Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The Marian University Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry program requires completion of 10 didactic classes, two leadership seminars, and two supervised ministry experiences. Over the course of two years of full-time study, students will complete the courses as a cohort, which adds to the learning experience.

**THL 500**
Pastoral Ministry Experience I
2 credits
The purpose of the first semester of the ministry experience during the second year of coursework is to provide time for the student and supervisor to determine goals for the semester and collaborate on the development of a ministry project. The student will implement the project in the second semester. In addition, this first semester of the ministry experience is to provide opportunities for honing leadership skills and observing best practices for pastoral ministers.

**THL 501**
Pastoral Ministry Experience II
2 credits
The purpose of the second semester during the second year of coursework is to implement and evaluate the ministry project and then write a report. In addition, the student will have other opportunities to engage actively and independently in ministry under the ministry supervisor.

**THL 502**
Pastoral Leadership Skills Seminar
1 credit
Students will be provided reading material on various ways to develop as a transformative leader. Pastoral Ministry practitioners will lead discussions and provide opportunities to hone pastoral skills.

**THL 503**
Organization Leadership Skills
1 credit
Students will be provided reading material on various ways to develop their organization skills necessary for successful pastoral leadership. Experts in various fields, such as business, technology, communication, community organizing will provide information and guidance in developing organization skills.

**THL 504**
Discipleship in the Gospels
3 credits
This course is an introduction to the canonical gospels that examines their genre, literary portraits of the disciples, and theological messages about discipleship.

**THL 520**
Organization Leadership Skills
1 credit
This course introduces students to the history, theology, and practice of the Roman Catholic Sunday celebration of the Eucharist as it is celebrated in the context of the Liturgical Year. Throughout the course, students will gain familiarity with the texts, ritual forms, and theological content of the Eucharist. Students will consider how the Eucharist, particularly as celebrated within the context of the Mass and Liturgical Year, provides a foundation and framework for the Eucharist to be understood as the summit and fount of Christian life.

**THL 550**
Christian Spirituality
3 credits
This course introduces students to key aspects of the history, theology, and practice of Spirituality in the Christian tradition. Spirituality will be discussed by drawing on resources from Scripture, Christian history, and Christian writings, not only from Roman Catholic, but also from Protestant and Eastern orthodox perspectives. Spirituality’s role in social and personal transformation, and its role in the development and interpretation of spiritual practices for the minister and the Christian community, will be explored. Special attention will be given to Liturgical Spirituality and Biblical Spirituality, with opportunities to explore specific spiritual traditions, such as Benedictine, Franciscan, Ignatian, etc. as possible spiritual practices in a Pastoral Ministry context.
THL 570
Ministry in a Multicultural Church
3 credits
This course will explore culture contexts in which pastoral ministry occurs in the 21st century North America. Particular attention will be given to the pastoral needs and spiritual practices of cultures and people generically described as Hispanic, Asian, African, and Refugees. Documents from the U.S.C.C.B. will be utilized as primary sources of study. Opportunities will be scheduled to discuss and engage pastoral issues with individuals who describe themselves as native to these cultures.

THL 600
Christian Life is Trinitarian Life
3 credits
This course guides students to deepen their understanding of the Trinity so they are more intentional in their witness to Christian life as Trinitarian life. It proposes a critical and constructive reflection on the nature of the Triune God in ways that are relevant and applicable to life in a contemporary society.

THL 625
The Psalms: Prayer Book of the Bible and the Church
3 credits
This course explores how each of the five books in Psalms contributes to the whole book’s message, examines how Psalms’ portrait of God is developed in the New Testament, and traces how Psalms’ potential for shaping prayer and righteous living is activated in other books of the Old and New Testaments.

THL 635
Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation
3 credits
This course examines a variety of social justice and ecological issues including state-enacted warfare, ethnic and religious conflicts, gender struggles, and environmental conservation. Church documents will be central to a study of these issues, with careful attention to Catholic approaches to peacemaking, reconciliation, and stewardship.

THL 645
Liturgical Theology and Catechesis
3 credits
This course examines a method of liturgical theology using the RCIA and select sacramental rites. The course will focus on liturgical theology as content for ongoing evangelization and catechesis. Methods for preparing, celebrating, and reflecting (mystagogy) upon sacramental experiences will be considered with an emphasis on the celebrations as a participation in the Paschal Mystery. The liturgical rites provide the foundational content for these catechetical methods.

THL 660
Church History: Context
3 credits
This course surveys key developments in Church history from the First Century through the Second Vatican Council, by contextualizing the history of the Church within its social, cultural, and political milieu. Particular attention will be devoted to significant moments in which Christian identity is affirmed, delineated, and divided, particularly through the Ecumenical Councils (e.g., Nicaea, Chalcedon), the Great Schism, the Reformation, the Council of Trent, and the Second Vatican Council. This course will explore the impact of history on the contemporary Church, and introduce students to a critical reading of history, which takes into account socio-historical contexts.

Find out what we’re made of!
Contact us:
Program questions
Sr. Margaret Schreiber
mschreiber@marian.edu or 317.955.6557

Admission questions
GRadmissions@marian.edu or 317.955.6128

Apply online: marian.edu/applynow