

Mount St. Mary's Seminary

Fall 2024

Course number and title:

ORDN 501: Formation Seminar on Celibacy

Professor:

Rev. Msgr. Andrew R. Baker, S.T.D.

Class Day/Time:

Wednesdays, 9:50 am – 11:05 am

Assigned Classroom:

McSweeny 123

Office Hours:

Anytime (best by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This weekly seminar entitled “Living Celibacy Well” is required for First Theologians who did not complete the Discipleship Stage at the Mount and all Second Philosophers. In this seminar, the seminarians learn the value and beauty of the celibate life and come to appreciate the many ways to live celibacy as a way to love in priestly ministry as a spiritual father.

PLACE OF THIS COURSE IN THE INTELLECTUAL FORMATION PROGRAM:

The following three intellectual formation dimension goals are addressed:

1. Demonstrates that he has a firm knowledge of the Person of Jesus Christ and the teaching of the Church by successful completion of the required coursework (as evidenced e.g. in his papers, class participation, homilies and/or exams) for the ordination program Assignment Policies
 - A. Possesses a familiarity with the Scriptures and understands biblical theology in accord with the mind of the Church
 - B. Knows and accepts the normative function of the Magisterium
 - D. Grasps the rich history of the Church from the apostolic age to the present day
3. Communicates the Church's moral and spiritual tradition as a spiritual father and moral guide
 - A. Demonstrates the ability to preach, teach, and defend the Catholic faith, particularly in homilies and classroom presentations
 - B. Understands, promotes, and explains faithfully the Church's moral teaching, especially by successfully completing the moral theology coursework
4. Shows a love for learning and a commitment to ongoing intellectual formation
 - A. Demonstrates a habit of reading, particularly through the completion of assigned readings and dedication to further theological and non-theological reading
 - B. Practices critical thinking as evidenced in class participation, exams and/or papers

PLACE OF THIS COURSE IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM(S):

Although not specifically required for one of the degree programs, this course is required for the full Ordination Formation Program.

COURSE GOALS/LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will have gained *the theological and pastoral competence* necessary to:

- understand the nature and dynamic of the virtue of chastity
- grasp the history of celibacy in the Church and the theological sources for the apostolic practice
- appreciate the explanation of celibacy by Saint John Paul II in the “Theology of the Body”
- perceive how to discern a call to celibacy and live it as a priest
- learn the practical ways to live celibacy in relationship with others
- appreciate the connection between celibacy and spiritual fatherhood

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

This seminar will be graded on a pass/fail basis based on the students' engagement and participation in the class, their ability to discuss issues arising in the seminar and their courteous and fraternal interaction with others, including toward any guest lecturers.

REQUIRED TEXTS BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Griffin, Carter, *Why Celibacy? Reclaiming the Fatherhood of the Priest*, Steubenville, OH, Emmaus Road Publishing, 2019.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Barron, Robert, *Celibacy: An Eschatological Sign*, Homily for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C.
<http://www.wordonfire.org/resources/homily/celibacy-an-eschatological-sign/647/>

Cantalamessa, Raniero, OFM, Cap., trans. Charles Serignat, *Virginity: A Positive Approach to Celibacy for the Sake of the Kingdom of Heaven*, New York, St. Paul's, 1995.

Congregation for Clergy, *Directory for the Ministry and the Life of Priests*, 2013, "Priestly Celibacy," no. 79-82.

John Paul II, *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body*, trans. Michael Waldstein, Boston, Pauline Books and Media, 2006, no. 73 – 86

Kereszty, O.Cist., Roch A., *Rekindle the Gift of God: A Handbook for Priestly Life*, San Francisco, Ignatius Press, 2021.

McGovern, Thomas, *Priestly Celibacy Today*, Princeton, Scepter Publisher, 1998. Also available at:
<http://www.christendom-awake.org/pages/mcgovern/priestcelib.html>

Ouellet, Marc Cardinal, *Friends of the Bridegroom: For a Renewed Vision of Priestly Celibacy*, Irondale, AL, EWTN Publishing, Inc., 2017.

Paul VI, *Sacerdotalis caelibatus*, June 24, 1967.

Selin, Gary, *Priestly Celibacy: Theological Foundations*, Washington, DC, The Catholic University of America Press, 2016.

Wojtyla, Karol, *Love and Responsibility*, (trans. H.T. Willetts) San Francisco, Ignatius Press, 1993.

EXAMS/QUIZZES:

None

PAPERS:

None

SEMINARY PLAGIARISM POLICY:

See Academic Norms

GRADING:

The Course is Pass/Fail

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE/OUTLINE OF COURSE:

August 21:	Introduction
August 28:	NO CLASS (Rector at NCDVD)
September 4:	Virtue of Chastity
September 11:	History of Celibacy
September 18:	Theology of Celibacy
September 25:	Spiritual Fatherhood
October 2:	How to Discern a Call to Celibacy
October 9:	NO CLASS (Fall Break)
October 16:	Living Celibacy Well: Introduction
October 23:	NO CLASS (Rector at Clergy Convocation)
October 30:	Living Celibacy Well: Poverty
November 6:	Living Celibacy Well: Obedience
November 13:	Living Celibacy Well: Relationships
November 20:	Living Celibacy Well: Relationships
November 27:	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)
December 4:	Living Celibacy Well: Relationships and COURSE EVALUATION