

Beloved Disciple Seminary



*“Scholarship of the
Head but also of the
heart ...”*

2011 -2012

Seminary Programs Academic Catalog

Beloved Disciple Seminary
1300-G El Paseo Blvd. Ste 187
Las Cruces, NM 88001
E-Mail: info@beloved-disciple.org
Website: www.beloved-disciple.org

Seminary Coat-Of-Arms

On 1st August 2010, the Seminary officially launched its Coat of Arms. With its symbolic elements, the Coat of Arms, serves as an expression of what the Seminary stands for, as well as a reminder to the Community of its identity. Below are the explanations of the various elements that make up the Coat of Arms.



Meaning

Shield	the “armour of God” (Eph 6:11-15) in our walk in The Most Holy’s righteous ways as outlined in the seminary’s core values and to be ever-ready in the service of the Divine.
Wheat Stalks and Grape Vines	the Eucharistic spirituality of the seminary which aspires to form men and women who are passionately in love with the Sacramental Mysteries, inclusive of the Eucharist.

Dove	the centrality of the Holy Spirit who is the principal formator in seminary formation and who guides, protects and breathes life in the church
Quarter Symbols	<p>the symbols of the four evangelists which originate from the four "living creatures" that draw the throne-chariot of God, the Merkabah, in the vision in the Book of Ezekiel (Chapter 1) reflected in the Book of Revelation (4.6-9ff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Matthew, the author of the 1st Canonical account is symbolized by a winged man, or angel. Matthew's gospel starts with Jesus' genealogy from Abraham; it represents Jesus' Incarnation, and so Christ's humanity. ▪ Mark, the author of the second Canonical gospel account is symbolized by a winged lion - a figure of courage and monarchy. Mark references John the Baptist preaching "like a lion roaring" at the beginning of his Gospel. It also represents Jesus' Resurrection (because lions were believed to sleep with open eyes, a comparison with Christ in the tomb), and Christ as king ▪ Luke, the author of the third Canonical gospel account (and the Acts of the Apostles) is symbolized by a winged ox or bull - a figure of sacrifice, service and strength. Luke's account begins with the duties of Zacharias in the temple; it represents Jesus' sacrifice in His Passion and Crucifixion, as well as Christ being High priest (this also represents Mary's obedience). ▪ John, the author of the fourth Canonical gospel account is symbolized by an eagle - a figure of the sky, and believed to be able to look straight into the sun. John starts with an eternal overview of Jesus the Logos and goes on to describe many things with a "higher" level than the synoptic gospels; it represents Jesus' Ascension, and Christ's divine nature.

Cross as Rene Guénon pointed out, the cross is one of the most universal of all symbols and is far from belonging to Christianity alone. While studying scripture, vivid symbols are necessarily pressed into service as reference points-how else could the mind ascend the ladder of analogy to pure intellection? The cross also represents the nature of initiation and Spiritual Realization.

Rose our aspiration to become compassionate leaders after the heart of Christ. Early Christians identified the five petals of the rose with the five wounds of Christ. Since the earliest times, the rose has been an emblem of silence. The rose also symbolizes our communion with the Bishop and the Magisterium.

Banner with
“Learn from me” The banner summarizes the motto of the seminary which is derived from Matthew 11:29 “ take up my yoke upon you, and learn from me, because I am meek and humble ... *tollite iugum meum super vos et discite a me quia mitis sum et humilis corde ...*”

Tinctures and Stains

Purple (Purpore) Represents the steadfastness and the royalty of priesthood. Purple originally described the dyestuff obtained from sea snails of the species *Murex brandaris* (commonly called dye murex). The dyestuff, and cloths dyed with it, were known as *purpura*, in Latin, which in turn was derived from *porphura* (porfura), a Greek word of Phoenician origin which described the shellfish and its dye. The precise color of the dye is no longer known, but it seems that it may have varied; what it was most prized for was that it was the only color-fast dye known to the ancient world. It is especially associated with the imperial dignity

Gold (Or)	Signify the generosity.
Red (Gules)	represents life and vitality.
Green (vert)	Hope, loyalty, love
Tenne (Tawny)	Worthwhile Ambition
Maroon (Murrey)	Maroon stain is thought to have come from mulberries. Mulberries do not bud until all danger of frost is past, and so they symbolize calculated patience. When they do produce buds, it happens so quickly that it seems to occur overnight, displaying and thus symbolizing expediency and wisdom. For all these attributes, the ancient Greeks dedicated the plant to the goddess of wisdom, Athena. The sun in Chinese legend is represented by the three-legged Sun Bird. This bird resides in the eastern sea, atop a magnificent mulberry tree. This tree is said to be the link between earth and the eastern heaven.

