



# SAINT VINCENT SEMINARY



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- Grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the tradition of the Catholic Church
- Shaped by the Benedictine heritage of liturgical prayer, study, hospitality and community
- 91.4%\* since 1989; 96.49% since 2006

Of the 322 alumni ordained to the priesthood since 1989, 11 have died in ministry and 283 remain in active priestly ministry.

## Degree programs

- Master of Divinity (both ordination and non-ordination tracks)
- Master of Arts: Catholic Philosophical Studies
- Master of Arts: Monastic Studies
- Master of Arts: Sacred Scripture
- Master of Arts: Systematic Theology
- Master of Arts in Ecclesial Ministry
- Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.)

A rigorous Pre-Theology Formation program, led by a permanent deacon of the Church, adheres to the four Pillars of Priestly Formation, and provides a firm foundation for ongoing discernment of a call to priestly ordination, and exposure to the ever-expanding role of the priest in leadership, evangelization and ministry to the disabled.

## Seminary Statistics

- More than 2,400 men have been ordained priests from Saint Vincent Seminary since 1854.
- Founded in 1846, Saint Vincent Seminary is the fourth oldest Roman Catholic Seminary in the United States.
- Among its distinguished alumni are 29 bishops, archbishops and cardinals.

Throughout the course of study, no matter which degree program is pursued, men and women enrolled in Saint Vincent Seminary will:

- Learn the doctrinal heritage of the Roman Catholic Church and be able to share it through coursework, formation conferences, and structured faith sharing
- Develop leadership skills
- Form a commitment to lifelong learning



# WHAT'S NEW AT SAINT VINCENT SEMINARY

- Revised and renewed pre-theology formation program
- Hiring of Sr. Mary Veronica Sabelli, RSM, Coordinator of Pre-Theology Academics
- Regular evaluation of an individual's progress in the four pillars of formation
- Expert formation speakers
- Competitive academics
- A one-week pre-orientation pastoral immersion experience and two intensive formation weekends per semester provide exposure to each of the formation pillars and a firm foundation for ongoing discernment of a call to priestly ordination

tion and ongoing exposure to the ever-expanding role of the priest in leadership, evangelization, and ministry to the disabled.

- Faith-based guidance and counseling for all seminarians is available from our director of pre-theology formation, who is a licensed psychologist and a permanent deacon of the Church. Deacon Lawrence Sutton, Ph.D. is also available to address human formation issues as they come to light.
- Twice a year, nationally-known experts in aspects of formation are invited to speak to the pre-theologians, seminarians, and formators from the surrounding dioceses and other nearby seminaries.
- Our Academic Dean, Rev. Patrick Cronauer, O.S.B., S.S.L., S.S.D., has instituted a comprehensive programmatic assessment that can also be used to track a Seminarian's academic progress.
- Together with Saint Vincent College the Seminary has developed a professional on-site Integrated Language Studies program for those seminarians whose academic progress may be hindered by their lack of proficiency in written or spoken English.
- Seminarians may choose from a number of trained spiritual directors, both diocesan priests and those from a religious community. The Director of Spiritual Formation continues to develop a program for the specialized training of spiritual directors for seminarians and to train seminarians as spiritual directors.
- Through our enhanced Human Formation program, seminarians are challenged to continue and deepen their discernment process through formation workshops, conferences, and monthly individual meetings with their formators.



Their vocation to the priesthood is tested, deepened, and brought to full clarity.

- As the fourth oldest seminary in the United States, Saint Vincent Seminary provides men discerning a priestly vocation with the continuity and stability of one of the church's largest monastic communities. This is built upon the 1500-year-old Benedictine tradition and commitment to liturgical prayer, education, hospitality and community.
- The annual meetings of constituent bishops and vocation directors with the Rector's Council highlight how well Seminary formators know our seminarians. The annual Seminary profiles, recently revised and expanded, are highly appreciated for the depth and clarity of their knowledge of each seminarian. These profiles are an essential tool for assisting seminarians and their bishops to recognize the seminarian's progress in formation, discernment, and maturation toward ordained ministry in the Church.
- The Seminary's Capstone Seminar and Readiness for Ministry Exam are an effort to evaluate and offer to the students and their dioceses a measure of the students' readiness to transition from seminary studies to actual ministry. These represent an effort to measure the strengths



and weaknesses of a student's ability to translate what he has learned in seminary to actual pastoral application in any ministerial situation he might face. The results also provide an indication of whether an individual may be in need of ongoing pastoral or theological mentoring in the early years of his active ministry.

