



# The M.Div. Program

Thomas A. Baima  
Orientation 2016





# The M.Div. Program

Integrating Intellectual and Pastoral Formation with Human and Spiritual Formation to form missionary disciples for the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Formed in Tradition | Trained in Compassion |  
Prepared to Shepherd



## Pope Francis

The Church does not evangelize unless she constantly lets herself be evangelized. It is indispensable that the word of God “be ever more fully at the heart of every ecclesial activity”.

*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 174.



## Progressive Conversion

There are three interrelated and interdependent calls progressively inviting a deeper conversion, a turning away from oneself, uniting one's life and death to Christ's and forming common bonds that move toward and make room for the breaking of God's kingdom into our midst.

**Archbishop Blase Cupich**  
Archbishop of Chicago



## New Energy

“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” (Matt 6:21) In the Second Vatican Council’s great document on priestly formation, *Optatam Totius*, the seminary is described as “the heart of the diocese” (par. 5). I cannot think of a better way to phrase it. The heart stands at the very core of the body, drawing in the lifeblood from all regions and reinvigorating it with new energy, only to send it out again in service once more. At Mundelein we receive men from parishes and dioceses throughout the world, but we also receive countless prayers, support and visitors from those parishes as well. Here all these elements come together as the seminarians are given the foundation and nurturing necessary for the formation of diocesan priests, ready to be sent by their bishops into parish ministry.

**Fr. John F. Kartje**  
Rector



## The goal of seminary

Your training here is not aimed at a credential, but at changing you into a person who knows the truth and can witness to others. Theology is doxological before it is philosophical. It is speech *to* God before it is speech *about* God. A theologian is one who prays. One who does not pray cannot be a theologian.

**Fr. Thomas A. Baima**

Vice Rector for Academic Affairs

# Three paths

- Formed in Tradition
- Trained in Compassion
- Prepared to Shepherd



# Formed in Tradition

The First Phase of the M.Div. Curriculum

# First Theology

- Cultivation of habits of prayer and study needed to sustain the priestly vocation.
- The curriculum for First theology is guided by two principles:
  - The Doxological Nature of Theology
  - Integrating academic and spiritual formation

# Foundations

## Spiritual

- The first semester “sets up” the whole curriculum around priestly identity and ministry
- Bible studies begin with Saint Paul
- Spiritual theology is introduced right at the beginning of the curriculum

## Theological

- Doctrine of Priesthood is the first course
- Foundational courses in dogmatic, moral, historical and spiritual theology are offered
- Vocal practicum prepares men for the institution of lector and their eventual homiletic courses. Additionally, students take two choirs at any other time in the curriculum to complete the vocal training requirements.

# First Theology

## Fall Semester

- Doctrine of Priesthood
- Spiritual Theology
- Pauline Literature
- Fundamental Theology
- Fundamental Moral Theology
- Foundations of Catholic Tradition (Patristics)
- Theological Research
- Vocal Practicum

## Spring Semester

- Principles of Sacred Liturgy
- Theological Reflection I
- Anthropology or Christology
- Doctrine of God
- Narrative Preaching
- Liturgical Leadership
- Medieval Church History



# Trained in Compassion

The Second Phase of the M.Div. Curriculum

# Second Theology

- The plan for Second theology is shaped by
  - Preparation for Internship and CPE
  - Integrating practical/experiential learning into one's formation
  - The cultivation of habits of self-regulation needed for priestly life.

# Second Theology

## Fall Semester

- Pastoral Care & Counseling
- Christology or Anthropology
- Sacraments of Initiation
- Synoptic Gospels & Acts
- Sexuality & Vocation
- Reformation and Revolution
- Theological Reflection II

## Spring Semester

- Pastoral Internship
  - Five weeks on campus
  - Ten weeks in Parish in home diocese

## Summer Semester

- CPE or Alternate Supervised Clinical Internship

# Third Theology

- The approach to ordination shapes Third Theology as does evangelization
  - Perfecting the seminarians theological studies, now with the experience of full time ministry provided by the internships
  - Fostering a sense of the global church and the church at the margins
  - More intense spiritual preparation for diaconate
  - The cultivation of Pastoral Charity.

# Logic of courses

- Old Testament is next in the bible sequence, starting with Pentateuch from which the lectionary draws the First Reading which it pairs with the Gospel
- Homiletics prepare for the year-long diaconate and liturgical preaching
- Pilgrimage is intensively biblical and takes up Catholic social teaching as well as Mission and Culture.

# Third Theology

## Fall Semester

- Theological Reflection III
- Ecclesiology & Mariology
- Sacraments of Healing and Vocation
- Pentateuch & Histories
- Homiletics
- Rites Practicum
- Modern Church History
- M.Div. elective

## Spring Semester

- Psalms and Wisdom
- Social Justice
- Prophets
- Spiritual Direction
- Evangelization, Mission and Culture



# Prepared to Shepherd

The Third Phase of the M.Div. Curriculum

# Fourth Theology

- Preparation for priesthood and the pastorate
- Focus on preaching as deacons, provides one full year of lectionary preaching.

