Field Education and Theological Formation
Field Education at DSPT assists the student preparing for ministry in applying what is learned academically about the Triune God and the Church in the practical realm of Christian ministry. It provides the focus, experience, supervision, and theological reflection to promote the best utilization of the student’s own spiritual gifts, natural talents, skills, and experience in ministry to others. It is learning to minister to others. Keeping in mind that the primary objective of Christian ministry is evangelization, Field Education also helps students realize that ministry is an invitation to ongoing conversion for the minister. Through this ever-deepening conversion, one is opened by the Spirit and empowered to be an instrument of Jesus Christ in the world.

Overall Purpose of Field Education
One of the institutional goals of the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology is to prepare effective leaders for the Church and society.

An effective leader is filled with passion, and inspires within others the desire to realize the common good by articulating to academy or society a coherent vision rooted in the mission of the Church, all the while leading by example and compassionate service. Effective leadership includes a…collaborative dimension, in which one uses good listening and communication skills, making decisions which stem from and lead to an open, transparent, and mutually enriching dialog with others in order that the gifts of all can be appropriately acknowledged and utilized.

Within this overall program of theological education, it is the purpose of Field Education to provide the experiential context for the student’s integration of the pastoral dimension of their formation with the riches of the theological tradition.

Course Description:
This course for M.Div. students allows them to continue to use the fundamental skills that were learned in FE1040 in a supervised ministerial setting. They may continue the ministry they began in FE1040, or begin a new ministry. If they begin a new ministry, they will need to complete a new ministry contract for supervision at the ministry site. Otherwise, they will review the ministry contract for their initial ministry and make any updates with their supervisor as needed. The contract, whether modified or not, will be reviewed with the instructor as indicated in the syllabus. During the semester they are expected to apply what they learned in FE1040 regarding charisms, collaboration, cultural differences and theological reflection to this weekly apostolate, with the goal of deepening their ministerial skills and ministerial identity. Classes will be a combination of lecture, theological reflection, discernment of charisms, and discussions on the process of evangelization. Grading is based on class participation, written theological reflections, and a written statement of
theology of ministry and ministerial identity.

Course Goals:
In this course the student will

• Participate in a weekly apostolate selected with the approval of the course instructor;
• Complete or review and update a contract for learning and supervision which will be used as a guide and evaluative tool in the course;
• Apply the methods of theological reflection learned in the fall semester to their experiences in their apostolate;
• Use their apostolic experiences to help them discern whether they have a specific spiritual gift they have chosen to explore.
• Deepen their understanding of charisms by attempting to discern them in people with whom they are collaborating in ministry;
• Apply in their apostolate the paradigm for identifying spiritual changes in people that lead to conversion;
• Continue to explore their ministerial identity and theology of ministry.

Course Requirements:
1. Attendance and active participation in weekly class sessions (the first class will be Monday, February 2, 8:40-10 a.m., at St. Albert’s Priory conference room, at which time we will decide upon a mutually agreeable time to meet weekly);
2. Selection of and participation in a weekly apostolate;
3. Completion/updating of a learning contract for supervision in the weekly apostolate;
4. occasional prayer leadership in class;
5. timely submission of three (3) three-page theological reflection papers based on experiences in their apostolate; LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
6. Participation in classroom theological reflections based on ministerial experience, ministry identity, charism discernment, or evangelization issues.
7. Refinement of the 3-5 page written statement of theology of ministry, personal ministerial identity and charism discernment goals written for the fall semester.

Theological Reflection Papers: A three page essay that explores an issue or experience you have encountered in your apostolate which begins with the ministerial experience and utilizes insights from the Scriptures, Roman Catholic theological and wisdom tradition, and insights from cultural resources to help you understand the ministerial experience. If no specific method is required, you may use any of the three reflection processes discussed in class: Whitehead, Killen and deBeer, or Pohly.

Course Outcomes:
The student will demonstrate the achievement of the course goals by

1 Written assignments at DSPT should be typewritten, double-spaced and carefully edited. When formatting footnotes (or endnotes) and bibliography, please consult Kate Turabian, A Manual for Writing Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).
• participating in class discussions and utilizing insights drawn from any readings for the week;
• writing three (3) three page theological reflections which may be discussed in class;
• re-writing and refining a five-page written statement of theology of ministry, their ministerial identity and evaluating the presence or absence of the charism they are discerning for the semester;
• Submitting their own written evaluation of their ministerial work based on the contract for learning entered at the beginning of the semester;
• Submitting a written summary of their ministerial work from their on-site supervisor based on the contract for learning entered at the beginning of the semester.