- The pastoral evaluations, which the Seminary now requires from all summer assignments, have been revised and made more comprehensive in order to supply both the Seminary and the students with more information and helpful feedback for their ongoing formation. These allow us to provide both the seminarians and their dioceses with more complete feedback as each man continues preparation for ordination.
- Using the professional gifts and skill sets that Deacon Lawrence Sutton, Ph.D. brings to the Seminary, we have developed a service for bishops and religious superiors through which we offer a comprehensive two-day psychological testing and evaluation program for candidates for priesthood and/or religious life. Above and beyond the basic test requirements of the Church, bishops and superiors will be free to select from a variety of protocols (educational and vocational) that may serve their particular needs.



# PRE-THEOLOGY FORMATION

## Begin Your Preparation for Ordination

- Fulfill the prerequisites for admission to an ordination degree program.
- Complete a bachelor's degree.\*
- Complete the Master of Arts: Catholic Philosophical Studies degree option (if already completed the BA) fulfilling all the requirements to enter an Ecclesial STB Degree.

\* Individualized curriculum allows students to fulfill undergraduate degree and pre-theology requirements at the same time.

## The Pillars of Formation

Through a week-long pre-orientation pastoral immersion program and two weekend-long workshops per semester, you will have intensive exposure to each of the formation pillars, and ongoing discernment of your call to ordination.

- Human—understanding your vocation as a gift and as a call to serving in *persona Christi*.
- Spiritual—discerning your call and growth in intimacy with Christ.
- Intellectual—laying your foundation for comprehensive understanding of the mysteries of the Faith, Church teaching, and love for life-long learning.
- Pastoral—learning to minister, communicate, teach and preach as Christ did.

You will be guided in faith-based formation by our director of Pre-Theology formation, Deacon Lawrence Sutton Ph.D., a licensed psychologist and a permanent deacon in the Church.

The primary intellectual focus is to provide you with a balanced, comprehensive, integrated and cohesive study of philosophy.

The secondary focus is to give you the essential and basic introductions to faith, morality, spirituality and Sacred Scripture as you begin your journey to priesthood.

As a pre-theologian, you will participate in all communal spiritual exercises of the seminary, including:



- Daily celebration of the Eucharist
- Morning and Evening Prayer
- Spiritual conferences
- Monthly days of recollection
- Annual retreat

In addition, you will choose an approved and trained spiritual director and meet with him regularly, focusing in these meetings on progress in prayer, spiritual reading, and personal faith development.



# MASTER OF DIVINITY

## Ordination Track

Four-year program

### Four major areas of study:

- Sacred Scripture
- Systematic Theology
- Church History
- Pastoral Studies

### As a Master of Divinity student, you will:

- Learn the doctrinal heritage of the Roman Catholic Church and be able to share it through coursework, formation conferences, and structured faith sharing
- Develop pastoral and leadership skills.
- Form a commitment to lifelong learning.
- Acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to become a preacher who is rhetorically effective, pastorally focused, doctrinally sound and biblically grounded

## Admissions Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- 30 credits of specifically designated courses in philosophy and 12 credits in Judeo-Christian theology
- 2 semesters of Latin
- Completion of the application process

## Priesthood Retention Rate

91.4%\* since 1989; 96.49% since 2006

Of the 322 alumni ordained to the priesthood since 1989, 11 have died in ministry and 283 remain in active priestly ministry.

\* Dean Hoge reports that 20 to 25% of those ordained quit within five years of ordination. We believe the source of our success is grounded in our strong formation program.

# MASTER OF DIVINITY NON-ORDINATION TRACK

## Non-ordination Track

Three to four-year program

### Four major areas of study:

- Sacred Scripture
- Systematic Theology
- Church History
- Pastoral Studies

### As a Master of Divinity student, you will:

- Learn the doctrinal heritage of the Roman Catholic Church and be able to share it through coursework, formation conferences, and structured faith sharing.
- Develop leadership skills.
- Form a commitment to lifelong learning.