# Final Year

- Johannine Literature completes the biblical sequence
- Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue taught from a missional perspective
- Administration and Leadership– preparing for the pastorate
- Practica courses

# Fourth Theology

## Fall Semester

- Canon Law I
- Pastoral Administration and Leadership
- Reconciliation Practicum
- Johannine Literature
- Theology of Holy Orders
- Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue (or in Spring)
- M.Div. Elective

## Spring Semester

- Canon Law II
- Medical Ethics & Suffering
- Mass Practicum
- American Church History
- Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue (or in Fall)
- M.Div. Elective



# Tracks and Concentrations

Additional Options for Study at Mundelein Seminary

## Tracks

- Academic
  - STB
- Hispanic Ministry
  - Intensive Courses
  - Immersion experiences

## Concentrations

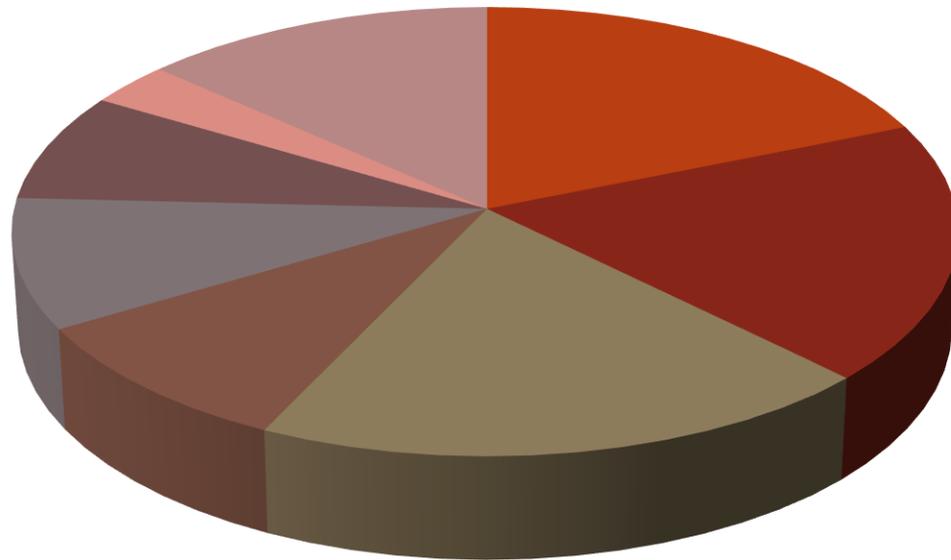
- Biblical Studies
- Dogmatic Theology
- Church History
- Liturgy & Music
- Moral Theology
- Pastoral Theology
- Spiritual Theology



# Contemplative Theology

Intellectual Formation at Mundelein aims at restoring the unity of theology and spirituality

## Distribution of Studies



- Biblical Studies & Homiletics
- Dogmatic Theology
- Pastoral Theology & Canon Law
- Moral Theology
- Church History
- Liturgy & Music
- Spiritual Theology
- Formation Department

**We seek to do the  
needful thing**

- The will of God
- The life of charity

**We seek Wisdom**

- from the Book
- From the other well-springs of contemplation, the lives of the holy ones

**By the might of His  
glory we can endure**

- By mercy
- By the forgiveness of sins
- By grace



Fr. Larry Hennessey

# Colossians 1:9

- [And so, from the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you, **asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **to lead a life worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing to him, **bearing fruit in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, **who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints** in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness **and transferred us to the kingdom** of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, **the forgiveness of sins.**

# Contemplative Practices for the Diocesan Priest

- to fulfill faithfully and tirelessly the duties of the pastoral ministry;
- to daily nourish their spiritual life from the two-fold table of sacred scripture and the Eucharist; . . .
- to carry out the liturgy of the hours daily . . .
- to make time for spiritual retreats . . .
- to engage in mental prayer . . . to approach the sacrament of penance . . . to honor the Virgin Mother of God with particular veneration, . . . to use other common and particular means of sanctification.
- to observe perfect and perpetual continence for the sake of the kingdom of heaven and therefore are bound to celibacy which is a special gift of God by which sacred ministers can adhere more easily to Christ with an undivided heart and are able to dedicate themselves more freely to the service of God and humanity. (CIC 276-77)

# Contemplation and Action

- “Contact with the Body of Christ impels us to go out into the world.”  
**(Fr. Scott Hebden)**
- Contemplative theology is not a retreat from the world but the motive for more intensive engagement.

# The Mundelein Approach to Theology

- The authentic renewal of Vatican II and Evangelization are the guiding themes of the faculty here at Mundelein
- The Bible is the soul of the various theological disciplines
- Christology is the centering piece of the theological enterprise.
- Ascetical practice as an essential quality of the Christian life provides context for the study of theology
- Our faculty situate their teaching in a *practical* context of their own theological reflection on parish ministry.
- A Mundelein approach might be described as where theological science and spirituality are three-dimensional – Christological, ascetical and pastoral. This connects to our three paths or phased in the curriculum: formed in tradition, trained in compassion, prepared to shepherd.



## Another word from Pope Francis

Enthusiasm for evangelization is based on this conviction. We have a treasure of life and love which cannot deceive, and a message which cannot mislead or disappoint. It penetrates to the depths of our hearts, sustaining and ennobling us. It is a truth which is never out of date because it reaches that part of us which nothing else can reach.

*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 265



A final word from Fr.  
Gus.

Relax

Together in Christ,  
we are Mundelein.  
We form parish priests.

# Contact us

- Fr. Thomas A. Baima  
Vice Rector for Academic Affairs  
[tbaima@usml.edu](mailto:tbaima@usml.edu)