The student body reflects the broad diversity of cultures that characterize metropolitan New York. St. John’s is conveniently located close to LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy International Airports and to public transportation.

The Vincentian Center for Church and Society was established at St. John’s in 1994 as a means of relating this Catholic and Vincentian University to the greater civil and ecclesial communities. The center sponsors a range of programs for Church personnel and conducts Vincentian research on poverty and social justice. Since 1995, the Vincentian Center for Church and Society at St. John’s has offered programs in management for pastors and seminarians.

Faculty

The acculturation seminar draws from St. John’s University faculty who teach in the departments of anthropology, business, law, psychology, speech, and theology; staff of the Vincentian Center; diocesan administrators; foreign-born resident priests; and experienced pastors.

Program Coordinator

Rev. Patrick J. Griffin, C.M. ’13HON, Executive Director
Vincentian Center for Church and Society
St. John’s University

“It would be a mistake, a serious mistake, not to do all that is in one’s power to form good priests, because the Church needs them badly.”

—St. Vincent de Paul
Program Goals
In an intensive, supportive program, participants who have conversational ability in English focus on these goals:

- **Church Development in the United States:** Gain an overview of the development of the Catholic Church in the pluralistic, religiously diverse United States and discuss models of Church and roles of priests within that context.

- **Sociological Issues:** Engage in discussions on culture, cultural bridges, family, gender, multiculturalism, race, and the acculturation process itself to discern differences between one’s native culture and US culture(s).

- **Counseling and Self-Care:** Reflect on the issues of stress, creativity, self-knowledge, and personal growth, which the acculturation process engenders.

- **Priest as Leader, Team Member, and Collaborator:** Grow in appreciation of the need in organizations for servant leadership and effective management skills.

- **Church Structure and Collaboration:** Study overall church structure in the United States and the roles of clergy and laity within the parish and diocesan organizations.

- **Interpersonal Communication:** Recognize the complexity and centrality of communication to ministry and engage in practice sessions which focus on cultural differences.

- **Pastoral Communication:** Reflect on attitudes and skills which enhance pastoral communication, with special emphasis on reading and preaching.

- **Time Management:** Learn time management skills that contribute to a healthy and productive work ethic and lifestyle.

- **Immigration and Legal Issues:** Discuss legal issues, immigration, and pastoral concerns.

- **Relationships:** Establish relationships with other international priests as a means of support.

- **Understanding Boundaries:** Recognize healthy distance and content in relationships.

Program Dates
The seminar will be presented this year in a digital format. There will be two days of classes a week for three weeks beginning on Monday, June 10, and concluding on Thursday, June 27.

Eligibility
To be eligible for admission to the program, a priest must:

- be recommended by officials of the diocese or the leadership of his religious community. A letter of recommendation must be forwarded directly to the Vincentian Center for Church and Society from the diocesan personnel office or major superior in the United States.

- be a US resident for at least six months and less than five years.

- demonstrate conversational proficiency in English.

Registration is due by May 17.

Program Cost: $200
Please submit payment with completed registration and verification forms that can be downloaded at www.stjohns.edu/vincentiancenter

Direct inquiries to Vincentian Center for Church and Society
St. John’s University
8000 Utopia Parkway
Queens, NY 11439
Tel: 718-990-1612
Email: VCCS@stjohns.edu