## Admissions Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- 30 credits of specifically designated courses in philosophy and 12 credits in Judeo-Christian theology
- 2 semesters of Latin
- Meeting with Academic Dean
- 3 letters of recommendation
- Completion of the application process

"The purpose of the Master of Divinity [non-ordination] degree is to prepare lay students for general pastoral and religious leadership responsibilities in congregations and other settings. Because of its breadth, it is the recommended degree for admission to a Doctor of Ministry degree program and toward advanced programs oriented to theological research and teaching."—The Association of Theological Schools, *Bulletin* 50, Part 1, 2012, G-39.

Due to its 100-credit requirement, this degree is of interest primarily to those who want a more profound or deeper theological and pastoral education than they would obtain from a regular master of arts degree program.



# MASTER OF ARTS: MONASTIC STUDIES

## Participate in the academic study of monasticism for:

- A deepening of one's own appreciation and knowledge of monastic tradition
- Preparation for advanced studies

## A Master of Arts: Monastic Studies student will:

- Develop critical thinking skills and experience graduate level research
- Attain an academic competency in Monastic Studies
- Acquire understanding of the monastic tradition through research and graduate studies

The masters-level studies offer you a program that allows for a deepening of one's formation in monastic history and spirituality.

Open to religious or other students, the Master of Arts: Monastic Studies is a two or three-year program.

"The purpose of this degree program is to provide a basic understanding of theological disciplines for further graduate study and for general educational purposes."—The Association of Theological Schools, *Bulletin* 50, Part 1, 2012, G-52, D.1.1.1.

Normally students in the Monastic Studies program at Saint Vincent Seminary live in the monastic community. This allows them to take part in the ongoing monastic tradition of one of the world's largest monastic communities.



## Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- At least 18 credits in philosophy and Judeo-Christian theology
- Working knowledge of biblical Greek or Latin at the intermediate level (French or German may be substituted with permission)

All courses are normally offered during the day. Seminars may be offered in the evenings.

# MASTER OF ARTS: SACRED SCRIPTURE

## Participate in the academic study of scripture in preparation for:

- A professional ministry position in the Church
- Further graduate studies in Sacred Scripture

## As a Master of Arts: Sacred Scripture student, you will:

- Develop critical thinking and research abilities on a graduate level.
- Attain academic competency in scripture.
- Acquire knowledge of the Catholic theological tradition by engaging in graduate-level research and studies.

The masters-level studies offer you the opportunity to work through a program of studies suited for your life circumstances, interests, and goals.

Open to diocesan, religious and lay students, the Master of Arts: Sacred Scripture is a two or three-year program.

"The purpose of these degree programs is to provide a basic understanding of theological disciplines for further graduate study and for general educational purposes."—The Association of Theological Schools, *Bulletin* 50, Part 1, 2012, G-52, D.1.1.1.

## Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- At least 18 credits in philosophy and Judeo-Christian theology
- An introductory course in Sacred Scripture
- Working knowledge of biblical Hebrew or Greek at the intermediate level

All courses are offered during the day. Seminars may be offered in the evenings.





## MASTER OF ARTS: SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

### Participate in the academic study of theology in preparation for:

- Professional ministry in the Church
- Further graduate studies in Systematic Theology

### As a Master of Arts: Systematic Theology student you will:

- Develop critical thinking skills and research ability at the graduate level for diaconal or lay ministry within the Church.
- Attain an academic competency in theology.
- Acquire knowledge of the Catholic theological tradition through graduate-level research and studies.

The masters-level studies offer a program suited for individual life circumstances, interests and professional goals.

Open to diocesan, religious and lay students, the Master of Arts: Systematic Theology is a two or three-year program.

“The purpose of this degree program is to provide a basic understanding of theological disciplines for further graduate study and for general educational purposes.”—The Association of Theological Schools, *Bulletin* 50, Part 1, 2012, G-52, D.1.1.1. Systematic Theology

### Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- At least 18 credits in philosophy and Judeo-Christian theology
- Working knowledge of biblical Greek or Latin (French or German may be substituted with permission)

All courses are offered during the day. Seminars may be offered in the evenings.

## MASTER OF ARTS IN ECCLESIAL MINISTRY

A three-year program, with a new cohort beginning in the Fall semester of odd-numbered years.