Evaluation / Grading:
Grades will be based on course requirements.
A 95-100 points
A- 90-94
B+ 85-89
B 80-84
B- 75-79
C 70-74
F below 70 points
(I—Incomplete)

Final grade will be the sum grade points from:
• Attendance/Participation in discussions 30
• Contract for Learning 10
• Theological Reflection papers and reflection response 30
• Written Theology of Ministry and Ministerial Identity 20
• Written Evaluations of their ministerial work 10
Total 100 points

Texts for Course


Week 1: Monday, February 2, 2015
This week, meet with your supervisor to renegotiate your ministry contract. Use the ministry self-assessment tool to help you refine and revise your ministry contract.
You may select a new charism to discern, or continue to discern the charism you chose the first semester if you are still unsure whether you have the charism or not. Decide how your apostolate will help you “test” for the charism, and include that description in your ministry contract.
In class, we will review your final theological reflection from last semester. Bring that to class, please.
Reading:

Week 2: Wednesday, February 11 – Conversion: The Goal of Ministry
Reading:
*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 8-29
In class TR on your reaction to something proposed in Evangelii Nuntiandi.

Week 3: Wednesday, February 18 – The New Normal
Reading:

[Learning Contract due]

Week 4: February 25 – Implications of Discipleship
Reading:

Theological Reflection 1 due Tuesday, 2/25 at 11:59 p.m. on this week’s reading.

Week 5: March 4 – Disposition and Grace: Implications for Ministry
Reading:
*Aquinas and Subjective Disposition: The Challenge*, Ralph Martin, The Institute for Church Life, pp. 36-46.

Week 6: March 11 – Thresholds of Conversion: Trust
Reading:

*Redemptoris Missio*, (Pre-evangelization, Initial Proclamation)
In class we will reflect upon what charisms might be helpful in establishing trust with a non-believer. Be prepared to talk about how you have established trust with a particular person.

**Week 7: March 18 – Thresholds of Conversion: Curiosity**

Reading:

*Evangelii Gaudium*

In class we will reflect upon what charisms might be helpful in establishing curiosity with a non-believer. What possible charisms do you have that might engender curiosity?

**Week 8: March 25 – no Class (Reading Week)**

[Theological Reflection 2 due March 27, 11:59 p.m. via email. The subject will be an experience from your ministry]

**Week 9: April 1 – Thresholds of Conversion: Openness**

Reading:

Reflect on your own life – what events, people, information has made you open to spiritual change? What helped you become open to becoming a Dominican friar?

In class we will discuss what charisms might be helpful in establishing openness within someone who is not a disciple. What possible charisms do you have that might engender openness? Have you seen any evidence of openness to spiritual change in someone to whom you have ministered?

**Week 10: April 8 – Thresholds of Conversion: Seeking an Discipleship**

Reading:

*Redemptoris Missio*, (Conversion and Baptism/Reconciliation)

In class theological reflection from an event in your ministry

**Week 11: April 15 – Application of Thresholds**

Reading:

John 4:1-42

In class we will watch a “threshold conversation” and you will be asked to identify possible thresholds at different points in the story.
Week 12: April 22
Reading:

In class: Map out your own journey of faith in light of the thresholds; What aspects of the “Great Story” have contributed to your conversion process? What events, people, information, art, conversations, charisms, etc. helped you to cross each threshold?

Week 13: April 29 – Class Charism Discernment
Reading:


Week 14: May 6 – In Class Verbatim/Theological Reflection
Reading:
*The Parish: Mission or Maintenance?* Michael Sweeney, O.P. and Sherry A. Weddell, Catherine of Siena Institute, 2000, pp. 1-21. (The Laity share in the mission of Evangelization; they have a right-duty to a formation to prepare them for their work in the world)

Preparation for the final written theological reflection

Week 15: May 13 – Another Look at Collaboration
Reading:
*Fulfilling the Vision: Collaborative Ministry in the Parish*, Fr. Howard J. Hubbard, Crossroad Publishing, pp. 50-91. (Consider the issues of discipleship and thresholds of conversion as you read this text)

[Theological Reflection 3 due May 12, 11:59 p.m. via email. The subject will be an experience from your ministry]

Week 16: May 20: Finals Week – No Class
[Theology of Ministry and Ministerial Identity essay, written evaluations of ministerial work from student and supervisor due MAY 22, 11:59 p.m.]