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2018/documents/papa-francesco_20180820_lettera-popolo-didio.html

SEPTEMBER 18

Theological foundations for Ethical Pastoral Ministry

Protecting Minors 2018, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

SEPTEMBER 25

Honesty and Confidentiality in Ministry

"Keeping and Sharing: Confidentiality in Ministry", C. Lind, Ph.D. The Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling, Spring-Summer 2006.

OCTOBER 2

The Use of Power in the Pastoral Relationship

"The Minister's Congregation: Friend or Foe" Joe E. Trull & James E. Carter. Ministerial Ethics. Moral Formation for Church Leaders

OCTOBER 9

Setting Boundaries: in Counseling and Relationships with Parishioners

"Boundaries in Ministerial Relationships." Paul B. Macke, S.J., D. Min.

OCTOBER 16

The Harm Caused by Sexual Abuse

"The many dimensions of suffering precipitated by the incident of abuse" (Ch. II. ii) Stevan Wlusek. From Darkness into Transforming Light. [On Reserve in Library]

OCTOBER 23

Awareness of and Response to Sexual Harassment

"Truth and Silence: Learning from Abuse." Gill K. Goulding.

OCTOBER 30

Leisure and Entertainment in the life of Ministry

"The Joys and Struggles of Priests across the Lifespan," G. McGlone & F. Ortiz, The Inner Life of Priests

"Physical Health and Self Care," Stephen Rossetti, Why Priests are Happy.

READING JOURNAL PART I DUE: OCTOBER 30, 2020

Contains reference to all of the above

NOVEMBER 6

Reading Week – No Classes

"Dirty Delegation. Refusing to Relax and Let Go." The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make, Hans Finzel

NOVEMBER 13

Stewardship of Parish Resources

A Pastor's Toolbox. Management Skills for Parish Leadership Paul A. Holmes, Ed. read Ch. 7 "Best Practices in Parish Internal Financial Controls"

NOVEMBER 20

Leadership Skills in Families of Parishes I:

Ch. 8 "Fundraising as Christian Stewardship"

NOVEMBER 27

Co-responsible Ministry and the Role of Leadership

Principled Ministry. A Guidebook for Catholic Church Leaders read: Principle 17 to 21, Loughlan Sofield, S.T. and Carroll Juliano, S.H.C.J.

DECEMBER 4

Leadership Skills in Families of Parishes II:

Resolving Conflict and Responsible Pastoral Planning

Ch. 3 "Emerging Parish Structures." The Changing Face of Church. Emerging Models of Parish Leadership. M. R. Jewell & D. A. Ramey

READING JOURNAL (PART II) DUE DECEMBER 4, 2020

MAJOR RESOURCE FOR THOSE TO BE ORDAINED:

The Directory for the Ministry and life of Priest 2013.

http://www.clerus.org/clerus/dati/2013-06/13-13/Direttorio_EN.pdf

UNIVERSITY POLICIES ON WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Policies regarding Submission of Assignments and Tests
 - a. It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments can be completed on time.
 - b. Assignments are to be handed in at the class on the due date. Assignments may not be dropped off at King's or submitted electronically.
 - c. For a serious reason, a student may be granted an extension. On the form provided, the student is to write a brief explanation of the reason for the extension. This is to be signed by the teacher, with the extended date noted. A copy of the extension notice is given to the Dean.
 - d. Any medical reasons will be confirmed by proper documentation as approved by the Dean's Office.
 - e. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.
 - f. No electronic devices will be allowed during tests or the examination, unless approved in advance by Student Services at the University or King's. (This refers to students with disabilities who have permission to use a word processor to write their exams/tests.)
 - g. Students who miss tests will negotiate a "make-up" date with the professor. Any medical reasons will be confirmed by proper documentation as approved by the Dean's Office.
2. Internet References
3. If references are given from Internet sites the exact designation of the site must be given a hard copy of the page from which the quote is taken or to which the reference is made.
4. Academic Offences
 - a. "Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.Pdf>

- b. "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."
- 5. Style

Your assignment style guide is found at

<https://www.stpetersseminary.ca/Resources-/For-Our-Students/Essay-Style-Guide/300>