

7 GREAT REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PROGRAM!

- Nationally-acclaimed instructors for every course
- Integrate key aspects of Christian spirituality into your ministry
- Improve your ministry skills and leadership ability with every course
- Great readings on theology, spiritual growth, psychology, and human development
- Integrate previous ministry studies and/or ministry experiences
- Fulfill professional continuing education requirements
- Acquire a valuable ministry credential from a respected Catholic university

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

Complete all six courses in this program. Each of the six courses in the Certificate curriculum leads to reception of two continuing education credits (two c.e.u.). A total of 12 c.e.u. are required for the Specialized Certificate, granted by the Loyola Pastoral Life Center, a continuing education division of the Institute for Ministry at Loyola University New Orleans.

HOW TO COMPLETE EACH CERTIFICATE COURSE

- Attend class sessions (usually taught over two workshop days)
- Complete a post-class reading assignment
- Complete a brief written response to your reading
- Turn in written work in a timely way to the LPLC

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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1993 - 2003
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS AT LOYOLA

A PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

SPECIALIZED CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

“STRONGER CHURCH
COMMUNITIES
THROUGH CONTINUING
EDUCATION...”

DISTANCE EDUCATION FORMAT



1993 - 2003
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS AT LOYOLA



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY
NEW ORLEANS

INTRODUCTION

The dynamic Specialized Certificate in Christian Spirituality program offers specialty-level continuing education courses, interesting readings, and integrating project work for persons currently engaged in a variety of ministry leadership roles in many kinds of local Christian faith communities—parishes, schools, retreat centers, and other institutions and organizations.

This certificate program leads toward continuing education credit hours (c.e.u.) of specialized- or upper-level ministry studies. Successful completion of all six courses in this program results in the student's reception of the professional ministry credential called the Specialized Certificate in Christian Spirituality from the Loyola Pastoral Life Center (LPLC) of Loyola University New Orleans.

PARTICIPANTS

This study program is ideal for many types of ministry personnel—pastors, pastoral associates, deacons, experienced DREs and ministry coordinators, Catholic school leaders, RCIA team leaders/members, retreat house staffs, religious community members, counselors, and a variety of experienced church volunteers (e.g., parish council members; liturgical ministers; music ministers; small community facilitators; bible study facilitators; adult educators) who have broad leadership responsibilities. Program participants include those looking to gain unique information and skills related to Christian spirituality; to integrate previous ministry studies and ministry experiences; to become updated on current ideas and materials on spirituality; and to integrate new knowledge from the disciplines of theology, spiritual growth, psychology, and human development.

Certificate students—take all six courses, and may begin the Specialized Certificate program with any of the six certificate courses offered at an LPLC extension studies site. Courses are generally offered at each extension location on an ongoing basis.

Non-credit (workshop) participants—anyone who cannot meet the basic enrollment requirements (below) may take part in any course as a non-credit, workshop participant.

WHO SHOULD ENROLL?

Admission to the Certificate program requires one of the following:

- A master's degree in pastoral studies, theology, religious studies, religious education, spirituality, divinity, or a closely related field;
- A bachelor's degree, plus three years of leadership-level experience in local faith communities;
- No academic degree, but five years of leadership-level experience in local faith communities;
- A certificate awarded by the LIM on-campus or the LIMEX programs of Loyola University New Orleans.

Applications for enrollment are evaluated in light of the academic expectations placed on adult continuing education students by Loyola University New Orleans.

Christian Spirituality Through the Ages

This course provides an overview of the major periods and key movements throughout the history of Christian spirituality, from its foundations in Hebrew and Christian Scriptures to modern, holistic spiritual themes and modern spiritual literature. The course will also identify the questions and concerns that have appeared time after time, through the ages, and that have shaped the human quest for the meaning of life and for relationship with its Creator.

Spirituality, Prayer, and Everyday Life

Participants learn about the nature and purposes of prayer, and the dynamic relationship between prayer and spirituality. Particular attention will be paid to various forms of personal prayer and communal prayer, including liturgical prayer and liturgical spirituality. Reflection on the effects of traditional and non-traditional prayer forms on an individual's personal and spiritual wellness, as well as the overall spiritual health of the Christian community, will be included.

Discernment Skills for Christian Life and Ministry

During this course, participants examine the relationship between spirituality and the process of discernment. They will be introduced to discernment as a form of spiritual insight—i.e., a conscious, interior experience of God's Spirit—that leads individuals and communities to choices and decisions that are in harmony with Christian life, mission, and values. Guidelines for the discernment of spirits, based on the teachings of St. Ignatius Loyola, will then be considered as will the critical lifeskills of Christian conscience formation, spiritually prudent decision-making, and witness to gospel values in the world.

Spiritual Companionship: Methods and Approaches

The practice of becoming a spiritual companion, or soul-friend, is ancient and valuable—with roots that stretch to the monastic period of Christian history. The phrase “spiritual companionship” implies mutuality and sharing, among peers, based on attentive listening, co-journeying on the paths of life and spiritual-growth, shared prayer, spiritual disciplines, active dialogue on moral and ethical issues, and personal presence during key life moments (e.g., experiences of loss/grief; changes in work or vocation; family changes; other key life-transitions). In this course, contemporary models of spiritual companionship will be examined and discussed. Distinctions between companioning, spiritual direction, mentoring, and the counseling process will be explored.

Spirituality, Discipleship, and Justice

Participants reflect on the challenges associated with linking Christian spirituality and discipleship with the gospel call to justice, action, and peace-making. Essential church teachings and church documents, on personal and social justice and Christian social responsibility—particularly to the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed, will be examined and discussed. Practical implications for daily spiritual life, plus models for individual and corporate social action, will be considered.

Emerging Forms of Christian Spirituality

This course presents an overview of a variety of emerging forms of Christian spirituality, some traditional and some non-traditional—and some of which are being actively reclaimed and re-interpreted today from church history. With each form of spirituality examined, a discussion on the practical issues and implications, for the individual believer and for the communal life of the church, will be undertaken.

