

THE PASTORAL SCHOOL OF THE CHICAGO AND DETROIT DIOCESE OF THE RUSSIAN CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

INTRODUCTION

The Pastoral School of the Chicago and Detroit Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia provides a thirty-six (36) unit program of study leading to a diploma in Orthodox Pastoral Studies.

The program is required of candidates for ordination in the Diocese of Chicago and Detroit who have not graduated from an Orthodox theological seminary. The program is open to:

- Anyone interested in studying Orthodox theology, but unable to attend an Orthodox seminary.
- Orthodox clergy seeking a structured continuing theological education program (CTE).

GOALS

- To provide students with an Orthodox theological education through directed reading courses, and graded examinations.
- To prepare clergy for service to the Church through emphasis on practical application of knowledge to ministry, and to contemporary problems and issues facing the Church.
- To prepare knowledgeable pastors to serve local parishes and missions of the Chicago and Detroit Diocese.

The program does not seek to replace studies at a regular theological school, but rather to prepare those who cannot attend such schools, but who are none-the-less called to serve the local Church. Such individuals will partially make up for their lack of seminary on-campus experience by active participation in the liturgical life of their parish, and attendance at a summer residence program.

STRUCTURE AND PROCESS

The program is a distance education based diploma program. Reading courses are provided and directed through both web-based and regular mail, and mentored by assigned, usually local, clergy who provide support, guidance, direction, and praxis for the student. Communication between the student and mentor is directed through published syllabi, and frequent direct personal contact.

Completion of a written examination is required for each reading course. A thesis is required during the last semester of study on a topic chosen in consultation with the student's mentor, and approved by the Program Director.

All candidates for ordination must attend the summer residence program in liturgical music offered by Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary at Jordanville, New York. They must successfully complete the courses in Church Slavonic and in Liturgics offered through that program.

In addition, candidates for ordination must demonstrate proficiency in the Russian Language or successfully complete two (2) courses in the Russian language at any accredited college or university.

At the completion of the program candidates for graduation must stand for an oral examination by a panel consisting of the Pastoral School's President, Vice-President, Program Director, and two other members appointed by the President.

Graduates will receive the Diploma offered by the Pastoral School of the Diocese of Chicago and Detroit.

DURATION AND SCHEDULE

The program duration is two years and consists of four (4) semesters of study and a summer residence experience.

Applications must be submitted and complete by July 1st of the year that the student intends to begin studies. Semesters begin in September with examinations following the Feast of Theophany in January. The spring semester begins in February with examinations in June.

Normally the Program is completed in two (2) years of four consecutive semesters. Upon approval of the Program Director, the Program may be extended or shortened for a student presenting extenuating circumstances.

ADMISSIONS

General and Continuing Theological Education (CTE) admissions to the Pastoral School are open to all Orthodox Christians who desire to increase their knowledge of Orthodox theology. For these students general application forms available from the program office must be completed and submitted together with the proper registration fees. A certificate will be issued upon successful completion of each course. Courses taken may be applied, at a later date, toward graduation from the Program upon the written approval of the Program Director.

All candidates for the Diploma in Pastoral Studies must have completed at least sixty (60) units of credit at an accredited college, junior/community college, or university. Prior college credit must include standard general education requirements. The following materials must be submitted to the Program office by the admissions deadline:

1. Completed application form. (All applicants)
2. Photocopy of baptismal certificate. (Candidates for ordination only)
3. Official transcripts from all institutions of higher education attended. (All Diploma candidates.)
4. An essay showing the applicant's biography, his reason for applying to the program, and a sincere desire to serve the Orthodox Church as a member of the Clergy. (Candidates for ordination only)
5. A letter from the applicant's proposed mentor indicating his willingness to serve in this capacity (All Diploma candidates)
6. A letter of recommendation from the applicant's pastor or confessor, sent directly to the Program Director. This individual may also serve as the student's mentor. (Candidates for ordination only)

TUITION AND FEES

The following is a schedule of fees and tuition for the Pastoral School:

Application fee:	
Non-Diploma applicants	\$ 25.00
Diploma Candidates	\$100.00
Credit Hour Tuition	\$100.00
Graduation Fee	\$150.00

All Tuition must be paid at the time of registration for each course. Nether tuition or fees include the cost of the summer residence program which is handled separately through the Summer Music School Program at Holy Trinity Seminary.

ADMINISTRATION

Board of Trustees:

The Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Chicago and Detroit of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

Administrative Officers:

The Right Reverend Bishop Peter, President

Reverend Father André Papkov, Vice President

Reverend Father Martin Swanson, Program Director

CURRICULUM

Courses of study, and their normal sequence for Diploma candidates. Courses:

First Year

First Semester

101 History and Principles of the Orthodox Church (3 units)

102 The Russian Church (3 units)

104 Survey of Scripture--Old and New Testament (3 units)

Second Semester

103 The Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russian (3 units) Prerequisite 102.

105 The Mysteries of the Church (3 units)

106 Surveys of the Fathers (3 units)

Summer

SRP Summer Residence Program at Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, NY---Church Slavonic & Liturgics. (No-credit) (Required for candidates for ordination only)

Second Year

Third Semester

107 Comparative Religions (3 units)

108 Dogmatic Theology (3 units)

109 Survey of Canon Law (3 units)

Fourth Semester

110 The Church and the Pastor (3 units)

T Thesis (6)

PC Pastor's Certification that the candidate has actively participated and assisted in all aspects of parish life, including both the social and liturgical life of the parish community. (Required for candidates for ordination only) (No units)

Summer

Final oral examination and graduation.

GRADING

Students will be assigned the following grades upon the completion of each course.

Pass with honors	90-100 %.
Pass	70-89 %.
Fail	Below 70%

No student will be granted a certificate of completion for any course in which a passing grade has not been awarded.

In order to graduate from the Program a student must pass all required coursework. Students may drop a course for extenuating circumstances approved by the Program Director. Courses must be dropped by November 1st for the fall semester, and April 1st for the spring semester. No refund of tuition or fees will be given. The dropped course should be taken during the following semester.

Should a student receive a failing grade for a course he will be dismissed from the Program. A student may appeal to re-take a failed course. The appeal may be granted by the Program Director for one time only. Grades may be appealed to the Board of Trustees.

AFFILIATIONS

Affiliation are encouraged and promoted with the Holy Trinity Pastoral School and Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary.

BOOKS AND RESOURCE MATERIALS

Required texts and readings will be assigned for each course. All textbooks can be accessed online, at the Holy Trinity Pastoral School Web site. In addition, most texts can be purchased through Orthodox booksellers. The Program will provide other required reading material.

ORDINATION AND WAIVERS

Upon completion of the Pastoral School's course of study, ordination is at the sole discretion of the Bishop. Any requirements or conditions set forth herein may be waived by the Bishop at his discretion, and ordination of a candidate may occur at anytime during the course of study that the Bishop may deem necessary.

The Bishop may also award a Diploma from the School for honorable cause.