



About St. John's University

Established in Brooklyn by the Vincentian community in 1870, St. John's has campuses in Queens, Staten Island, and Manhattan in New York City, and in Rome, Italy; and three locations in Hauppauge, NY; Limerick, Ireland; and Paris, France. In addition to its undergraduate liberal arts college, the University has schools of law, pharmacy, business, professional studies, and education, as well as a wide range of continuing education programs. The student body numbers more than 20,000 and reflects the broad diversity of cultures which 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

Faculty for the **acculturation seminar** are drawn from St. John's University faculty (business, law, theology, psychology, speech, and anthropology), staff of the Vincentian Center, diocesan administrators, and foreign-born resident priests, as well as experienced pastors.

Program Coordinator

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

Comments about the Seminar

"I would highly recommend this seminar. It is like a box of tools given to a priest to be effective in his ministry."
—Diocese of Rockville Centre/Nigeria

"It was challenging to be taught by a layperson how to preach. I look forward to more such challenges."
—Archdiocese of New York/Dominican Republic

"Faculty are sincere, efficient, and very talented in communicating their topics."
—Diocese of Owensboro/Kenya

"Taking this course will strengthen one's confidence and set the right direction and objectives in ministering to the Catholics in America."
—Archdiocese of Atlanta/Colombia

"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*

"Latino priests 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*

"There are priests here from 12 different cultures, each representing the face of Jesus in his own way. The unity within that variety was remarkable... the brotherhood... It was very enriching."
—Diocese of Brooklyn/India, *The Tablet*

"One of the greatest needs for all US priests is working with the intergenerational issues among recent immigrants arising out of younger people becoming 'Americanized.'"
—Diocese of Stamford/Slovakia, *Kindling*

"This program helps to make it easier to minister in an American environment."
—Director of Priest Personnel, Diocese of Rockville Centre, *The Long Island Catholic*

"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



**ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY**

VINCENTIAN CENTER
FOR CHURCH AND SOCIETY

19th Annual Acculturation Seminar for International Priests

Queens, NY, Campus

June 22-26, 2020





Program Goals

In an intensive, supportive, five-day residential program, participants who have already developed “survival skills”, and 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, gender, race, family, multiculturalism, cultural bridges, 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 Communications:** Recognize the complexity and centrality of communication to ministry and engage in practice sessions which focus on cultural differences.
- † **Pastoral Communications:** Reflect on attitudes and skills which enhance pastoral communication, with special emphasis on reading and preaching.
- † **Time Management:** Learn time management skills which contribute to a healthy and productive work ethic and lifestyle.
- † **Immigration and Legal Issues:** Discuss legal issues, immigration, and pastoral concerns.
- † **Liturgical Sharing:** Share Liturgy (Eucharist and Divine Office) as a way of building community.
- † **Relationships:** Establish relationships with other international priests as a means of support.
- † **Understanding Boundaries:** Recognize healthy distance and content in relationships.

Program Dates

Arrival and check-in: Monday, June 22, from 9 to 11 a.m. The five-day seminar begins on June 22 with a luncheon at 12 noon and closes at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, June 26, after Eucharist and a certificate presentation.

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

Early Bird Registration–Due April 1

Nonrefundable Registration Fee	\$50
Seminar Fee	\$750
Total	\$800

Regular Registration–Due May 22

Nonrefundable Registration Fee	\$50
Seminar Fee	\$800
Total	\$850

Please remit payment with completed registration and verification forms downloadable at www.stjohns.edu/VincentianCenter.

Residence

To enhance the learning environment, each participant is assigned a private room within the student residence halls. Meals are provided on campus. Athletic and library facilities are available to participants.

Collaboration with Sacred Heart Institute (SHI)

The Vincentian Center collaborates with the SHI in Huntington, NY, for the acculturation program. The SHI is a cooperative effort of the Archdiocese of New York and the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre, NY, to facilitate the ongoing formation of priests and deacons.

Direct inquiries to

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