Blazon:

Escutcheon classic, murrey, on a cross or surmounted by a rose gules barbed vert and seeded argent proper, quartered: Symbols of the four Evangelists, viz. an Eagle, Angel, Lion, and Bull, displayed argent, crest a dove argent, supporters: dexter, 3 garbs or dexter, grape vine 3 clusters grapes purple barbed vert, motto: *Discite a Me*

Mission Statement

The Beloved Disciple Seminary is a chartered ministry of the Contemporary Catholic Church, preparing students for ordained service and lay leadership within the Independent Catholic community..

The Beloved Disciple Seminary serves Christ, his Church, and the world through contemporary theological education, research, and scholarship, and the promotion of ecumenical cooperation.

In this way, the Seminary prepares students for ministry as bishops, priests, deacons, lay leaders, and scholars who are best able to care for those in need.

Vision Statement

With God's help and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the seminary aspires to be the premier center of Contemporary Catholic scholarship and pastoral education and to operate as an exemplary spiritual institution.

Our vision is to be a community for formation and leadership within the church supported by a strength of program, and an environment that assures excellence in theological and pastoral education .

Values Statement

In every aspect of its life and work, the seminary is guided by the following principles and values:

- To take a holistic approach to theological education and spiritual formation—integrating study, work, worship, and personal discipline;
- To manifest Christian love, service, worship, and learning in the life of the seminary community;

- To provide a hospitable community life that embraces diversity and ensures that all voices are heard.
 - To encourage a collaborative learning environment that values each student's expertise, promotes mutual inquiry, and builds on structured common experiences. .
- To develop effective servant leaders who practice integrity and who are advocates for ministries that transform lives.
- To be open, transparent, and responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us
- To undertake our work together through a process of intentional consultation,
 - shared governance, and consensus-building;
- To encourage every member of the seminary community to be a full and active participant in the seminary's mission;
- To expect all members of the seminary community to hold the highest standards of professional ethics and personal integrity;
- To aspire to excellence through continuous and ongoing improvement;
- To be committed to fairness, respect, and hospitality for all members of the seminary community.and do our best to correct them.
- To provide exceptional preparation for ministry through rigorous study and the practice of compassion
- To facilitate spiritual formation in a Contemporary Catholic tradition that nourishes a rule of life rooted in worship, prayer, study, creativity, and service.

Our purpose is to foster ministers who are faithful, imaginative, and skilled. As human beings, we acknowledge that we will inevitably fall short of these high ideals, yet, as Christians, we will constantly seek forgiveness for our mistakes

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Coat of Arms	2
Mission Statement.....	6
Vision Statement.....	6
Values Statement.....	6
Course Descriptions.....	9
INT Introductory Courses.....	9
MT Mysticism Courses.....	10
SP Spiritual Studies.....	11
TH Theology.....	13
LT Liturgical Studies.....	16
BI Bible and Scripture Studies.....	18
MI Ministry.....	21
HT History of Religion.....	22
PR Practicum/Field Study.....	23
IS Independent Study.....	24
Program of Formation.....	24
Administration Contact Information.....	30
Affiliation.....	31

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The Beloved Disciple Seminary has identified the following courses to holistically support the development of the knowledge, skills, and experiences that allow our students to meet our institutional learning outcomes.

INT Introductory Courses

100 Introduction to the CCC

This course serves as an orientation to the Contemporary Catholic Church as an Independent Catholic rite, including philosophy and discussion of its approach to spirituality.

101 Into to Sacred Psychology

This course in offers you: an opportunity to grow and learn more about yourself; the ability to take positive action based on self knowledge; a clearer connection to the transpersonal realms of soul and spirit; ways of grounding creative energies and offers you assistance in manifesting who you are and what you want to be in life. In it, you will explore your inner life and interpersonal relations, the “whole person” that is composed of the personality plus our connection to the divine, whether that is seen as some outside energy or ultimately within us. Through one's own personal self-exploration, religious and spiritual development are traced through the life span and are examined as a technique for personal, spiritual and pastoral growth. As T.S. Elliot wrote: We shall not cease from exploration / And the end of all our exploring / Shall be to arrive where we started / And know the place for the first time.

110 Grail Mythology

A survey course of the most important Grail literature and the exploration of the Holy Grail's spiritual meanings. The importance of symbol and metaphor is directly examined in this course.

140 Intro to Christianity & the Media

This course examines the role of the media, how Christianity has been portrayed, and the role of television and radio evangelism. This course includes a practical exploration of sites on the world wide web, and how the Internet can be used to expand one's knowledge of Catholicism and issues facing modern clergy.

180 Intro to Symbolism

This is an introductory course which explores the basic concept of symbols and how they've been used throughout history. The student will examine symbols which have found universal meaning as well as the diversity of interpretation

MT Mysticism Courses

100 Intro to Mysticism

This is a survey course in mysticism and how it is expressed in different cultures and religions. Course will include study of the mystics of the Middle Ages and their writings, with particular emphasis on women mystics.

