



About St. John's University

Established in Brooklyn, NY, by the Vincentian community in 1870, St. John's has campuses in Queens and Manhattan, NY, and locations in Rome, Italy; Paris, France; and Limerick, Ireland.

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



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

VINCENTIAN CENTER
FOR CHURCH AND SOCIETY

"This is an important seminar for newly hired priests who want to work in the US."
—Order of Friar Minors/Poland

"The program was very informative and encouraging to international priests."
—Diocese of Brooklyn/Bangladesh

"The program opened my mind to what my parishioners in the pew expect from me regarding the authenticity of my message."
—Diocese of Rockville Centre/Ghana

"I found the seminar on Communicating the Message especially helpful."
—Diocese of Rockville Centre/Ghana

"I found the seminar on Boundaries for Clergy most helpful for non-American priests."
—Diocese of Brooklyn/Bangladesh

"I would recommend this program to others because of its richness and relevance for international priests who are new to the culture of the US. It broadens one's horizons in all important areas of the American culture."
—Order of Friars Minor/United Kingdom

"I have become more Catholic in the true sense of the word. I will be open to all possibilities and accept all cultures."
—Diocese of Brooklyn/Philippines, *The Tablet*

"This seminar is helpful for Latino and other international priests who need to adjust to the more corporate style of US Church life."
—Diocese of Orlando/Colombia, *Our Sunday Visitor*

"It is what every international priest needs if he ever hopes to be able to find his left from his right in this country, ministry-wise."
—Diocese of Brooklyn/Nigeria, *The Tablet*

"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

25th Annual Acculturation Seminar for International Priests

June 2026





Goals

In an intensive, supportive program, participants who have conversational ability in English focus on:

- ✦ **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.

Schedule

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 15, and concluding on Thursday, July 2.

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 22.

Program Cost: \$200

Please submit payment with completed registration and verification forms that can be downloaded at stjohns.edu/vincentiancenter

Direct inquiries to

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