

REQUIRED COURSES For the Certificate in Pastoral Ministry

The Required Courses for the Certificate in Pastoral Ministry are listed below. We strongly recommend beginning with **E 10 - Orientation to Ministry**. The remainder of the Foundation and Skills Courses can be taken in any order. The Final Capstone Requirements, however, do require the completion of all prior course work.

Foundation Courses

- A 10 Introduction to Scripture**
- C 10 Introduction to Catholic Theology**
- C 14 Introduction to Moral Theology**
- C 17 Church and Sacraments**
- E 10 Orientation to Ministry**

Pastoral Skills Courses

- E 24 Introduction to Pastoral Skills**
- E 25 Parish Processes**
- E 26 Visitation and Pastoral Care**
- E 55 Prayer and Liturgical Leadership**

Final Capstone Requirements

- F 1 Theological Reflection**
- F 12 Practicum for Pastoral Ministry**

For More Information, Please Contact

Charmel Trinidad , Director of Admissions
585-271-3657, x 289 or
email her at ctrinidad@stbernards.edu
or

Rev. George Heyman, Director of Certification
585-271-3657 x 292 or
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The Certificate in Pastoral Ministry

Program and Course Descriptions



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The Certificate in Pastoral Ministry



St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry, in conjunction with the Diocesan Departments of Human Resources and Evangelization and Catechesis, is proud to offer a series of courses equipping men and women with the specific skills needed to become pastoral ministers within the Diocese of Rochester.

The focus of this Certificate is to introduce the student to (a) the idea of *ministry* within the Church today and (b) to equip the student with the basic knowledge and skill-level needed to engage in pastoral ministry in the contemporary parish/faith community.

While the needs of individual parishes will vary, this course of study envisions both classroom work as well as an on-site *Practicum* training. Each student will be able to study and engage in the decidedly complex, yet highly energized, environment of day-to-day parish ministry.

Lay ministry is essential for the life of any Roman Catholic faith community today. Equipping men and women with the broad knowledge required for the task of ministry in the Church is the goal of the Certificate Program at St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q.** Are there prerequisites for this Certificate?
- A.** Yes. You must be an active member of a faith community and have the support of your pastoral leader.
- Q.** Do I need to have a college degree?
- A.** No, this Certificate does not require a College degree. However, there will be a significant amount of reading and writing required to pass each of the courses.
- Q.** How do I obtain a Certificate?
- A.** In order to obtain a Certificate you must first be matriculated into the program. For information about enrollment, please contact Charmel Trinidad, the Director of Admissions. You can reach her by phone: 585-271-3657, extension 289, or by e-mail: ctrinidad@stbernards.edu
- Q.** What costs are involved in obtaining the Certificate?
- A.** The fee for each individual course is \$100.
- Q.** How many courses are required for the Certificate in Pastoral Ministry?
- A.** There are 11 courses required. These courses will be offered sequentially over a two-year period. The curriculum was designed with the expectation that students could complete all the required courses within that time-frame.
- Q.** I have considerable previous experience in one or more of the areas listed; is there any *Advanced Standing* granted in lieu of course work?
- A.** Yes. In consultation with the Director of the Certification, *Advanced Standing* may be possible for some students.
- Q.** What is involved in the *Practicum*?
- A.** The *Practicum* is a type of mentoring experience which takes place *in the field*. Students will be paired with an individual who is currently engaged in full time Pastoral Ministry. In consultation with the mentor, the student will be supervised throughout a mutually agreed upon ministerial activity. Students will register for the *Practicum* as they would for any other course. *Advanced Standing* may be available for those who have been (or are already) employed in a Roman Catholic faith community.
- Q.** Will this Certificate qualify me for a job within the Diocese of Rochester?
- A.** The Pastoral Leader of each faith community, in consultation with the Diocesan Human Resources Department, hires all parish personnel. While a Certificate cannot guarantee job placement, it will attest to an individual's qualifications, should such an opportunity become available. For those already engaged in Pastoral Ministry, it will certify that they have completed an extensive course of study and field work.