110 Intro to Jewish Mysticism

This course introduces the student to Jewish Mysticism, a tradition that goes back to the time before Jesus of Nazareth. The student will gain an appreciation of this uniquely Jewish approach to spirituality, and how it directly influenced Christianity.

120 Intro to Christian Mysticism

This course introduces the student to Christian Mysticism which is intricately interwoven within the fabric of Christianity. Through this course the student will gain an increased ability to explore the depths of the Christian mysteries

SP Spiritual Studies

101 Sacred Art

This course examines the role of art throughout various cultures and historical periods in expressing our search for understanding of deity

110 Mystic Poetry & Prose

Because poetry speaks to the soul, bypassing the intellect, a review of mystical poetry is essential. Particular attention will be paid to how poetry and religious prose can be used to enhance the personal experience with the Divine

115 Poetry: Sacred & Secular

In this course students will examine how poets across the centuries have articulated their understanding of and relationship with God. We will consider the purpose and language of poetry, examine poetic techniques, and reflect on the connections between secular and sacred in poetry throughout the ages. In addition, we will examine the Psalms (King James and Modern translations), the Canon of St Andrew of Crete, and the Paschal Lamentations as poetry.

120 The Divine Feminine

The feminine aspect of spirituality and the divine, as well as the religious role of women is investigated in this course. Particular emphasis will be placed Holy Sophia and on women leaders, such as Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus, Julian of Norwich, and St. Theresa of Avila

130 Jungian Spirituality

This course introduces the basics of Jungian psychology as they relate to spirituality.

140 The Women Around Jesus

Throughout ages, there have been varied interpretations of the women who surrounded Jesus --- Mary, his mother, Mary Magdalene, St. Martha, and others. This course examines their roles in light of current understanding of the period and women's ministry.

141 British Saints

This survey course examines numerous saints from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Particular emphasis is placed on study of the Saints associated with places such as Glastonbury, Canterbury, Iona and Lindesfarne,

142 Holy Fools in Christian Religious & Cultural Traditions

Holy foolishness, or foolishness for Christ's sake, a peculiar form of Christian asceticism, will be at the focus of our attention. We will examine different types of holy foolishness in Early, Eastern and Western Christianity to establish their cultural bearings. Concepts under discussion will include asceticism; sanctity; heresy; canonization; hagiography.

150 King Solomon's Temple

Solomon's Temple was built in answer to a need of a sacred place of worship. This course is designed to bring a better understanding of the Temple, and of its spiritual meaning

160 Hagiography

A survey of various methodologies and skills employed by theologians in the development and expression of the Christian faith. The traditional "sources" of theology will be explored as a basis for the development of theological thought. Special attention will be paid to the "living witnesses" of the Church, the saints, martyrs and theologians as sources of theology. Familiarizes the student with basic doctrine regarding the Communion of Saints as well as an understanding of the Saints' lives, roles and teachings. The student will be readily able to identify the Saints' roles within the formation and evolution of the Church and understand the gifts, teachings and legacy of the Saints. The student will develop devotion to the Communion of Saints as a means of finding and securing additional Grace, thus further enhancing his/her spiritual development

170 Ethics and Morality

This course examines basic ethical concepts and the issues with which ethics is concerned. Particular attention is focused on Social Justice.

190 Black Madonnas

Few icons have captured the imagination of the public in the way that Black Madonnas have. This course examines the history and meaning behind these illusive images.

200 Erotica Judaica

This course examines the effect of Jewish erotic mores (both conventional and unconventional, individual and collective) in the light of historical events, and also to observe those non-Judaic forces which influenced the behavior of Zion.

210 Ritual & Drama in the Mediaeval Theatre

This course introduces the student to the symbols and the meanings of symbols discovered in throughout the Jewish world of antiquity.

240 Jewish Symbols in the Greco-Roman Period

This course introduces the student to the symbols and the meanings of symbols discovered in throughout the Jewish world of antiquity.

TH Theology

100 Theology of the Divine Office

This course explores public and private prayer; systems of prayer in the New Testament and post-apostolic ages. The student will study various prayers, and will discover how & why to pray, how to meditate, and the differences between prayer, meditation, and contemplation.

110 Theology of the Sacramental Mysteries

A general introduction to the system of seven sacramental mysteries. The development of the technical terms "sacramentum" and "mysterion." The historical development of a system of seven sacraments, the theology of the sacramental mysteries: the centrality of the Paschal mystery; Christ as "the sacrament"; the centrality of the eucharist and its relationship to the other sacraments; the ritual of sacramental mystery.

