University of St. Thomas School of Theology at  
St. Mary’s Seminary  

Practicum: Penance and Anointing YPL 8104 A  

Spring 2017  

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Course Description  

See the University of St. Thomas course catalogue for a complete course description.  

This section will concentrate on teaching transitional Deacons to administer the sacraments of Penance and Anointing. We will review the relevant essentials of sacramental theology, spirituality, and canon law, and will examine a range of practical pastoral topics related to these two sacraments, including parochial penance services, the pastoral care of the dying and dead, inner healing, and deliverance.  

To supplement Practicum class meetings, the Spiritual Formation Department will offer optional, informal sessions to benefit Deacons who would like more practice, instruction, or advice as they prepare for Ordination to the Priesthood.  

Course Goals  

1. Students will attain the knowledge and skill necessary to celebrate the sacraments of healing validly and licitly from memory according to the ordinary form of the Roman Rite.  

2. Students will be familiar with the essential law and discipline of the sacraments of healing in the Latin Church.  

3. Students will be familiar with the essential Catholic theology of Penance and Anointing.  

4. Students will be introduced to the norms and principles involved in the ministries of inner healing, deliverance, and exorcism, especially as these bear on the vocation of priests in parish, campus, prison, and hospital ministries.  

Required materials  

Students must have their own copies of the following four books:  

• The Rite of Penance (Liturgical Press, 2010). $24.95, hardcover. ISBN 081463348X.


Copies of additional required readings will be provided in class, including the Vademecum for Confessors and The Priest, Minister of God’s Mercy (both from the Holy See), and “The Priestly Dimensions of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick” (by DiNoia and Fox). Selections from some books of good advice for confessors will also be provided.

Academic Requirements

Students are obliged to attend all class sessions and to complete the required readings before each class. Participation in discussions and sacramental practice is also required.

Grading for this course will be on a pass/fail basis. All students will sit for an oral examination with the professors and with any other faculty who may be invited to join the examining board. The exam will cover the liturgical law, canon law, moral theology, and systematic sacramental theology relevant to the sacraments of Penance and Anointing. Prudential pastoral questions will also be asked.

A passing grade will be given only if the examiners determine that the student is well-prepared to receive and exercise priestly confessional faculties. Students who have not met the course goals, or cannot demonstrate their readiness to administer the sacraments of Penance and Anointing, will receive a grade of Failure and will not be recommended for faculties.

There are no papers or other exams for this course. Reading beyond the requirements is strongly recommended.

The Spiritual Formation Department will offer additional optional, informal sessions for the benefit of students who would like more practice, instruction, or advice.
Course Calendar—subject to revision

Monday  January 23  
Review of syllabus  
Texts for memorization  
Fr. Mulcahy (1): review of systematic sacramental theology

Monday  January 30  
Read The Priest, Minister of Divine Mercy  
Fr. Mulcahy (2): review of the theology of sin and justification

Monday  February 6  
Read St. Nicodemus, Exomologitarion selections  
Begin practicing individual confessions

Monday  February 13  
Read Gerald Kelly SJ, The Good Confessor selections  
What does it mean to give “counsel” to a penitent?  
Continue practicing individual confessions

Monday  February 20  
Read St. Francis de Sales, Advice to Confessors, selections  
What makes an appropriate penance?  
Continue practicing individual confessions

Monday  February 27  
Fr. Fineo (1): intro to healing and deliverance

Monday  March 6  
Read Rite of Penance vii–xxiii  
Read Vademecum for Confessors  
Parish penance services  
Special confessions — general, first, other priests, religious, the scrupulous, and “big fish” (people away a long time)

(Spring Break)

Monday  March 20  
Read John Salza, Why Catholics Cannot Be Masons  
Fr. Fineo (2): intro to Freemasonry, cults, and spiritual bonds

Monday  March 27  
Bring your Code of Canon Law  
Fr. Mulcahy (3): Canon law of Confession (faculties and penalties)

Monday  April 3  
Bring your Code of Canon Law  
Fr. Mulcahy (4): Canon law of Confession part 2 (if needed)  
Split for confessional practice if time allows

Monday  April 10  
Read Fortea, Interview with an Exorcist  
Fr. Fineo (3): intro to spiritual warfare and exorcism

(Holy Week)
Monday April 17  Read Pastoral Care of the Sick/Cuidado Pastoral… 14–45.
Fr. Fineo (4): Anointing of the Sick — theology and pastoral guidelines
Care of the dying and dead: Penance, Anointing, and Viaticum

Monday April 24  Read DiNoia & Fox, “Priestly Dimensions of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick”
Anointing of the Sick, practice

Bibliography

For convenience, the bibliography is divided by topic as follows:
1. Penance
2. The Anointing of the Sick
3. Pastoral Psychology, Inner Healing, and Deliverance
4. Exorcism
5. Freemasonry, Witchcraft, Syncretism, Satanism, and Cults

1. Penance


2. Anointing of the Sick


_____. The Service of the Anointing of the Sick. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2009. (This book is for the rite as celebrated in the Orthodox Church of America.)


3. Pastoral Psychology, Inner Healing, and Deliverance


4. Exorcism


5. Freemasonry, Witchcraft, Syncretism, Satanism, and Cults


