Saint Vincent Seminary is a Roman Catholic Seminary grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the living tradition of the Church in accord with the Magisterium, and shaped by the Benedictine heritage of liturgical prayer, study, hospitality and community. As such, the Seminary is a center for the spiritual formation, human development, and academic and pastoral preparation of candidates for the priesthood. Consistent with this primary mission and responsive to the contemporary needs of the Church, the Seminary provides programs for permanent diaconate candidates and offers degree programs to qualified men and women seeking a theological education.

For Information

CONTACT:
DJ Rodkey
IMF Coordinator
Saint Vincent Seminary
Institute for Ministry Formation
imf@stvincent.edu
300 Fraser Purchase Road
Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650
724-805-2729

Saint Vincent Seminary

In Spiritual Direction: A Guide for Sharing the Father’s Love, the authors have written a superb guide to giving spiritual direction, and receiving it as well, worthy of the masters. I highly recommend it.

—ARCHBISHOP CHARLES J. CHAPUT, O.F.M. CAP.
ARCHBISHOP OF PHILADELPHIA

The demand for sound spiritual directors far outpaces the supply, leaving so many who could be helped toward sanctity stumbling on the journey. . . . That’s why Fathers Acklin and Hicks have done the whole Church, present and future directors, and the directees they will guide an enormous service in fusing the Church’s spiritual wisdom and their extensive experience into a superb, systematic primer.

—FATHER ROGER J. LANDRY
 NATIONAL CHAPLAIN, CATHOLICVOICES USA,
 CATHOLICPREACHING.COM

Spiritual Direction I:
ART OF ACCOMPANIMENT
MAY 18-22, 2020

Spiritual Direction II:
ADVANCED TOPICS IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION
JUNE 22-26, 2020

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The need for spiritual direction—or the accompaniment of a spiritual guide—is becoming more prominent in a world where so many are suffering from deep wounds. As Pope Francis noted, “The Church will have to initiate everyone—priests, religious and laity—into this ‘art of accompaniment’ which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf. Ex 3:5).” (Evangelii Gaudium #169).

The participants will learn the foundational dynamics of spiritual direction through reading, lectures, and discussions. SD 1 will serve as a foundation for those who wish to continue learning the practice of spiritual direction. It is also a stand-alone course for those who wish to learn the “art of accompaniment”. SD 2 will expand upon what students have learned in SD 1, deepening their experiences on the road to expand their own spiritual enlightenment while teaching them how to assist others traveling the same path.

**Topics**

- The role of Spiritual Direction in the Church

  - The need for Spiritual Direction in our time
  - Our one-on-one relationship with God
  - One-on-one human relationships
  - The interior life
  - The importance of vulnerability
  - A listening that reveals and heals
  - Communicating the Father’s Love
  - Introduction to development in the life of prayer
  - Some psychological insights for spiritual direction
  - The qualities of the spiritual director
  - Introduction to supervision and self-awareness
  - Saints for spiritual directors

**Schedule**

The courses consist of five hours of instruction per day for five days. There will also be opportunities over meals and during free times for private meetings with the instructors.

The courses begin at 9 a.m., Mondays and end at 4 p.m. each day except Friday, which ends at noon, May 18-22, and June 22-26, 2020. Housing and meals are provided and included in the cost. There is also a day rate for commuters which includes meals. Space is limited! Reserve early!

Daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, Sacramental Confession and prayer are included in the program and available to any who are interested. The programs also offer time for walks, silence, and reflection to best integrate the teaching offered during the courses. Saint Vincent Archabbey is a peaceful environment that naturally fosters reflection and contemplation.

**The Presenters**

**Father Thomas Acklin O.S.B.**, is a Benedictine monk and priest of Saint Vincent Archabbey. He earned an MA in philosophy at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, and an STD in theology and a PhD in religious studies at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium where he specialized in the psychology of religion. He is a psychoanalyst and a spiritual director and is a professor at Saint Vincent Seminary where he also served as rector. Father Acklin has offered many retreats, especially for priests, Benedictines and contemplative religious.

Father Thomas is also author of several books and articles, including The Passion of the Lamb, and The Unchanging Heart of the Priesthood.

**Father Boniface Hicks, O.S.B.** is a Benedictine monk and priest of Saint Vincent Archabbey. He has provided spiritual direction for many men and women, including married couples, seminarians, consecrated religious and priests, even while completing his Ph.D. in computer science at Penn State University. He became the programming manager for We Are One Body® Catholic Radio in 2010 and has recorded thousands of radio programs on theology and the spiritual life. He has extensive experience as a retreat master for laity, consecrated religious, and priests.

Father Boniface became the director for spiritual formation for Saint Vincent Seminary in 2016 where he also teaches classes on spirituality. He is co-author, with Father Thomas, of Spiritual Direction: A Guide for Sharing the Father’s Love, Emmaus Road, 2017.