- 120 Theology of the Sacramental Mysteries of Initiation
A description and explanation of the order for the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation/Chrismation and Eucharist . The scriptural origins of the rites of baptism, anointing and associated initiation rites. The historical development and theology of initiation, the catechumenate, and the rites of churching.
- 130 Sacramental Mysteries of Penitential Mysteries
A description and explanation of the rites of Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Monastic Profession and Funerals. The scriptural origins of the Sacramental Mysteries. The historical development of monasticism and the ascetical life. The theology and history of the sacramental mysteries of Penance and Anointing of the Sick. The hearing of confessions: pastoral and moral questions.
- 140 Sacramental Mysteries of Vocation
The theology of marriage in the Catholic Churches. Christian marriage sealed by the Eucharist. Early home rituals and paternal blessing. Ecclesiastical blessing in Church. Rites of betrothal. Second marriages. Matrimonial law and liturgical practices. Weddings in Western society. The theology of Orders in the Church. The variety of ministries in the early Church. A three-fold mystery of service in the New Testament and the development of the structure of bishop, presbyter, deacon. The functions of each order. The vestments of office and honorary titles. The monastic consecration and the place of monasticism in the Christian community.
- 150 Exorcism & Traditional Healing Systems
This course introduces spiritual healing, both sacramental and charismatic, as well as the techniques of spiritual healing. The student will actively examine how exorcism and other forms of traditional healing fit into a modern ministry
- 160 The Eucharist
This course traces the development of the liturgy of the Eucharistic rite from its inception to the present.
- 170 Holy Sophia
Seminarians will explore the concepts of Sophia as a philosophical concept regarding wisdom, as well as a theological concept regarding the wisdom of God.

180 The Creed: We Believe

The purpose of this course is to explore the basic teachings of Christianity as presented in the Church's two classic confessional statements: the Ecumenical Creed promulgated by the Council of Constantinople in 381 A.D., known as the Nicene Creed, and the Apostles' Creed whose roots can be traced back to ancient Rome. The Creed provides a structure for investigating the foundational beliefs of the Catholic Church and the areas of theology that correspond to those beliefs. Participants in the course will gain knowledge of the history and development of the Church's beliefs. They will also obtain a deeper understanding of what we are professing and how the faith stated in the Creed both informs and challenges living the Christian life today.

190 Ignatian Spirituality: The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius

The Spiritual Exercises grew out of Ignatius Loyola's personal experience as a man seeking to grow in union with God and to discern God's will. He kept a journal as he gained spiritual insight and deepened his spiritual experience. He added to these notes as he directed other people and discovered what "worked." Eventually Ignatius gathered these prayers, meditations, reflections, and directions into a carefully designed framework of a retreat, which he called "spiritual exercises." This course will examine the exercises as a modern vehicle for understanding our relationship with the Most Holy.

200 Issues in Modern Theology

This course examines issues in feminist theology, liberation theology, creation theology, and ecological Christology

220 Conversations with Christian Philosophers

The student will conduct research which will allow them to develop a "conversation" with Christian philosophers, as an exploration of how time-honored concepts and philosophies continue have meaning in our modern society.

230 Modern Influential Theologies: Karl Rahner & Paul Tillich

Paul Tillich and Karl Rahner were Christian theologians who thought out of a modern perspective -- transcendental, existential, and historical -- drawing on Kant and Heidegger. Tillich was concerned that theology be systematic in the modern philosophical understanding of that term and as

a correlation of revelation with contemporary life; Rahner developed theology around the active human personality in order to explain Christianity to people today. Both have influenced several generations of theologians and are still widely studied. This course focuses on their understanding of revelation and grace, and particularly on their theologies of the church and of world religions.

231 Modern Influential Theologies: Dorothy Day & Thomas Merton
Dorothy Day (1897-1980), co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, and Thomas Merton (1915-1968), Trappist monk at the Abbey of Gethsemani near Bardstown, Kentucky, were two outstanding 20th-century Catholics whose lives and teaching are a testament to the action of grace in the Christian life and to the self-implicating nature of Christian spirituality. Day and Merton were deeply committed to the Christian tradition from which they drew guidance and strength, insight and wisdom. On the other hand, Day and Merton challenged Catholicism, and American Christianity, through their writing and actions. In studying the life and writings of Day and Merton, students in this course will engage in a critical examination of key elements of Catholic/Christian life and teaching. Day and Merton raise important questions concerning personal vocation and religious conversion, war and peace, the role of contemplation and asceticism in modern life, Christian activism, racial justice, the relationship of the gospel to capitalism, the influence of women and the laity in the Church, and, in Merton's case, the opening of Christianity to the religious wisdom of Asia. In studying Day and Merton, participants will attend to the transformative effects that one intelligent and committed life can have on a religious tradition.

370 Systematic Theology

The Mystery of Christ. This course will examine various aspects pertaining to the mystery of Christ, as developed in the book of that title by Fr John Behr. Students will be expected to think critically about the issues raised in the book and draw upon wider resources..

