

Field education is an integral part of the seminary program. The program leads the seminarian through gradual pastoral experiences to a full exercise of priestly ministry. In supervised and directed situations the seminarian:

- ❖ Participates in a variety of ministries
- ❖ Works with competent professionals engaged in ministry
- ❖ Reflects on the personal impact of ministry
- ❖ Integrates the theology of the classroom with pastoral practice
- ❖ Becomes aware of personal strengths and limits
- ❖ Listens to those being served
- ❖ Dialogues with peers
- ❖ Is immersed in pastoral life

In a field education program, three elements must be kept in focus - **the minister** himself, the **ministry** he carries out, and appropriate **theological reflection** on that ministry.

- ❖ The seminarian in ministry will experience a clarification of his strengths and limits through learning agreements, evaluations, regular supervision, growing awareness of his feelings and how they influence his ministry, and reflection on his personal faith as he responds to ministerial demands.
- ❖ The ministry itself will be facilitated by the seminary in a variety of ways. Mundelein Seminary's primary focus is on parish ministry, but there are opportunities for service in other specialized aspects of ministry. The seminarian learns from other professionals and collaborates with both ordained and laypersons.
- ❖ In theological reflection, the seminarian relates the tradition of the Church to pastoral practice, becomes aware of his theological assumptions, and is sensitized to the movements of God in life situations.

FOCUS of FIELD EDUCATION BY YEAR:

Pre-Theology I: Ministries of Presence and Pastoral Care

- ❖ food pantry,
- ❖ nursing homes,
- ❖ local hospital,
- ❖ county jail,
- ❖ juvenile correctional facility.

Pre-Theology II: Ministries of outreach and care to the marginalized

- ❖ transitional living facility for homeless men and women living with HIV/AIDS
- ❖ PADS overnight shelter for the area homeless
- ❖ Community dinner for those experiencing financial hardship
- ❖ Facility for individuals living with developmental disabilities

First Theology: Catechetical ministry in parishes

- ❖ RCIA processes
- ❖ Catechetical programs for children and youth
- ❖ Sacramental preparation programs
- ❖ Adult formation programs
- ❖ Family catechetical programs

Second Theology: Pastoral Internship in a parish in the seminarian's diocese

Third Theology: Tracks of more specialized ministries

- ❖ Kino Border Initiative work in Arizona with migrants
- ❖ Ecumenical/Interreligious Encounter
- ❖ Ministry to the Hispanic Community
- ❖ Ministry to troubled youth at area juvenile detention center
- ❖ Campus Ministry at UIC
- ❖ Rural Ministry
- ❖ Design your own track (subject to approval by director of field education)

Fourth Theology: Ordained deacons are assigned to area parishes for diaconal ministry