

PURPOSE

Authorization: The St. Clement of Alexandria Seminary has been authorized by the General Episcopal Synod (GES) of the Universal Catholic Church (UCC). This international body of prelates is the highest governing authority within the UCC. The Campus of the Seminary has been instituted and approved by the Presiding Bishop (PB) with the PB as Chancellor and the appointment of a Rector.

Charter: Responding to the imperative need for preparing and maintaining a well-trained clergy, the GES of the UCC adopted the following Official Charter for the Seminary on November 18, 2010. The Charter outlines the purpose of the Seminary.

Whereas the Church should provide a means to train those who are called by her to guard her corpus of wisdom; to impart it to those of each succeeding age who seek it; and to explore, under the Holy Spirit, such aspects of faith and religion as necessity or devotion may indicate.

Now, therefore, a Seminary shall be established under the guidance of the Presiding Bishop to engage itself through the efforts of its executive officers, in the following tasks:

- (1) To assist, as far as it is able and without disturbing local educational practices or special observances, with the training of postulants for Holy orders, and generally to coordinate this work on a worldwide basis.
- (2) To explore ways of expanding mutual awareness of the location, services, and other activities of every part of the Universal Catholic world family.
- (3) To provide the Presiding Bishop with a research organization which will assist him or her in *his* archival, historical, and recording duties and will engage under *his* direction in such other activities as may from time to time be deemed necessary.
- (4) To provide the General Episcopal Synod with the results of such research projects as they may from time to time commission and to provide clerical support as necessary.

Mission: The Seminary identifies three basic purposes as its mission: (1) The primary purpose is to prepare and train those who are postulants for Holy Orders in the UCC. (2) Another purpose is to provide a means for the continuing education of the clergy of the UCC. (3) Furthermore, the Seminary is also a facility for the formation of an informed laity of the Church.

Members of other denominations, both clergy and laity, are welcome to apply for admission but preference will be given to members of the UCC.

Orientation: The work of the Seminary is on an academic level. The curriculum reflects this orientation. Nevertheless, this is not to say that this is the only concern for students. Note the required course in prayer and meditation in the first year. At some future time, retreats will be made available under the sponsorship of local parishes. Besides this, spiritual direction and on-the-job training are strengthened by the student's bishop, rector and/or senior priests at the local parish level.

Spiritual Formation: The Catholic Priest should live a fully human, apostolic and holy life of service to God and mankind. Therefore, the seminarian seeking Holy Orders should cultivate a real and personal love for Jesus Christ and should imitate His compassionate love to mankind. There are courses within the curriculum that will help stimulate this train of thought from a Liberal Catholic Movement perspective. He/She should make frequent contact with Christ manifest in the Sacraments of the Church, most especially the Eucharist. This life of imitation of Christ will be deepened with frequent prayer and Scriptural reading, (such as the Divine Office or some other form of formal prayer) and serious study. Prayer life is a requirement for all of our seminarians seeking Holy Orders and should be viewed not as a “chore.” but as a form of communion and affection toward God. Many of the studies presented in this Seminary help develop these skills; some more as introductory to help the student discern style and others more specific detail. St. Clement's Seminary helps to teach some of what you need to properly minister to God's people and also to facilitate in you the desire to never cease wanting more knowledge on the many aspects of God while keeping an open mind to differing views.

Pastoral Formation: A Priest is a Christian Minister to the people of God. To this end, *he* will be looked upon as a leader to the faithful. The Priest is looked to for answers to life's joys and sorrows. *He* will not always have answers, but he or she must develop empathy and compassion as Jesus showed by example. During formation, the Ordinary (Bishop) may require the student to perform some aspect of ministry while working through his or her studies to help gain experience but also to help in understanding their calling more fully. There are many options available, with some examples being visiting at nursing homes or prisons, working with the homeless or at soup kitchens, etc. The Priest is an informal parent and sometimes needs to express views that may be contradictory to the way of life of those to whom being ministered to. In finding a personal love for God, the student gains the wisdom and courage necessary to instruct others with empathy, even if sympathy is not the correct emotion. This will help the realization that God is not a god of punishment and chastisement, as sometimes presented in other forms of Christian ministry, but a loving and caring God to his beloved creation. The studies provided should open the student to theology that will help *him* to develop the skills to present Christ to those in the many circumstances that may arise.

HISTORY

Since the beginning of the Universal Catholic Church the training of postulants for Holy orders and the continuing education of the clergy of the Church has been of utmost importance.

At the founding of the Liberal Catholic Church (LCC) in Great Britain in 1915-1916 (as a result of the complete reorganization of the Old Catholic Church there) there was no seminary facility established. However, many who became clergy of the LCC at that time had theological training from other denominations such as the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church.

The practice of “reading-for-orders” was generally followed under the direction of the particular bishop responsible for postulants for Holy Orders. Personal and practical training was provided for clergy and those preparing for Holy Orders by Bishop Wedgwood at St. Michael's, Huizen, Holland and by Bishop Leadbeater at St. Alban's, Sydney, Australia.

