1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is based on the intercultural competencies modules designed by the USCCB Office of Cultural Diversity in the Church for the purpose of providing ministry leaders with “a basic level of awareness and proficiency in the area of intercultural competency.”

2. ENVISIONED OUTCOMES

- Laid out within each of the five modules below. Participants will demonstrate a capacity in each of the bullet points listed beneath the module.

3. Course Plan

**MODULE 1: Framing Issues of Diversity Theologically in Terms of the Church’s Identity and Mission to Evangelize**

- Develop the ability to articulate an understanding of the Church’s mission and identity in terms of evangelization and its relation to the New Evangelization
- Develop a familiarity with the basic elements of evangelization in terms of “four pillars” and examples of how evangelization engages individuals and cultures in today’s world.
- Strengthen their grasp of the theological foundations for the Church’s mission to evangelize in Scripture, tradition and contemporary Church teaching.

**MODULE 2: Seeking an Understanding of Culture and How it Works**

- Define culture and identify ways in which culture influences communication.
- Understand how cultures differ beneath the surface and how cultures respond differently to similar situations.
- Create a framework of ideas that can be applied to understanding the major concepts of intercultural communication.
MODULE 3: Developing Intercultural Communication Skills in Pastoral Settings
- Develop practical knowledge about intercultural communications in pastoral settings.
- Increase awareness of how to communicate effectively with persons and groups in cultures other than one's own.
- Use modes of communication that are proper to the culture being addressed.
- Lead, discuss, and make decisions using culturally appropriate processes with intercultural groups.
- Apply basic skills in conflict resolution.

MODULE 4: Expanding Knowledge of the Obstacles that Impede Effective Intercultural Relations
- Increased awareness of the presence of racism in intercultural relationships and how it affects those relationships
- Increased knowledge and understanding of racism
- Renewed willingness to confront one's own experiences of racism
- Acknowledgement and ownership of one's feelings about racism
- Strengthened resolve to find one’s voice to speak out against racism

MODULE 5 – Fostering Ecclesial Integration Rather Than Assimilation in Church Settings with a Spirituality of Hospitality, Reconciliation, and Mission
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the principle of ecclesial integration versus assimilation.
- Identify different parish models in the context of cultural diversity and a spirituality of mission and reconciliation.
- Apply the developmental process of ecclesial integration and its five principles to one's own parish or Catholic institution.

4. REQUIRED READING


Supplemental readings will be provided based on the intercultural work done through the Seminary Department of the National Catholic Educational Association and the Parresia Project of the Sacred Heart Institute.

5. PRIMARY COURSE ACTIVITIES

Participants in this course will listen to a short lecture and synthesis of the readings each week, will read the materials provided by the USCCB, NCEA Seminary Department and Parresia Project, will watch videos created by workers in the vineyard of intercultural relations, and participate in a weekly discussion. Each participant will also be required by the end of the third week of the course to create and post for discussion a short presentation about his own ministerial setting and the opportunities within it for demonstrating the cultivation of the competencies outlined within this course.

6. ABOUT THE COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Sebastian Mahfood, OP, is a Lay Dominican of the Chapter of the Holy Rosary in the Province of St. Albert. He is Vice-President of Administration and Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Holy Apostles College & Seminary, Provost of the Continuing Education Program at the Sacred Heart Institute, and Director of the Catholic Distance Learning Network of the NCEA Seminary Department. He holds a master’s in comparative literature from the University of Texas at Arlington, a master’s in philosophy and a master’s in theology from Holy Apostles College & Seminary, a master’s in educational technology from Webster University and a doctorate in postcolonial literature and theory from Saint Louis University. He lives in St. Louis, MO, with his wife, Dr. Stephanie Mahfood, and children, Alexander and Eva Ruth.