LT Liturgical Studies

110 Intro to Liturgy

A detailed description of the Divine Liturgy and an overview of the other liturgical rites of the Catholic Church. The history of

the development of the Divine Liturgy and of the system of seven sacramental mysteries. In each area, an explanation of the liturgical vocabulary and technical terms. Students will also examine certain liturgical services and hymns as expressions of theology. The relationship between theology and worship will be emphasized.

210 Creative Liturgy

The student will explore and develop alternative approaches to liturgical experiences using multi-media expressions of the Divine experience.

220 Science of the Sacraments

An examination of Liturgy as presented by Bishop Charles.W. Leadbeater in his book of the same title.

230 Liturgical Art

Iconography within the Context of Worship. The task of iconology, the theology of iconography, is to understand why visual imagery is meaningful, a revelation of the Word of God, worthy of veneration and essential in our prayer life. This course is an introduction to how this visual language works: how to “read” its basic elements of image, figure, and compositional values, and thus how to know what is “good” and “bad” iconography. Students will become familiar with the major iconographic themes and types, examine the close link between iconography, visual style, and verbal rhetoric, and finally understand how the visual context in our worship communicates meaning.

240 Liturgical Theology: Divine Liturgy

The Divine Liturgy Yesterday and Today. This course is an historical survey of the Eucharistic liturgy, with particular emphasis on how the liturgy has changed and on the pastoral effects of these changes. We will examine the roles of the celebrant, the choir or cantor, the laity, and reflect upon the contemporary pastoral connection of the Eucharist with other sacraments and the dilemma of liturgical reform.

250 Liturgical Theology: Early Christian Worship

Early Christian Worship. This is a seminar on the early development of liturgy, based on the chief documents of the

period: the *Didache*, *Apostolic Tradition*, *Didascalia*, *Apostolic Constitutions*, Egeria, the mystagogical catecheses, etc

BI Bible and Scripture Studies

101 The Pentateuch

An introduction to the first five books of the Old Testament and their development from hypothetical oral, written and editorial stages to canonical status. Special attention will be given to the interpretation of key passages and themes.

102 The Historical and Prophetic Books

The institution of prophecy and the persons, ministries and messages of the individual prophets will be examined against the background of their historical context. Special attention will be given to the moral message of the prophets, to the problems of Messianism and Messianic prophecy.

103 Wisdom Literature and the Psalms

An introduction to the concepts and contexts of "wisdom" in the Old Testament and an overview of the key forms and themes of the Psalter. Through a cursive reading of the biblical texts, the seminarian will gain familiarity with the individual books in their entirety. The course will concentrate on exegesis of key passages. The history of interpretation of the Psalms and the Wisdom books by Judaism, the early Fathers of liturgical tradition will be considered and influential texts will be followed into the New Testament and the history of dogma. Methodology will be demonstrated and a pastoral application of the Wisdom books and the Psalms will be kept in view.

105 The Dead Sea Scrolls & Ancient Manuscripts

This course will introduce seminarians to the Dead Sea Scrolls and Gnostic Gospels. Given the recent discoveries of the "Dead Sea Scrolls" & the Gnostic Gospels of Nag Hammadi far more has been discovered about the earliest days of Christianity in this century than in all the years previous. And what is becoming more and more clear from these discoveries is that the original message of *Christ* differed sharply from the official doctrines later adopted by the church. Students will also study

Apocryphal texts such as The Book of Enoch and the Book of the Bees.

110 Synoptic Gospels

An introduction to the common sources, development and individual characteristics of the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark and Luke. In addition to exegesis of key passages and exploration of overriding themes, this course will demonstrate the principles and practices of New Testament source, tradition and redaction criticism.

115 What About John 1:1?

Students will examine the prologues of John with particular emphasis on theological interpretations that have evolved over the years. They will also look at both the Greek and Hebrew concepts of “word,” in light of John’s use of “logos” in Greek and Hebrew thought.

120 The Pauline Corpus

Through cursive reading and selected exegesis of important passages in the letters of St. Paul, this course will examine Pauline thought on Christology, Ecclesiology, Grace, Human Nature, the Cross, Apostolic Ministry, Judaism, Salvation and Eschatology. Historical questions of authorship will also be treated, as will the particular context and audience of each letter.

130 Apostolic Writings

This course treats the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles of Peter, Jude and James, the Epistle to the Hebrews and the Book of Revelation. It addresses questions of authorship, context and literary form and attempts to trace emergent themes in the life and theology of the apostolic churches. Special attention is given to re-readings of the Old Testament and to the eschatological vision of Revelation

140 The Gospel and the Letters of John

A cursive reading with exegesis of selected passages in the Gospel of John. The particular theology of the 4th Gospel will be examined and its relationship to the Synoptics will be explored. Special emphasis will be given to Johannine use of the Old Testament. Major Johannine themes will be traced in the Letters. Historical questions of authorship, audience, context and composition will be considered.

