

# COURSES AND STAFF

## CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

### BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP

This Friday evening session concerns the elements or marks of a Christian community--- what makes us a Christian Community of Faith in a changing world and larger church. What are the building and leadership skills that lay pastoral associates need to manifest their role in "stewardship" within their Church. What vision of Church are we serving? In the call to leadership as laity, we will look at the stewardship stories of the Scriptures. From these will come an appreciation of what we are leading and building and, hopefully, help us to develop the skills needed to be a Christian builder and leader of community.

**Facilitator: Rev. PAUL ABBASS, BA , M.TH**

Born in Sydney, Fr. Paul is sometimes known as "the TV Priest" as he was producer of Mass For Shut-ins these past several years. Fr. Paul received his BA from King's College, Halifax; formed to Priesthood at St. Paul's Seminary/University in Ottawa. After ordination, he served in Victoria, BC, Bras d'Or, Lourdes, St. Francis Xavier University at the Extension Department. After St.FXU , Fr. Paul was staff development officer for the Metropolitan Catholic School Board of Toronto.

When he came home to us again, Fr. Paul was appointed chaplain at UCCB, director of our Diocesan Faith Formation and Education Office ; is now pastor of St. Mary's, Frenchvale, and Director of Talbot House.

Fr. Paul is widely known as a lecturer and teacher, insightful and creative in his approach to dealing with people. His personality and training are great assets to us as he leads us in the sessions on Christian Community Building and Leadership.

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## MORAL PRINCIPLES

This second semester course will present Christian Moral Principles based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Part 111, Section 1. Divided into four sessions, they will include:

- human goals, freedom and the difference between good and evil actions
- the morality of human emotions, conscience, virtues and sin
- the human community
- moral law (natural and revealed), grace, justification and the teaching role of the Church

The study of Christian moral principles is fundamental to our being able to think clearly about how we ought to live our lives. We will not be directing our attention primarily to solving pressing moral problems (such as euthanasia, capital punishment and the like) but we will provide a good basis to think about such problems. We will consider important examples, however, to help illustrate the principles.

**Facilitator: STEVE BALDNER, Ph.D.**

Professor Baldner comes to St. Francis Xavier University from Detroit, Michigan. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto with his degree in Medieval Studies ---emphasis upon Philosophy and Theology. Prof. Baldner teaches in the Philosophy Department and has experience teaching ethics. This year he is on a sabbatical.

Steve is married to Fran with two children. They live in Antigonish.

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# BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS, DM 30

This course examines the Old and New Testaments so that the learner will come to an appreciation of the historical and theological features of the Bible. The learner will acquire knowledge of the biblical material as it relates to contemporary ministry.

**Facilitator: Rev. GERALD CAMPBELL, BA, M.Div., STL**

Father Gerald comes from New Waterford. He studied at UCCB and St. Francis Xavier University. Then he went to the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax. Ordained in '88, Fr. Gerald was assistant at the Cathedral, studied at the Gregorian in Rome and spent three years as pastor of Larry's River. After a year in Bras d'Or, Fr. Gerald is now Pastor of Grand Mira and Marion Bridge. At the same time he is the Director of the Catholic Bible School and newly appointed producer of Mass for Shut-ins. He lectures, gives classes and retreats around Adult Faith Development in the area of Scripture.

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## SPIRITUALITY

This course will introduce students to the two dimensions of "Spirituality": 1) the lived experience of relating with Reality, i.e., world, self, others, God; and 2) the study of that experience primarily in western Christian tradition. In a five week-end series , topics will be:

- i) introduction and beginning of its history
- ii) "schools" of spirituality
- iii) Vatican II and the principles it articulated for the modern catholic



iv) Issues today: world movements which effect us personally

v) integration of a "vision" and a "praxis"

Students will be asked to reflect upon such issues as: my world view is.....;

my image of God is.....; who is my neighbor?.....; who am I, where am I

and where am I going?.....

**Facilitator: Rev. BEDFORD DOUCETTE, M.TH., STL, M.A.(Liturgy), I.R.F.**

Fr. Bedford was widely known throughout our Diocese as a lecturer and teacher while chaplain at UCCB and producer of Mass for Shut-ins. As Director of Renewal he had ample opportunity to visit all parts of the Diocese. His work with the Liturgical Commissions of the Diocese, Atlantic Canada and the national scene allowed him to see the liturgical situation of our Church. Certainly, this influenced him in his teaching at UCCB in Spirituality. His year's study at the Institute of Religious Formation at St. Louis University assists him in leading us in the course on " Spirituality".

Fr. Bedford is presently pastor of St. Mary's, Big Pond and Sacred Heart, Johnstown. He is also the Director of the Diocesan Lay Ministry Formation Program.

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## **DIOCESAN HISTORY**

"Diocesan History" seeks to situate our Diocese in the context of Church. Why is this course on Diocesan History important to Lay Ministers at this time? The course asks the questions:

---What is church for?

---How has it worked?

---How is it organized?

---How has the Gospel been presented in the different ages?

---Where does the Diocese fit into a changing evolving Church?

The four session presentation on Diocesan History will examine four stages in the growth of our Diocese.

**Facilitator: Rev. ROD B. MacDONALD, Ph.D., SSL**

Fr. "Rod B" comes from Sydney, studied at St. FX and then off to Rome to the Urban College of the Propaganda where he majored in Morals. Added to these studies he achieved a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture. Fr. Rod came back to St. Francis Xavier University and taught for 36 years in the Theology Department. Some of his students are in the Diocesan Ministry Formation Process!

Fr. Rod is widely known as an intelligent, honest, to-the- point-type of person. A good priest of our Diocese, he served on the Council of Priests as its Chair for several years.

Fr. Rod has done extensive post graduate work on the history of our Diocese and has become quite an expert on the subject. He is a good person to teach Diocesan History.

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## **MINISTRY IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

DM 10

Is a core course of the [St. FXU Diploma in Ministry Distance Education Program](#) hence it's designation DM10. As the course writer and teacher (John O'Donnell) states: "...you are about to embark on a journey of discovery. You are about to begin exploring a topic that will likely have a profound effect both on the way that you perceive the church, and on the way in which you understand yourself as a minister. You are about to take up a quest for truth and understanding that would have been unthinkable for a lay person not too long ago. Are you ready? Have you thought about what this means? Are you aware that this quest is likely to change your life and the lives of others in ways that you can only begin to imagine?"

The course assists lay people to become whom they are called to be through their baptismal call from the Lord within the Church by means of:

---biblical, traditional and contemporary perspectives on Christian Ministry

---ecclesiology and ministry

---Various ministries: women, collaborative, spirituality

---discerning your place in the community

---Christian ministry in the New Millennium

**Facilitator: Rev. SYD MIFFLEN, STL(Montreal) , B.ED..(St.FX) ,Ph.D.(Indiana)**

Long known as the "Dean of Students and professor of Education " at St. FX, Fr. Syd was, until recently, pastor of St. Louis Parish, Louisdale. He is now pastor at Our Lady

of Lourdes in Stellarton/New Glasgow. Fr Syd is known to be a strong supporter of lay ministries in his parish and has done much to enhance the baptismal call of each Catholic in his parishes and among the Cursillistas. Fr. Syd was a valued member of the Advisory Board to the Diocesan Lay Ministry Formation Program. He has contributed greatly to the concept and development of our three year program.



Fr. Syd is certainly well equipped to be the local advisor to the Diploma in Ministry Course "Ministry in the Christian Community."

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Students are encouraged to volunteer for such sessions as the Saturday afternoon Reflections on The Word and the study of a particular parish ministry. Candidates will be encouraged and assisted to lead in Morning and Evening Prayer and, as well , to help prepare Sunday Eucharist.

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<a href="#"><u>Pastor's Recommendation Form</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Courses and Staff</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Advisory Board</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Back to Diocesan Main Page</u></a>

"...Among you ...as one who serves..."