Although authorized as early as 1923 in the corporate charter of the Church in the United States of America , it was not until after the break of the American Province (and some European branches) from the original LCC governing body, that the informal practice was supplemented by a formal program. In 1989 the St. Alban Theological Seminary was established in San Diego, California, then moved to Dallas, Texas, then to Morongo Valley, California. Meanwhile, various Regionary bishops instituted their own courses of study under the system of private study, seminars and the supervision of mentors appointed by them. Upon the withdrawal of the Universal Catholic Church from the LCC in 2007, our GES determined that there was a need for its own, unique seminary program.

The Seminary is directed by the Presiding Bishop as Chancellor and a Rector appointed by *him* under the Charter approved by the General Episcopal Synod and registered in California under the UCC's Federal and State Tax-Exempt Corporation. Each Regionary Bishop applies the work of the Seminary to *his* particular ecclesiastical jurisdiction in keeping with the Charter and in cooperation with the above officials. Diocesan Bishops may augment the Seminary program but may not otherwise deviate from Provincial policy. All texts for courses in the Program of Studies are approved by the Chancellor and Rector with input from the instructor.

ADMISSIONS

Qualification for Admissions: Any person who is a postulant for Holy Orders, a member of the clergy in Major or Minor Orders, or laity of the UCC is eligible to apply for enrollment as a student in the Seminary leading towards the Bachelor of Divinity, Master of Divinity or Certificate in Theology. As stated above, clergy and laity of other denominations are also welcomed to apply for admissions. However, preference may be given to members of the UCC if there is a question of a sufficient supply of texts or a sufficient number of mentors or professors. Any person may apply for admission regardless of race, color, national origin, or sex.

Language: English is the language of the Seminary and any person applying for admissions shall have proficiency in this language. However, this may be modified in the case of Spanish because a professor fluent in Spanish is a member of the faculty. Also, a few texts have been translated into Spanish. But it must be emphasized that the Program of Studies is available only on a limited basis at this time in Spanish.

Procedure for Admissions: All aspiring students must make application to the Administrative Offices in Tucson, AZ (P.O. Box 32953/85751). New students may enroll at any time. To apply for admission, submit the following:

1. Completed application for admissions form.
2. An application fee of \$25.00 (non-refundable) must accompany the application form. Checks should be made payable to: The St. Clement of Alexandria Seminary. The applicant will be notified in writing of the decision on the application.

Readmission: Former students seeking readmission after an absence from enrollment in courses for more than a year, or failure to complete and return course examinations for a year, must submit an application update to the Chancellor, including a \$5.00 nonrefundable fee. Each such application will be considered. The student will be notified of the decision in a reasonable time.

Advanced Standing: A student may apply for advanced standing for similar and approved courses which have been completed at a recognized and accredited college, graduate school or seminary. However, only one-fourth of the Program of Studies may be credited with such courses. Review of the student's request shall be made by the Faculty and the decision submitted to the student in writing within a reasonable time. It is the responsibility of the student to provide the Admissions Committee with all documentation of transfer courses. Transfer credit from a similar program of studies at another unaccredited educational institution towards the Bachelor or Master of Divinity Degrees would be unusual. Clergymen of other denominations who enter the UCC and who already have a degree from an accredited theological seminary shall be required to take further courses in the Program of Studies as designated by their Ordinary Bishop in consultation with the Chancellor. These students may apply for any courses taken towards the Master of Divinity degree if application for this is made in advance. The Rector shall certify the completion of the required courses in writing to the Regionary Bishop with a copy to the student involved. The Chancellor may appoint a major professor for the student for a more direct and personal means of supervision.

Casual Student: There are few formal requirements for the Casual Student. Each course completed will be acknowledged with a Certificate of Completion. Up to six courses may be transferred to another program within the Seminary.

DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

Authority:

- The degree of Bachelor of Divinity was authorized under the California Post-Secondary Education Act of 2010 as an exception for religious schools and is granted as a first degree upon completion of the appointed Program of Studies in Track One.
- The degree of Master of Divinity was authorized under the California Post-Secondary Education Act of 2010 as an exception for religious schools and is granted to students already possessing a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution upon completion of the appointed Program of Studies in Track One and a Directed Research Paper. The MDiv and the BDiv degrees are not "honorary;" nevertheless, the Seminary is not accredited and it should not be expected that other academic institutions will grant credit for work accomplished here.
- The Certificate in Lay Theological Studies was authorized by the General Episcopal Synod of the UCC at the time of the formation of the Seminary in 2007 and is to be granted upon the satisfactory completion of the appointed Program of Studies in Track Two.
- All students receive a Certificate of Completion for each course satisfactorily finished.

