

ACADEMIC AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR THOSE DISCERNING RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS



*A collaborative initiative of St. Thomas More College
and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon*

SUMMARY

The program consists of two fundamental components: 1) the completion of a B.A. with a major in philosophy using the program offered by St. Thomas More College (STM) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) and 2) a program of personal and spiritual formation offered by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon.

ACADEMIC FOUNDATIONS

Students are expected to complete a university degree with a minimum of 36 credit units in philosophy (equivalent to 12 classes). Using the philosophy major curriculum developed by STM, students will be able to meet this requirement while also completing a minor in Catholic Studies or a minor in Social Justice and the Common Good. This program is designed to be completed in three or four years.

This program provides an excellent foundation for further study in theology for those preparing for priesthood, consecrated life, or professional ministry. The program references “The Gift of the Priestly Vocation” (Ratio Fundamentalibus Institutionis Sacerdotalis) from the Congregation of the Clergy, and “Program for Priestly Formation: Ratio Formationis Sacerdotalis Nationalis” by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops regarding essential features of philosophical education as a preparation for the study of Theology.

The program offers students flexibility to study areas of personal interest while ensuring exposure to:

- philosophy
- religious studies
- history
- languages
- Catholic Studies
- social sciences

STM offers students a supportive learning environment:

- STM Academic advisors

- STM Campus Ministry Team
- College chapel with weekday and Sunday liturgies
- Community Service-Learning options to put your faith into action serving marginalized people
- Scholarships and bursaries to ease the financial burden of post-secondary education costs

STM students are also USask students with access to additional supports and services, and a degree that will be recognized around the world.

PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION

The program of human and spiritual formation is designed to be completed alongside the academic program. While this part of the program will have scholarship, it will be approached using adult learning methodology, and will not be assigned an academic grade. However, participation will be evaluated.

This program will rotate through the following major themes:

Year 1 – Family of Origin

Year 2 – Growth, Healing, Ongoing Conversion

Year 3 – Leadership

Year 4 – Scholarship and Service

The Human and Spiritual Formation will also address the following features:

1. Community life

a. The focus where life is put into practice. It is in the context of community that maturity and stability is nurtured and developed. A ‘formator’ will accompany the student, and will help identify areas for growth.

b. This is also the context in which the life of prayer is learned and developed. Prayer and service will feature: Mass, Liturgy, Holy hour, Lectio Divina, manual labor, apostolic work, Mission work with the marginalized.



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

2. Human Formation

a. The program features three hours of dedicated learning time each week for human formation.

Topics will be related to the general theme assigned for the year.

Year 1 FAMILY OF ORIGIN

- A focus on childhood drama
- Relationships: mom and dad
- Family life and experience

Year 2 GROWTH, HEALING, ONGOING CONVERSION

- Affective maturity
- Introduction to self-awareness:
 - body, emotions, thoughts, desires, experiences
 - Styles of relating
 - Influence of the past
- Positive/negative experiences chart
- Being 'fully human' - body/soul, relational being, motives/desires (*Shalom* as right relationship with God, others, self, creation)
- Healing: therapies; personal inventory; reflection

Year 3 LEADERSHIP

- Styles of leadership
- Servant leadership
- Leadership and Ministry
- Ministry in the Church
- Ministerial experiences, mission trips

Year 4 SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE

Intellectual:

- a. Catechism / dogmatic
- b. Spirituality
- c. Scripture
- d. Liturgy

Pastoral:

- a. Parish experience
- b. Apostolic works and ministries
 - i. prisons, migrant workers, social outreach, youth ministry, service projects



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN