

# CPE: Clinical Pastoral Experience

Mundelein seminarians normally participate in C.P.E., which is required for the M.Div. degree, following third year. At this time a seminarian is well-grounded in Catholic theology as he enters into an ecumenical and inter-religious atmosphere. The timing also separates it from the Pastoral (parish) Internship, allowing for processing and assimilation of what was learned in the parish.

Clinical Pastoral Education traditionally involves interfaith professional education for ministry. It brings the seminarians together with students and ministers of all faiths. CPE programs lasting 10-12 weeks provide the seminarians the opportunity for supervised encounters with persons in crisis. Through such concentrated engagement and the feedback from peers and teachers, seminarians develop new awareness of themselves as persons and ministers and of the needs of those to whom they minister. Theological reflection plays an important role within the CPE format as established by ACPE. Reflecting theologically on specific human situations, the seminarians gain a new understanding of ministry and of themselves as ministers. Working within the CPE group process and within the interdisciplinary team process in place at most hospitals, the seminarians also develop skills in interpersonal and inter-professional relationships.

The Director of CPE at Mundelein Seminary works closely with the seminarians to help them in the process of selecting appropriate and beneficial CPE sites and developing their application packet for CPE. In addition, the Director assists the seminarians in their arrangements for CPE including their living arrangements in area rectories, travel, and transportation to and from the site.

With a Bishop's initiative and approval, a seminarian can fulfill the requirement of C.P.E. through an alternative internship. The Director of C.P.E. will work with the diocese to create an acceptable program for the seminarians.