

# Holy Trinity Theological Institute of the Trinitarian Catholic Church

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES - BACHELOR'S DEGREE CURRICULUM

### IN PREPARATION FOR HOLY ORDERS

**Holy Trinity Theological Institute** currently offers the following basic curriculum leading to a Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies issued by the HTTI of the Trinitarian Catholic Church. Each course is given **3 credit hours**. There is no cost for enrollment to the Institute for clergy or seminarians of the Trinitarian Catholic Church or any of its religious Orders. It is recommended that students and seminarians complete the required **400 level** modules which are the basic diploma courses. The Optional Studies are not required but may be taken if you so choose, in order to enhance your education. Anyone who wishes to pursue a course for certification must first register for a course with the Bishop. A registration form or letter of intent to register for a course will be sufficient.

A Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies will be awarded to students and seminarians who graduate after having successfully completed the required courses. Credits will be given for comparable courses that have been successfully completed at other seminaries, colleges or institutions of higher learning. In such cases, a valid transcript of the completed courses from that institution, including dates and your grade average must be sent to the Bishop and the Directors of the Institute for their consideration. In some cases, additional information may be requested.

In addition to earning a Bachelor's Degree, a Diaconate or Presbyterate Level Certificate from the Institute will also be awarded upon graduation. These certificates are required for those who seek to become ordained as Deacons and Priests in the Trinitarian Catholic Church. It should be noted that the successful completion of this degree program is not a guarantee of being accepted for ordination in our Church. A diploma certifies that you have completed the basic curriculum in consideration for candidacy to Holy Orders, as required by the Canons of our Church.

All of the course titles can be purchased on [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com). Most of these books can also be found at a public library, for those who do not wish to purchase them.

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### BIBLE STUDIES DEPARTMENT

#### Bible 401 Old Testament Survey (3 credits)

An overview of the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi provides a foundation to the Hebrew roots to Christianity and cultural context for more complete understanding. The student will examine scriptures relative to inclusivity to determine their application for modern life.

**TEXT: Survey of the Old Testament (Hardcover)** by [Paul Benware](#)

#### Bible 402 New Testament Survey (3 credits)

This survey of the New Testament provides solid foundation for the sacred text of Christianity and how it applies today.

**TEXT: The Writings of the New Testament** by [Luke Timothy Johnson](#)

#### Bible 403 Introduction to the Gospels (3 credits)

The Gospels provide four accounts of the life of Jesus, the most influential person in history and the author and finisher of the Christian faith.

**TEXT:** **Fortress Introduction to the Gospels** by [Mark Allan Powell](#)

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## **THEOLOGICAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

### **Theo 401 Systematic Theology (3 credits)**

A foundation to Christian theology looks at how to critically examine Christian beliefs.

**TEXTS:** **The Creed: What Christians Believe and Why it Matters** by [Luke Timothy Johnson](#)

### **Theo 402 Sacramental Theology (3 credits)**

This course examines the relevance and importance of the sacraments as a means of grace and a way of life.

**TEXT:** **Pastoral Foundations of the Sacraments: A Catholic Perspective** by [Gregory L. Klein](#) & [Robert A. Wolfe](#)

### **These Courses are Optional:**

### **Theo 403 Theology of Gender (3 credits)**

Theology of Gender is a course which examines gender and its relationship to foundational Christian doctrine.  
(Choose one)

**TEXT:** **Gender and the Nicene Creed (Paperback)** by [Elizabeth Rankin Geitz](#)

*or*

**Women's Uncommon Prayers: Our Lives Revealed, Nurtured, Celebrated** by [Elizabeth Rankin Geitz](#)

### **Theo 404 Theology and Sexual Minorities (3 credits)**

Theology and Sexual Minorities examines the relevance of Christian theology to sexual minorities: lesbians, gays, bisexual, and transgender.

**TEXT:** **Religion Is a Queer Thing: A Guide to the Christian Faith for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Persons** by [Elizabeth Stuart](#)

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## **ECCLESIASTICAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

### **Ecll 401 Church History (3 credits)**

Church History provides an overview of the history of Christianity.

**TEXT:** **Church History: Faith Handed on (Catholic Basics)** by [Kevin L. Hughes](#)

**Eccl 402    Independent Catholicism    (3 credits)**

Independent Catholicism provides a very helpful overview to a diverse movement. **(Choose one)**

**TEXT: Who Are the Independent Catholics? (Paperback)** by [John, P. Plummer](#)

**or**

**The Many Paths of the Independent Sacramental Movement (Paperback)** by [John P. Plummer](#)

**Eccl 403    Liturgical Worship    (3 credits)**

Liturgical Worship looks at how formal liturgy that has impacted the Church and brought uniformity to worship.

**TEXT: Catholics and the Eucharist: A Scriptural Introduction** by [Stephen B. Clark](#)

**Eccl 404    Pastoral Studies    (3 credits)**

This course continues to examine pastoral work within Christianity.

