

Schools Of Sustainable Faith

THE SCHOOL OF MERCY AND JUSTICE 2017 – 2018

Overview

The School of Mercy and Justice offers participants an immersive, integrated, and robust spiritual formation for those who desire to cultivate a deep life with God and engage in the work of mercy and justice in the world.

Through the combined experience of learning together through teaching and discussion, reading superb literature, film, engaging in individual and group activities and reflection, receiving spiritual direction, and practicing spiritual disciplines — all in a communal setting — students will grow in embodying the contemplative, missional life.

Registration

You can apply at <http://www.sustainablefaith.com/somj>. Once we receive your application, we will get in touch with you for an interview and provide payment information so you can pay your deposit and secure your place in the school.

Dates: 9:00am – 5:00pm, Fridays and Saturdays (location to be determined)

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|--------------------|---------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| • Module 1: | October 27-28 | (Winnipeg) | November 3-4 | (Montreal) |
| • Module 2: | December 8-9 | (Winnipeg) | December 15-16 | (Montreal) |
| • Module 3: | February 9-10 | (Winnipeg) | February 16-17 | (Montreal) |
| • Module 4: | April 13-14 | (Winnipeg) | April 20-21 | (Montreal) |
| • Module 5: | June 8-9 | (Winnipeg) | June 15-16 | (Montreal) |

School Requirements

- Readings (12)
- Activities (8)
- Receiving spiritual direction (minimum 6 sessions)
- Practicing spiritual disciplines (coinciding with reading of *Sacred Rhythms*)
- General reports (4)



Schools Of Sustainable Faith

Readings

In our present culture, we have a nasty habit of confusing information with wisdom. We mix up the intellectual comprehension of a spiritual fact with the embodied practice. In this training, we read for formation, not information. There are twelve required books to read: around two for each of the five modules, with a reading pace of about one book a month.

Activities

We are not solely or even primarily thinking beings; much of what actually forms us are the activities and experiences with which we engage our bodies. As such, the training includes eight required activities which we will specify during the first module. Participants will undertake these activities with a view to more fully encountering Jesus and his heart of mercy and justice in and amongst those who are considered “poor.”

Receiving Spiritual Direction

Each participant agrees to receive direction for the duration of the training. Allowing a compassionate and wise person to companion you as you reflect on your life is a mark of humility. It also encourages you to rest from doing, and be reflective; to notice, savour, and respond to the presence, voice, and activity of God. This is especially important in mercy and justice work, where needs and issues always seem urgent, ubiquitous, and inexhaustible. If you need help finding a director, we would be happy to assist you.

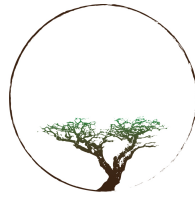
Practicing Spiritual Disciplines

Each participant selects one to two spiritual disciplines to engage in more deeply over the course of each module.

General Reports

At least a paragraph of reflection on each of the following, due before each module:

- the current circumstances of your own life and spiritual journey
- your experience of the readings and activities (reactions, illuminations, challenges etc.)
- your experience of receiving direction (what are you noticing?)
- your experience of practicing spiritual disciplines
- answering one or two specific questions related to the module
- any question(s) you'd like to discuss in the upcoming module



**Schools Of
Sustainable Faith**

Required Readings

- **Module 1: Foundations: The Story of Our Life and The Life of Christ**
 - *An Unhurried Life: Following Jesus' Rhythms of Work and Rest* (Alan Fadling)
 - *The Active Life* (Parker Palmer)
 - *Sacred Rhythms* (Ruth Haley Barton): Introduction & Chapter 1

- **Module 2: Compassion and Grief**
 - *Compassion* (Henri Nouwen)
 - *Sacred Sorrow: Reaching Out to God in the Lost Language of Lament* (Michael Card)
 - *Sacred Rhythms* (Ruth Haley Barton): Chapter 2 & 3

- **Module 3: Humility and Power**
 - *The Way of Humility* (Andre Louf, OSCO)
 - *Freedom of Simplicity: Finding Harmony in a Complex World* (Richard J. Foster)
 - *Sacred Rhythms* (Ruth Haley Barton): Chapter 4 & 5

- **Module 4: Mercy and Justice**
 - *Living Without Enemies: Being Present in the Midst of Violence* (Samuel Wells & Marcia A. Owen)
 - *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* (Gregory Boyle)
 - *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation* (Parker J. Palmer)
 - *Sacred Rhythms* (Ruth Haley Barton): Chapter 6 & 7

- **Module 5: Rhythm and Rule**
 - *The Rest of God: Restoring Your Soul by Restoring Sabbath* (Mark Buchanan)
 - *Crafting a Rule of Life: An Invitation to the Well-Ordered Way* (Stephen A. Macchia)
 - *Sacred Rhythms* (Ruth Haley Barton): Chapter 8 & 9



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Suggested Readings

- **Module 1: Foundations: The Story of Our Life and The Life of Christ**
 - *The Practice of the Presence of God* (Brother Lawrence)
 - *Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality* (Ronald Rolheiser)
 - *Just Spirituality: How Faith Practices Fuel Social Action* (Mae Elise Cannon)
 - *The Cultivated Life: From Ceaseless Striving to Receiving Joy* (Susan S. Phillips)
 - *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices for Everyday Life* (Tish Harrison Warren)

- **Module 2: Compassion and Grief**
 - *A Grief Observed* (C.S. Lewis)
 - *Lament for a Son* (Nicholas Wolterstorff)
 - *A Severe Mercy* (Sheldon Vanauken)
 - *On Grief and Grieving* (Elisabeth Kübler-Ross & David Kessler)

- **Module 3: Humility and Power**
 - *The Upside Down Kingdom* (Donald B. Kraybill)
 - *An Other Kingdom: Departing the Consumer Culture* (Peter Block, Walter Brueggeman, & John McKnight)
 - *Power, Service, Humility: A New Testament Ethic* (Reinhard Feldmeier)
 - *The Way of the Dragon or the Way of the Lamb: Searching for Jesus' Path of Power in a Church that Has Abandoned It* (Jamin Goggin & Kyle Strobel)

- **Module 4: Mercy and Justice**
 - *A Call to Mercy: Hearts to Love, Hands to Serve* (Mother Teresa)
 - *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (Bryan Stevenson)
 - *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation* (Jonathan Kozol)
 - *We Belong to the Land: The Story of a Palestinian Israeli Who Lives for Peace and Reconciliation* (Elias Chacour & Mary E. Jensen)
 - *No Future Without Forgiveness* (Desmond Tutu)
 - *Chasing the Dragon: One Woman's Struggle Against the Darkness of Hong Kong's Drug Dens* (Jackie Pullinger)

- **Module 5: Rhythm and Rule**
 - *The Rule of St. Benedict* (St. Benedict)
 - *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit* (James K.A. Smith)
 - *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us* (Adele Ahlberg Calhoun)
 - *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth* (Richard J. Foster)
 - *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives* (Dallas Willard)