



About St. John's University

Established in Brooklyn by the Vincentian community in 1870, St. John's has locations in Queens, Staten Island and Manhattan in New York City, in Oakdale on Long Island and in Rome, Italy. In addition to its undergraduate liberal arts college, the University has schools of law, pharmacy, business, professional studies and education, as well as a wide range of continuing education programs. The student body numbers over 19,000 and reflects the broad diversity of cultures which characterize metropolitan New York. St. John's is conveniently located close to LaGuardia and Kennedy airports and to public transportation.

The Vincentian Center for Church and Society was established at St. John's in 1994 as a means of relating this Catholic Vincentian University to the greater civil and ecclesial communities. The Center sponsors a range of programs for Church personnel and conducts Vincentian research on poverty and social justice.

Since 1995, the Vincentian Center for Church and Society at the University has offered programs in management for pastors and seminarians.

Faculty

Faculty for the ACCULTURATION SEMINAR are drawn from the St. John's University faculty (business, law, theology, psychology, speech and anthropology), staff of the Vincentian Center, diocesan administrators and foreign-born resident priests as well as experienced pastors.

Program Coordinators

Margaret J. Kelly, D.C., Executive Director, Vincentian Center
Eugene Sullivan, Chair Emeritus, St. John's University
Board of Trustees

Comments About the Seminar

"I would highly recommend this seminar. It is like a box of tools given to a priest to be effective in his ministry."

—Diocese of Rockville Centre/Nigeria

"It was challenging to be taught by a layperson how to preach. I look forward to more such challenges."

—Archdiocese of New York/Dominican Republic

"Faculty are sincere, efficient and very talented in communicating their topics."

—Diocese of Owensboro, KY/Kenya

"Taking this course will strengthen one's confidence and set the right direction and objectives in ministering to the Catholics in America."

—Archdiocese of Atlanta/Columbia

"I have become more Catholic, in the true sense of the word. I'll be open to all possibilities and accept all cultures."

—Diocese of Brooklyn /Philippines, *The Tablet*

"Latino priests need to adjust to the more corporate style of U.S. Church life."

—Diocese of Orlando/Columbia, *Our Sunday Visitor*

"It is what every international priest needs if he ever hopes to be able to find his left from his right in this country, ministry wise."

—Diocese of Brooklyn/Nigeria, *The Tablet*

"There are priests here from 12 different cultures, each representing the face of Jesus in his own way. The unity within that variety was remarkable... the brotherhood...It was very enriching."

—Diocese of Brooklyn/India, *The Tablet*

"One of the greatest needs for all U.S. priests is working with the intergenerational issues among recent immigrants arising out of younger people becoming 'Americanized'."

—Diocese of Stamford, CT/Slovakia, *Kindling*

"This program helps to make it easier to minister in an American environment."

—Director of Priest Personnel,
Diocese of Rockville Centre, *The Long Island Catholic*

"It would be a mistake, a serious mistake, not to do all that is in one's power to form good priests, because the Church needs them badly."

—St. Vincent de Paul



vincentian
center
for church and society

Annual Acculturation Seminar for International Priests

Queens Campus, NY





Program Goals

In an intensive, supportive five-day residential program, participants who have already developed "survival skills" and have conversational ability in English focus on these goals:

- ✚ **Church Development in U.S.:** Gain an overview of the development of the Catholic Church in the pluralistic, religiously diverse U.S. and discuss Models of Church and Roles of Priests within that context.
- ✚ **Anthropological and Sociological Issues:** Engage in discussions on culture, gender, race, family, multiculturalism, cultural bridges and the acculturation process itself to discern differences between one's native culture and U.S. culture(s).
- ✚ **Psychological Issues:** Reflect on the issues of stress, creativity, self-knowledge and personal growth which the acculturation process engenders.
- ✚ **Priest as Leader, Team-member and Collaborator:** Grow in appreciation of the need in organizations for servant leadership and discuss with experienced pastors the issues of acculturation in the parish and rectory.



- ✚ **Church Structure and Collaboration:** Study overall church structure in the U.S. and the roles of clergy and laity within the parish and diocesan organizations.
- ✚ **Interpersonal Communications:** Recognize the complexity and centrality of communication to ministry and engage in practice sessions which focus on cultural differences.
- ✚ **Pastoral Communications:** Reflect on attitudes and skills which enhance pastoral communication with special emphasis on reading and preaching.
- ✚ **Time Management:** Learn time management skills which contribute to a healthy and productive work ethic and life style.
- ✚ **Immigration and Legal Issues:** Discuss legal issues, immigration and pastoral concerns.
- ✚ **Liturgical Sharing:** Share Liturgy (Eucharist and Divine Office) as a way of building community.
- ✚ **Relationships:** Establish relationships with other international priests as a means of support.

Eligibility

To be eligible for admission to the program, a priest must:

- ✚ Be recommended by officials of the diocese or the leadership of his religious community. Letter of recommendation must be forwarded directly to the Vincentian Center for Church and Society from diocesan personnel office or major superior in U.S.
- ✚ Have been a resident of the United States generally for at least six months
- ✚ Demonstrate conversational proficiency in English
- ✚ Complete application form including report of all ministerial experience

Schedule

This seminar is held the first full calendar week in June. The program opens on Monday at 12:30 p.m. with a luncheon and closes on Friday at 1:30 p.m. after Eucharist and a closing luncheon.

Residence

To enhance the learning environment, each participant is assigned a private room within the student residence halls. Meals are provided on campus. Athletic and library facilities are available to participants.

Follow-up Seminar

As a follow-up to the June session, during the academic year participants will be offered the opportunity of meeting with the St. John's team and addressing various topics in an afternoon seminar.

Costs

Non-refundable registration fee (Due May 1)	\$50
Tuition, room and meals (Due on arrival)	\$550
Total	\$600

Applications/Schedule of Classes/Inquiries

Applications, schedule of classes and faculty profiles are available online. See below.

Direct inquiries and other requests to:

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