**TEXT: Simple Priesthood (Paperback)** by [Sean Connolly](#)

**These Courses are Optional:**

**Eccl 401.01    Church History    (3 credits)**

**TEXT: When Women Were Priests: Women's Leadership in the Early Church and the Scandal of Their Subordination** by [Karen J. Torjesen](#)

**Eccl 404.01    Pastoral Studies    (3 credits)**

This course examines the rewards and challenges of pastoral work within Christianity. **(Choose one)**

**TEXT: Joshua and the Shepherd (Paperback)** by [Joseph Girzone](#)

**or**

**Joshua: A Parable for Today (Paperback)** by [Joseph Girzone](#)

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**CONTEMPORARY STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

**Cont 401    Christianity and Homosexuality    (3 credits)**

This course provides insight into the teaching of Christianity and the Bible regarding homosexuality and how to confront prejudice within the church.

**TEXT: Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality** by [John Boswell](#)

*This Course is Optional:*

Cont 402 Same Sex Marriage (3 credits)

Provides a critical look at various aspects of Same Sex marriage as inclusive Christians attempt to make the Sacrament of Marriage available to people regardless of gender.

TEXT: **Same-Sex Unions in Premodern Europe (Paperback)** by [John Boswell](#)

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APPLIED CHRISTIANITY

Appl 401 Spiritual Disciplines (3 credits)

Integration of the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual aspects of our lives into our relationship with God and reordering of our priorities.

TEXT: **Disciplines for Christian Living: Interfaith Perspectives** by [Thomas P. Ryan](#)

Appl 401 Homiletics (3 credits)

Homiletics is designed to look at the ever-changing art of proclaiming the Gospel in a meaningful and useful way. The student should be able to prepare sermon notes or transcripts and present the sermon appropriately.

TEXT: **An Introduction to the Homily (Paperback)** by [Robert P. Waznak](#)

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PRACTICUM

PRAC 401 Diaconate Practicum (3 credits)

This practicum is designed to provide practical understanding of the role of Deacons and is valuable whether one's goals are self-enrichment, transitional or permanent Diaconate or the Presbyterate.

TEXTS: **Liturgical Ministry of Deacons: Second Edition (Paperback)** by [Michael Kwatera](#)

PRAC 402 Liturgy Practicum (3 credits)

This course, for clergy candidates, gives opportunity for the seminarian to model the ability to lead worship and liturgy using the approved Liturgical Rites of the Church.

**TEXTS: A Priest's Handbook: The Ceremonies of the Church (3rd Edition)** by [Dennis G. Michno](#)

**PRAC 403 Applied Practicum (3 credits)**

The seminarian will write a comprehensive paper on his/her individual field experience(s) as applied to a new ministry, or applied to changes in or the development of a current ministry to make it more inclusive and effective. The length and depth of this paper are to be decided by the seminarian with consultation from both the Bishop and the other **Directors of the Institute**.

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**HOLY TRINITY THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE TRACK**

**SEM 401 Ecclesiastical Seminar (6 credits)**

This course is designed to be personalized by the seminarian's Provincial Guardian or by his/her Diocese and ideally should include a face-to-face or other acceptable meeting with the Bishop and the other **Directors of the Institute**. It should include discussions leading to agreement on ethical, practical and sacramental issues to make sure the individual is a good fit with the vision and mission of the Trinitarian Catholic Church. The role, sacramental and liturgical duties, diaconal faculties and the vows of obedience associated with ordination must be discussed with and understood by the seminarian. This course will require a letter to the **Directors of the Institute** by the seminarian explaining in detail how this requirement has been met. Naturally, provision must be made based upon a seminarian's ability to travel. In lieu of traveling to meet with the Bishop, the required meeting could perhaps could take place at a General Synod Meeting, by telephone and/or video conferences as the Bishop determines working with the seminarian. This course is to be completed prior to receiving a Diaconate Level Certificate from the Institute.

**TEXT: Ceremonies of the Liturgical Year: A Manual for Clergy and All Involved in Liturgical Ministries (Paperback)** by [Peter J. Elliott](#)

**SEM 402 Ministry Initiation Seminar (6 credits)**

This is to be a practical research seminar designed to address questions that are individualized to the seminarian and provides direct help in initiating or continuing inclusive pastoral and sacramental ministry. It should include discussions leading to agreement on ethical, practical and sacramental issues to make sure the individual is a good fit with the vision and mission of the Trinitarian Catholic Church. The role, sacramental and liturgical duties, priestly faculties and the vows of obedience associated with ordination must be discussed with and understood by the seminarian. This course will require a letter to the **Directors of the Institute** by the seminarian explaining in detail how this requirement has been met. This course is to be completed prior to receiving a Presbyterate Level Certificate from the Institute.