160 Homiletics

This introductory course will explore basic concepts including a theology of preaching, rhetoric, homily preparation and delivery, occasion and audience. Emphasis will be on preaching at the Sunday Divine Liturgy. This course investigates the fundamentals of biblical interpretation, exegesis, and hermeneutics, the principles of interpretation. Examples of homilies from patristic and contemporary sources will be examined. Each participant will prepare and deliver several homilies.

200 Christian Symbolism

The Christian experience is rich in symbolism. The student will explore how symbols have been used to communicate the message of Jesus to the inner consciousness of His followers

201 Romance in the Bible

Students of the Bible are often surprised to discover the myriad of relationships that are portrayed in the sacred text. This course provides the student with an alternative approach to Bible Study---that being through the passionate relationships of men and women

210 The Bible as Literature

The Bible has influenced writers throughout history. This course examines the literary value and significance of the Bible on literature from the Elizabethan period to the present.

220 Biblical Allegory versus History

Current archeological evidence often is at odds with the historical records in the Bible. This course examines the allegorical understanding of biblical symbolism in light of this research.

240 The Song of Solomon

Few passages of the Bible have been as hotly debated as the erotic poetry known as the Song of Solomon. The student will explore the various interpretations of this book.

250 Feminist Biblical Interpretation

Seminarians will explore biblical interpretation as it has developed into two interdependent areas of research: inclusive language and inclusive interpretation.

MI Ministry

100 Death and Dying

This course introduces the student to the pastoral duties needed in order to help the terminally ill, their care givers, and loved ones. Core curriculum will be based on Katherine Kubler Ross's stages of death and dying, within a pastoral understanding.

110 Intro to Pastoral Care Ministry

The course methodology is based upon the action/reflection model of learning. Seminarians will be given a specific ministry assignment on a patient care unit. Opportunities to visit patients, families and staff are provided weekly and on night duty. The seminarian will write and submit verbatim case study material based upon ministerial encounters. As a result of the learning process, seminarians identify individual strengths and directions for growth, develop pastoral care ministry skills, integrate personal identity, theology and faith experience, develop effective communication skills and progress in their ability to function.

115 Introduction to Mental Health for Pastoral Counseling

Introduction to Mental Health for Pastoral Counselors. A survey course of concepts of mental health including Defense Mechanisms and Coping, Stress, Chemical Dependency and Addictions, Personality Disorders, Organic Mental Disorders, Thought Process Disorders, Major Mood Disorders, Anxiety Disorders, Eating Disorders, Psychophysiologic Disorders, Sexual Disorders, Loss, Grief and Depression and the role of the pastoral counselor in spiritual support and referral to mental health professionals.

210 Building Small Faith Communities

Study of the main topics necessary to the starting of a small ministry. Covers such topics as location, public relations, equipment, advertising, administration and ethics

220 Pastoral Counseling

The principal purpose of this course is to help seminarians understand the basic theory and practice of counseling, its modalities and techniques.

230 Advanced Pastoral Counseling

The course allows the student to explore a variety of psycho-spiritual modalities, and methods that are designed to help develop a dynamic Christic Counseling practice. The student will study the work of noted psychologists such as Hillman, Assagioli, and Sardello, Frankl, and theories such as psychosynthesis, logotherapy and art therapy.

240 The Art of Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Mentoring on both the Individual and Group basis. A practical course designed to prepare the individual as a spiritual director.

HT History of Religion

100 Introduction to Independent Catholicism

This course constitutes a basic introduction to what Independent Catholicism is and how it came to be, exploring its roots and how it is similar to and different from other Christian sacramental and Catholic denominations. Beliefs, practices and the symbols underlying the Church are explored

110 Lectio Divina

A course where the writings of the Church Fathers are closely examined for spiritual growth and study.

120 History of Christianity

A survey of the history of the Church from the time of Christ until the present. Provides a sense of the early Church's background and development and the subsequent problems attendant upon its growth and survival. The student will gain a comfortable knowledge of the Christian Church understanding the meaning and historical rationale, and gain a new awareness of historical data shedding light on current debates

130 The Gnostics

This course is a survey course of the broad range of theologies and beliefs that have been lumped together as “gnosticism.” The history of Gnosticism is subject to a great deal of debate and interpretation. The complex nature of Gnostic teaching and the fact that much of the material relating to the schools comprising Gnosticism has traditionally come from critiques by orthodox Christians make it difficult to be precise about early sectarian gnostic systems, although Neoplatonists like Plotinus also criticized "Gnostics." At the same time, modern movements referencing ancient gnosticism have continued to develop, from origins in the popular new age and occult movements of the 19th century.