### Designed for:

- Permanent Diaconate Candidates
- Lay students seeking diocesan or parish level ministry

### As an Ecclesial Ministry student, you will:

- Learn and be able to share the doctrinal heritage of the Roman Catholic Church
- Develop pastoral and leadership skills
- Integrate theological training with field work appropriate to your future ministry goals
- Form a commitment to lifelong learning
- Permanent Diaconate candidates will acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to become a preacher who is rhetorically

effective, pastorally focused, doctrinally sound and biblically grounded

### Curriculum includes three major areas:

- Systematic Theology
- Sacred Scripture
- Pastoral Studies

Saint Vincent Seminary faculty members assist with the training of deacons for the Permanent Diaconate program for the Dioceses of Greensburg and Altoona-Johnstown.

### Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree
- At least 18 credits in Judeo-Christian theology
- Diocesan sponsorship for Permanent Diaconate candidates



# PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING SERVICES

Following the recommendations from the National Catholic Education Association and the Presidium, a best practice protocol has been adopted and is now offered through Saint Vincent Seminary.

The evaluation, designed for men wishing to begin seminary study or enter a religious community, will include examination in seven core areas:

- Personal
- Intellectual
- Learning and Achievement
- Spiritual
- Personality and Mood
- Addictions
- Sexuality

## Categories and Instruments Selected

The basic instruments used for the psychological testing include the following list.

### I. Personal

- Developmental history
- Education
  - elementary and secondary
  - post-secondary (certificates, college, graduate school)
- Family of origin—marital status, physical and mental health, religious practices
- Personal health—current and past treatments, including hospitalizations
  - Physical—including current concerns, conditions and medications
  - Mental health—prior treatment
  - Past romantic relationships—who, why they did not continue

- Reason for seeking out the priesthood/religious life, including prior attempts to enter religious life
- Employment history
- Use of leisure time
  - outside recreation
  - inside recreation
- Use of alcohol, licit and illicit medication, tobacco
- Criminal justice history, including motor vehicle violations and DUIs

### II. Intellectual

- Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale

### III. Learning and Achievement

- Wechsler Individual Achievement Test

### IV. Spiritual

- Spiritual Well-Being Scale

### V. Personality and Mood

- Recommended MMPI-2
- Beck Depression II
- Beck Hopelessness
- Trauma Symptom Inventory

### VI. Addictions

- SASSI

### VII. Sexuality

- Psychosexual examination

### Cost of Services

Typical fees based on the length of the tests and services.

- Psychological Evaluation: \$850

(note: typical or standard protocol as outlined above is approximately 10 hours)

- One hour of counseling: \$250

(note: first session is typically 90 minutes to obtain information to construct a treatment plan)

The evaluation will include a thorough examination in each of the seven core areas and treatment recommendations (if necessary) for problems where evidence suggests that such help, if accepted by the candidate, may allow the candidate to embark upon formation. Additionally, if a potential candidate is found to have a problem or area of concern, the evaluation protocol can be re-administered before the candidate is ordained to establish, as best as possible, that a problem is being/has been managed.

## Counseling Program

Saint Vincent Seminary has a counseling service available to seminarians, members of religious orders and those contemplating entering the seminary.\* This service will be conducted under the direction of a licensed psychologist. Those enrolled

in Saint Vincent Seminary will have full access to this service as an integral part of their formation program. Others, including existing clergy, wishing to use the service can do so for a reasonable fee.

\* A Bishop may refer a man considering entry into the Seminary for evaluation to see:

- if a problem exists,
- if a problem can be managed, or
- if a problem can be managed while in the seminary.

## Schedule an Evaluation for a Prospective Seminarian

It is recommended that the evaluation be conducted over a two-day period, which will allow the candidate to comfortably complete all testing requirements while having the opportunity to visit the Saint Vincent Campus. Testing fees include room and board for two days and one night.





## LEARN MORE

- Learn more about Saint Vincent Seminary and train together to become men and women who will serve the Catholic Church.
- Visit Saint Vincent Seminary for a three-day experience to see how you would live, pray, and study as a Saint Vincent Seminarian.
- Join your companions in Christ and grow together to become a person who will serve the Catholic Church.
- Arrange to make a visit or speak to someone about transferring credits by calling 724-805-2395 or visit our website at [www.saintvincentseminary.edu](http://www.saintvincentseminary.edu)



**SAINT VINCENT SEMINARY**  
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