



## DEGREE PROGRAM

*The Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministries*

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministries is an exciting program of intercultural formation rooted in solid theology for lay leadership and ministry. It was developed in collaboration with the Diocese of Oakland, and is designed for full time working adults. We offer the tools and resources for more effectively understanding and living out one's baptismal call. We encourage and support the laity in their pursuit of advanced education that will integrate the intellectual and the spiritual dimensions of their ministerial identity. Students will be provided with the pastoral skills of leadership and collaboration to call forth the gifts of others in our richly cultural and diverse communities. Courses are available in the HNU classroom and through live video conferencing from our HNU campus to our diocesan partners in Fresno and Stockton. This arrangement connects all of the students and provides a forum for discussions, sharing and interaction with the instructor. GRE test scores are not required to enter the program.

Students have an advisor from the beginning of the program and will be encouraged to focus their assignments in each of the courses in relation to their own chosen ministerial emphasis. After the foundational series of courses, students will design a final ministry project in an area of specialization related to their specific area of interest.

Preparation includes formation as well as study. One of the goals of the program is to form a community of learners who will participate with their peers in prayer, faith sharing and exploration of their call to discipleship.

Students will be challenged to engage in socio-cultural analysis as an integral part of their theological reflection. At the same time the program will encourage them to develop a perspective that is responsive to intercultural and ecumenical realities of their community and to the mission of the Church in the contemporary world.

## CURRICULUM

### **Theological Studies (12 Credit Hours)**

**The Church and Practical Theology: Foundations for Lay Ecclesial Ministry:** Grounded in theological reflection and social analysis, this course explores the links between community and ministry, diversity of gifts, and needs and mission of the Church. Students will begin to develop a theology of ministry through a combination of readings in ecclesiology and ministry and reflection on their present experience.

**Grace, Christ, and the Spirit:** This course will consider God's invitation to faith, the centrality of Jesus for Christian life, and the role of the Spirit in the life of the contemporary Church and the individual believer. Emphasis will be placed on integrating forms of theology of

revelation, Christian anthropology and Christology into one's life and ministry.

**Morality, Christian Ethics, Justice:** Moral theology is the practical living out of life "in Christ." This basic premise will provide the background for this course's exploration of personal moral decision-making and social ethics in the light of Church teaching.

**Historical Roots of the Contemporary Church:** This course will offer an overview of crucial developments in the history of the Christian Church with special emphasis on the story of the Catholic Church in the U.S.

### **Scripture Studies (6 Credit Hours)**

**Hebrew Scriptures:** A thematic reading of the Hebrew Scriptures emphasizing the "Master Stories" of the Jewish people, and such themes as Covenant and Exodus, Liberation, Justice and Wisdom. Special attention will be given to the relevance of these themes for spirituality and ministry.

**New Testament:** A study of the New Testament, taking into accounts its origins and development, its literary forms, and its theologies. The course will attend to the use of Scripture in ministry, preaching, and theological reflection.

### **Ministerial Resources (6 Credit Hours)**

**Worship, Liturgy, and Sacrament:** A theoretical and practical study of how the mystery of life in Christ is nurtured and manifested in the worship of the Christian community. Course will employ church documents to study the role of ritual in Catholic life and worship.

**Evangelization and Catechesis:** An examination of the nature and goals of evangelization and catechesis in the life of the Church, using current documents and resources.

### **Ministerial Skills (6 Credit Hours)**

#### **Two courses covering the following modules:**

Group effectiveness skills, advocacy skills, communication skills, administrative skills (including diocesan organization, applicable areas of canon and civil law), pastoral leadership formation and development, organizational management, leadership processes and systems skills, practice of pastoral care, assessment and intervention, fostering family and human development and conversion, parish and community development, multicultural community formation.

### **Final Ministry Project (6 Credit Hours)**

The Final Ministry Project is a six unit course that includes both a Practicum and a Final Paper. The Project builds on supervised ministry and theological reflection with a local ecclesial community. Students are asked to design, implement, evaluate, and reflect upon an on-site ministerial project that serves the needs of that community.

Students can work with the Field Work Director to find a suitable ministry placement. The Final Paper summarizes this material, and examines the integration of new learning from courses, workshops, pastoral experience, personal and professional growth, and other sources through the on-site project in pastoral ministry.

### Practice and Integration

Every aspect of the program emphasizes pastorally based theological reflection, integrating intercultural and ecumenical perspectives, and the values of Catholic Social Teaching. Our curriculum and diverse faculty help students to explore the Catholic tradition, and to develop as disciples and leaders for the church of the new millennium. Participants will be expected to form a community of learners who will participate in faith sharing and in retreat days scheduled each year as part of their program

### Format

One course will be offered in each seven-week term; there will be two terms in fall and two in spring. Classes meet once a week for four hours. The Pastoral Ministries program offers live video-conferencing equipment in the Oakland classroom which is transmitted to designated locations in Fresno, Bakersfield, and Stockton. The interaction between instructor and students will be in real time and allow for all students to come together and share their stories of ministry and experiences with each other.

## FACULTY

### Robert Lassalle-Klein, PhD

Graduate Theological Union  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies

### Miriam Malone, snjm, D.Min

San Francisco Theological Seminary  
Founder of SNJM Fire for Ministry  
Lecturer in Pastoral Ministry  
Field Work and Final Project Director

### Sophia Park, snjm, PhD

Graduate Theological Union  
Lecturer in New Testament

### Shelley Waldenberg, DD

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion  
Lecturer in Hebrew Scriptures

### Irene Woodward, PhD

Catholic University of America  
Professor Emerita of Philosophy  
Mentor to Pastoral Ministry Students

## COST

Tuition is heavily discounted, given the commitment of the Holy Names Sisters to service of the church. Tuition for the M.A. in Pastoral Ministries is up to 50% less than similar Northern California programs. Additionally, the program is designed so students can maintain full time employment throughout their studies. Students are

guaranteed the same tuition cost for the three years they are studying at HNU. Other expenses include books and required retreats.

## FINANCIAL AID

Students are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). For instructions on how to fill out FAFSA go to the Financial Aid link. Graduate students are only eligible for student loans. Students are also encouraged to sign up for Fastweb a free, searchable database of schools, scholarships, fellowships, loans, and grants. [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

### Brian O'Rourke

Dean of Admissions and Recruitment  
3500 Mountain Blvd.  
Oakland, CA 94619  
[o'rourke@hnu.edu](mailto:o'rourke@hnu.edu)