140 When Jesus became God

This is an examination of the battle between Arius, Presbyter of Alexandria, and Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria. Arius said that Christ did not share God's nature but was the first creature God created. Athanasius said that Christ was fully God. At the Council of Nicea in 325, the Church Fathers came down on Athanasius's side and made Arius's belief a heresy.

PR Practicum/Field Study

200 Practicum Chaplaincy

Year-long supervised programs in a variety of pastoral situations chosen under the direction of the Field Education Supervisor. Possibilities include: Radio/Television Ministry, Visitation of Shut- Ins, Home Evangelization, Prison Ministry

210 Liturgical Practicum

The Liturgy practicum is a one-hour course over four semesters. An explanation of the structure of the services and the meaning of their actual celebration. General principles of liturgical celebration. Review of rubrics and demonstration of the services, The Divine Liturgy; Vespers, the Presanctified Liturgy and Matins; The Sacramental Mysteries; and Public Devotions, Hours, Blessings and Consecrations.

IS Independent Study

This is a course that covers special topics of interest to the student. Topics may include nursing home ministry, prison ministry, military chaplaincy, philosophical or theological specialties, etc.

PROGRAM OF FORMATION

Each level of Holy Orders conveys to the recipient a Blessing of Divine Energy. Each level of study is to be complete prior to ordination to that level. Any person who applies to the Beloved Disciple Seminary with the goal in mind of eventual ordination to Holy Orders must be comfortable with Christian practices and Sacraments.

There are two groups of Orders--- the minor and the major. Each order emphasizes a special attribute and is intended to produce a precise effect. With each succeeding order, the candidate makes a determined effort towards the unfoldment of the characteristics in each stage of development.

The courses in each successive unit are designed to foster a deep understanding of that particular office/order and provide the skills and Academic background required of the office prior to ordination.

Each course, unless otherwise noted, is equivalent to 3 credit hours.

Postulant

INT-100 Introduction to the Contemporary Catholic Church

INT-101 Introduction to Sacred Psychology

INT-110 Introduction to Grail Mythology

MT-100 Introduction to Mysticism

Minor Orders

Tonsure/Cleric: *The cleric dedicates him or herself to God and to the service of Christ. In manner and speech, the cleric strives to show beauty and to remember that the physical body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Self-control with regard to the physical body is one of the attributes stressed in this order, and the candidates endeavor to live for the soul.*

TH-100 Theology of the Divine Office

TH-110 Theology of the Sacramental Mysteries

HT-100 Introduction to Independent Catholicism

HT-120 History of Christianity

SP-160 Hagiography

MT-120 Intro to Christian Mysticism

Doorkeeper: *In former times, it was the duty of the doorkeeper to ring the church bells and to open the church doors at the appointed time. In our time, the ordination to doorkeeper relates to transforming the emotions and passions. When the emotions come under control, tranquility follows. The doorkeeper learns devotion to God and humanity, giving love and opening the doors to one's heart in service, summoning all to the service of God.*

BI-100 Old Testament Scriptures

BI-130 Apostolic Writings

TH-120 Sacramental Theology: The Sacramental Mysteries of Initiation

TH-140 The Sacramental Mysteries of Vocation

LIT-110 Introduction to Liturgy

SP-120 The Divine Feminine

Reader: *The reader works to control the powers of the mind and to devote those to God's service. The transformation of the intellect is the purpose of this step in holy orders. In former times, the reader read for the priest, intoned the lessons, blessed bread and all first-fruits. Now the reader is asked to dedicate his or her mind to the glory of God, to train and develop the mind to influence others for good, and cultivate the power of concentration.*

BI-101 The Pentateuch

BI-102 The Historical and Prophetic Books

BI-103 Wisdom Literature and the Psalms

BI-110 The Synoptic Gospels

BI-140 The Gospel and the Letters of John

SP-180 Intro to Symbolism

Healer/Exorcist: *In this order, the power of the will is more definitely developed. The healer heals through intention, and intention is an operation of the will. The healer focuses the will on producing wholeness of life in others, for to heal means to make whole. Transformation of the will involves culturing the heart in order to assist others in healing themselves of separateness. The gift of healing will be strengthened by the initiation to the order of healer.*

TH-130 Sacramental Theology: the Penitential Sacramental Mysteries

TH-150 Exorcism & Traditional Healing Systems

HT-110 Lectio Divina

MI-100 Death and Dying

LIT-210 Creative Liturgy

TH-190 Ignatian Spirituality: The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius

Acolyte *The acolyte's task is to quicken the intuition and open the self to spiritual influence. This opening requires the transformation of the ego. Through spiritual discipline, the boundaries of the ego are rolled back and the ego is purified of its*

egocentricity through obedience to a higher authority. The acolyte bears the spiritual light of Christ and strives to enkindle the sense of God's presence within the hearts of others. This degree of acolyte is intended to help the candidate quicken his or her spiritual faculties and understanding.