**TEXT: The Parish Management Handbook: A Practical Guide for Pastors, Administrators, and Other Parish Leaders (Paperback)** by [Charles E. Zech](#)

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## Course Reflection Papers - Guidelines

**A general Reflection paper is required encompassing all of the 400 level courses of study.**

It is highly recommended that you maintain notes related to each course as you complete them. This will make the task of writing your Reflection paper much easier. Reflection papers must be typed or computer generated in MS Word, in standard type sizes. Unless otherwise stated, your Reflection paper should include your comments about what knowledge and insight you have gained from the courses as they impact the scope of your learning and your preparation for ordination.

It is recommended that students and seminarians complete the required 400 level modules first before electing to take any of the optional courses. Submission of your Reflection paper to your mentor and to the Directors of the Institute, made up of the Bishop, the Director of Vocations and the Chancellor, will be allowed by email attachment or via postal mail.

### Spiritual Journal Writing

**For TCC Seminarians:** This component of your seminary program requires you to maintain a personal spiritual journal throughout your time as a seminarian. You should try to make daily entries into your journal about any aspect of your spiritual development that seems pertinent to your journey toward ordination and ministry. This journal discipline is a strictly private exercise and you are under no obligation to share the contents of your journal with anyone. However, a faithfully maintained journal should assist you greatly in discussions with the Bishop or other Directors of the Institute in focusing on specific areas of your spiritual and personal development.

### Prayer Life

**Daily prayer and meditation** is critical to the spiritual health of all Christians, especially to those called to lead others in their spiritual journeys. **For TCC Seminarians:** You must maintain the practice you have already established of devoting portions of your day to this exercise. While the Liturgy of the Hours or some suitable substitute is not mandated, it is highly recommended as a way of consecrating each day to God's service. You must continue to attend Mass and receive the Holy Eucharist each week until such time as you are ordained and receive faculties from the Bishop to offer services of Holy Communion for the Trinitarian Catholic Church within the Diocese in accordance with Canon Law.

### Share Your Journey

**For TCC Seminarians:** At some point before you are ordained, you must begin to share your aspirations with others and seek to draw people together as a faith community in anticipation of your priestly ministry in The Trinitarian Catholic Church. It is imperative that you are clear about your Church affiliation with The Trinitarian Catholic Church and the inclusive nature of your ministry and apostolic work, especially as regards those who have been alienated from other churches because of issues such as sexual orientation, divorce, race, gender, disability and poverty. You will need to engage in evangelization and must identify resources that might be available to assist you in carrying out your ministry and other apostolates. This ties in with courses **SEM 401** and **SEM 402**.

## **Maintain Contact**

During your time as a student or seminarian, you should secure the assistance of someone who is willing to serve as your spiritual mentor. Your mentor should be someone other than a spouse or a partner. It is important that your mentor be someone who is open minded, supportive, objective and willing to take an active role in mentoring you through your study and discernment period.

You must provide the Bishop with the name, address and phone number of your mentor as well as providing your mentor with the name, address and phone number of the Bishop.

You should meet with your mentor regularly, but not less than once a month in order to discuss your progress and to receive feedback regarding the Reflection paper you are preparing to write. These communications with your mentor are critical to assuring that you are gaining a full understanding of the courses you are studying and will be an opportunity for your mentor, in consultation with the Bishop and the other Directors of the Institute, to make any needed adjustments in your seminary program. Your mentor could also assist you in matters of discernment regarding your vocation to religious life and/or the priesthood.

## **Disclaimer**

Admission to the seminary program of the Holy Trinity Theological Institute of the Trinitarian Catholic Church does not constitute an expressed or implied agreement between the Church and a seminarian who graduates that he/she will automatically be ordained as a Deacon or as a Priest in the Trinitarian Catholic Church or any other Church or Jurisdiction. Graduation from this seminary program leads to a diploma and a certificate issued by and through the authority of the Trinitarian Catholic Church in compliance with the Canon Laws of our Church. It is not a guarantee of ordination, but rather it is a prerequisite to a candidate's consideration for admission to Holy Orders. Additional courses or practicums may be required by the Church before a candidate is considered ready for Holy Orders. Neither the TCC nor any other Church is under any obligation to ordain any person to Holy Orders based solely upon graduation this Institute. It is further understood that the requirements for ordination to Holy Orders in the TCC will periodically undergo changes and revisions in order to provide the best possible preparatory education and training for those who are seeking Holy Orders.

## **Suggested Reference Works to Add to Your Library**

**The Harper Collins Encyclopedia of Catholicism** by Richard P. McBrien, Gen. Ed., (Harper, San Francisco, 1995)

**Handbook of Catholic Theology** by Beinert & Fiorenza, Eds., (Crossroad, New York, 1995)

**The New Dictionary of Theology** by Joseph A. Komonchak, et al., eds., (Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN 1987)

**The New Dictionary of Sacramental Worship** by Peter E. Fink, S.J., (Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN 1990)

## **Holy Trinity Theological Institute**



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