Candidacy Requirements: Students who are a candidate for graduation leading to a Degree or Certificate must meet the following requirements:

1. For all students, successful completion of the units as outlined in the Program of Studies in the Catalog.
2. For students who have already earned a Bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited institution of higher learning and are studying for the Master's degree, a directed research paper is also required.
3. Certification by the Rector of the satisfactory completion of all candidacy requirements.

Courses of Study: The texts provided by or otherwise required by the Seminary and course examinations are required for each course. Courses are taken in a correspondence manner under the supervision of academically-qualified mentors. Courses may be modified for a student according to the availability of texts, the facilities available to the student (internet, DVD player, etc.), and the discretion of the Rector.

Directed Research Paper: A research paper was added to the required course-requirements in 2010 for students who aspire to the Master of Divinity Degree. The paper is to be completed during the last year of study. Major research areas include the following categories: (1) Ascetical Theology, (2) Biblical Studies, (3) Canon Law, (4) Chaplaincy Programs, (5) Christian Education, (6) Church Administration, (7) Church Art/Architecture, (8) Church History, (9) Mysticism, (10) Church and Society, (11) Church and State, (12) Comparative Religions, (13) Dogmatic Theology, (14) Homiletics, (15) Liberal Catholic Movement Distinctives, (16) Liturgics, (17) Moral Theology, (18) Mystical Theology, (19) Pastoral Ministry, (20) Philosophy of Religion, (21) Psychology of Religion, (22) Religion and Literature, (23) Sci-

ence and Religion, and (24) Monastic Paths within the Church.

The paper is expected to be at least 20 pages in length, printed on 8½ x 11 inch or A-size paper (for those students outside the North American Continent). Standard essay formatting applies. A hand-printed paper is acceptable for those not having access to a typewriter or printer. See, for example, <http://www.essaywritinghelp.com/format.htm> for formatting rules. Most academic institutions will have similar rules for students and these can be accessed from the Internet. In some cases, the student's mentor may require an oral defense of the paper but this would be unusual.

Grading: The grading system of "S" (Satisfactory) and "U" (Unsatisfactory) is used in the Seminary. A student who receives more than one-fourth "U" (Unsatisfactory) grades during the Program of Studies will not be granted the applicable Certificate or Degree. However, courses may be retaken a reasonable number of times.

Ordination: As the catalog of the Seminary states: "eligibility for Holy Orders remains at the discretion of the...Ordinary." The degrees granted by this Seminary are a means of preparation and training for Holy Orders. The final decision concerning ordinations is vested completely with the Ordinary Bishop of the Diocese or Province. Extensive altar training will be required. This would usually be accomplished during and after course LI-301 "Introduction to Altar Training" but, where the candidate resides near a parish church, it can take place throughout his or her studies, as appropriate to the student's status (ordination to Minor Orders, for example).

For altar training it will be necessary to travel to a church center. This could be a major expense depending on distance, etc. A background check paid for by the postulant is also required.

THE UNIVERSAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Liberal Catholic Movement exists to forward the work of her Master Christ in the world and to feed his flock. It draws the central inspiration of its work from an intense faith in the living Christ.

The UCC is an independent and self-governing body within the Liberal Catholic Movement. It is neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant—but Catholic. It traces its apostolic succession to the Old Catholic Church of Holland that came into existence as a result of a complete re-organization of the Old Catholic Church in 1915-1916 in Great Britain. The UCC combines the Catholic form of worship—its stately ritual, its deep mysticism and its abiding witness to the reality of sacramental grace—with the widest measure of intellectual liberty and respect for the individual conscience.

This Church is governed by its General Episcopal Synod, the highest authority within the UCC. The Presiding Bishop is the ranking prelate of the Church. National hierarchies are divided into provinces (and dioceses as the case may be) under the Episcopal guidance of Regional, Diocesan and auxiliary bishops as well as occasional Bishops Commissary. Some areas are directly under the jurisdiction of the Presiding Bishop where the local work of the Church is not highly developed.

For more information about the Universal Catholic Church consult www.UniversalCatholic.org
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THE CHALICE

**FATHER, TO THEE I RAISE MY WHOLE BEING
A VESSEL EMPTIED OF SELF, ACCEPT LORD,
THIS MY EMPTINESS, AND SO FILL ME WITH
THYSELF, THY LIGHT, THY LOVE, THY
LIFE, THAT THESE THY PRECIOUS GIFTS
MAY RADIATE THROUGH ME AND OVER-
FLOW THE CHALICE OF MY HEART INTO
THE HEARTS OF ALL WITH WHOM I
COME IN CONTACT THIS DAY
REVEALING UNTO THEM
THE BEAUTY OF
THE JOY
AND
WHOLENESS
AND
THE
SERENITY
OF THE PEACE
WHICH NOTHING CAN DESTROY**

**The Prayer of the Chalice.
Poem by Francis Nuttall
Graphics based on ✠Joris Reuter.**