TH-160 The Eucharist

BI-120 The Pauline Corpus

BI-200 Christian Symbology

TH-170 Holy Sophia

TH-180 The Creed: We Believe

HR-140 When Jesus became God

Sub Deacon: *The subdiaconate is a preparatory grade of the greater orders of deacon and priest. Ordination gives greater strength and steadfastness of purpose, and begins the transformation of the candidate into the major orders. Purified by previous initiations, the stage is set for more profound transformations. Formerly, the subdeacon was responsible for providing water for the service of the altar, to wash the altar linens, and to guard the gates of the sanctuary. This is the start of one taking his or her own place at the altar and assisting in the performance of the rites. The subdeacon learns control of speech, love of service, and diligence at the altar while tasting the joyful spirit of the major orders.*

SP-170 Ethics & Morality

MI-220 Pastoral Counseling

SP-140 The Women Around Jesus

LT-250 Liturgical Theology: Early Christian Worship

TH-370 Systematic Theology

LT-299 Science of the Sacraments

Major Orders

Deacon: *The deacon is an apprentice to the priest and is sufficiently empowered by this initiation to administer the sacrament of baptism and marriage, to handle the sacred vessels, and to help in the care of the sick and poor. The deacon ministers at the altar, reads the Gospel, and takes a speaking part in the performance of the rites. In the absence of the priest, the deacon dispenses the reserved sacrament and conducts final rites. The candidate is expected to spend at least six months serving as a deacon before being ordained to the priesthood.*

BI-160 Homiletics

TH-200 Issues in Modern Theology

MI-110 Introduction to Pastoral Care Ministry

MI-210 Building Small Faith Communities

MI-240 The Art of Spiritual Direction

PR-200 Practicum Chaplaincy

Priest: *Ordination to the priesthood effects a most profound transformation. The candidate is empowered by the Holy Spirit to perform sacred rites in Christ's name. The priest grows stronger spiritually as this initiation deepens his or her connection with higher spiritual energy. The invitation to service is forever. Priests are called to spend their lives as servants and lovers of God and God's people. Because this ministry is the essence of the perpetuation of the ministry of Jesus Christ, no effort is spared to help the recipient to take advantage of it.*

MT-110 Intro to Jewish Mysticism

BI-105 The Dead Sea Scrolls & Ancient Manuscripts

MI-115 Introduction to Mental Health for Pastoral Counseling

PR-210 Liturgical Practicum

MI-230 Advanced Pastoral Counseling

IS Independent Study (2 units) or 2 units from Elective Courses

Electives

Students are encouraged to explore an advanced understanding of spirituality through the process of selecting courses of particular interest to them from the elective offerings. Enrollment may require prerequisite courses or the approval of the instructor. Students are also encouraged to consider approaching the President with regard to Independent Study topics.

Elective Courses

INT-140 Introduction to Christianity and the Media

TH-220 Conversations with Christian Philosophers

TH-230 Modern Influential Theologies: Karl Rahner & Paul Tillich

TH- 231 Modern Influential Theologies: Dorothy Day & Thomas Merton

BI-115 What About John 1:1?

BI-201 Romance in the Bible

BI-210 The Bible as Literature

BI-220 Biblical Allegory versus History

BI-240 The Song of Solomon

BI-250 Feminist Biblical Interpretation

HT-130 The Gnostics

SP-101 Sacred Art

SP-110 Mystic Poetry & Prose

SP 115: Poetry: Sacred & Secular

SP-130 Jungian Spirituality

SP-141 The British Saints

SP142 Holy Fools in Christian Religious & Cultural Traditions

SP-150 King Solomon's Temple

SP-190 The Black Madonnas

SP-200 Erotica Judaica

SP-210 Ritual and Drama in the Mediaeval Theatre

SP-240 Jewish Symbols of the Greco-Roman Period

LT-230 Liturgical Art

LT-240 Liturgical Theology: Divine Liturgy

Administrative Offices of the BDS

Most Reverend Dr. +Sharon A. Hart
Presiding Bishop,
Contemporary Catholic Church
Beloved Disciple Seminary
1300-G El Paseo Blvd. #187
Las Cruces, NM 88001, USA

Email

General Information information@beloved-disciple.org

Bishop +Hart rtrevhart@beloved-disciple.org

Application Committee application_committee@beloved-disciple.org

Affiliation

The Beloved Disciple Seminary is a chartered ministry of the Contemporary Catholic Church. Please consult the official website of the Contemporary Catholic Church for more information about our ministries.

<http://www.thecontemporarycatholicchurch.org>