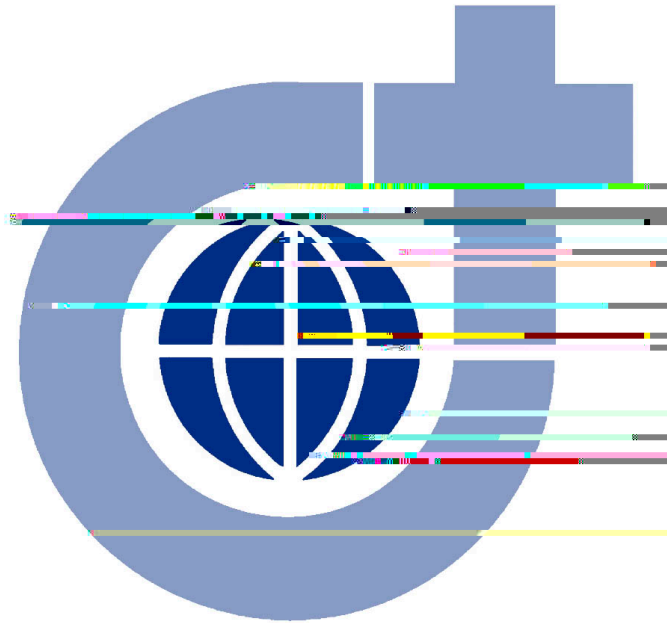


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DIVINE WORD COLLEGE  
SPIRITUAL FORMATION MANUAL



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## Faith Development

Faith in God and its expression are personal to the individuals and their relationship to the Creator. Genuine faith can be seen in their active response to God's Word and in a life based on Christian values. A deep faith in Jesus Christ and His Church as community of faith is foundational for dedicating themselves to the religious or lay missionary life.

To assist students in their faith, the Religious Formation Program offers liturgical formation with content topics related to faith, and annual retreats and days of recollection. There are ample spiritual reading resources in the College library and reading room. Opportunities exist for students to initiate and participate in prayer groups and sharing. A key component for faith development is the students' participation in regular spiritual direction with directors with whom they share their spiritual journeys and ways of strengthening their faith. Individual reconciliation is always available. Communal reconciliation services are offered each semester, especially during the Advent and Lenten seasons.

The faith life necessary for the religious or lay students is best demonstrated through their self-evaluation and articulation of their faith as manifested in community. Students also express their faith and spiritual journey in formation group Bible Sharing and demonstrate that they place their faith on a level of importance equal to or greater than other aspects of their total development.

## Personal Prayer

Within the context of faith, a personal relationship with the Lord is best developed in prayer. Students come to realize the importance of setting aside time for private prayer, meditation, and Scripture.

To facilitate personal prayer, the College provides the main chapel and small private chapels with particular devotional and ethnic themes for places of solitude, walking paths within the campus, quiet times in the evening in the dormitory areas, and tranquility weekends where College activities are curtailed,



## LITURGICAL FORMATION

*We encounter Christ in others and in every aspect of our work as well as in the celebration of the liturgy, in the Word of God, in prayer and meditation. This encounter is a continuing challenge to conversion and renewal. The closeness of the Lord brings joy into our lives and enables us to follow him in our crosses and sufferings. Thus we become like him in his self-emptying even unto death and so through the power of his resurrection enter into glory. (SVD Cons. 401)*

*The Eucharistic praise of the Father is continued in our community prayers and services which help us live in closer contact with the Lord. Our community prayers are composed according to the spirit of the liturgy, the spirituality of our Society, the customs of the country in which we work and in response to the needs of our time. Allowance should be made for creativity and new prayer forms. (SVD Cons. 403)*

There are several ways that students prepare for meaningful worship experiences through the school year. Each week they participate in a Liturgical Preparation period. The greater portion of these sessions involves them in the learning of music for worship. Input sessions are also provided by the chaplain, liturgical music coordinator, formation personnel or guest speakers covering various liturgical topics such as spirituality and theology of Word and Eucharist, of the liturgical year and devotional practices (taking into account the various cultural back



## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

*That very same day, two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus... and they were talking together about all that had happened. And it happened that as they were talking together and discussing it, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He said to them, "What are all these things that you are discussing as you walk along?" (Lk 24:13-17)*

In spiritual direction a person (directee) meets with another more experienced person (director) in order to talk about and explore the directee's spiritual journey.

*Spiritual Direction: A regular meetu8410 0 9jEMP MID at ar16.9 mngon)TJ( )Tj (eO10 x ar16.7Tc 0 Tw )( t)6.9he*



## DIFFERENT FORMS OF HELPING

	Spiritual Direction	Counseling	Therapy
Person seeking help	Wants to discover action of God in life.	Wants relief from troubles.	Wants cure.
Goal of the process	Movement toward union with God.	Reconciliation, guidance in decision-making.	Self-acceptance and ability to function in society.
Methodology	Surrender to God; letting go of whatever blocks union with God.	Use of relationship with client for beneficial results.	Application of professional techniques aimed at specific results.
Attitude of helping person	Allowing God to work in the relationship.	'We can solve this problem together'.	'I'm the doctor'.



