

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

A calling to accompany others

The Certificate in the Ministry of the Spiritual Exercises is a two-and-a-half-year program being offered by Amoris Christi. The program is designed for those with experience in spiritual direction and who would like to grow in their capacity to direct others through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The program is centered around supervised practica and is enriched through classes, readings, and discussions.

The Spiritual Exercises in their full form are offered as either a 30-day residential retreat or a non-residential retreat accommodated to 'everyday life' over 28 weeks. The Exercises are also offered in the abbreviated formats of the 3, 5, and 8 day retreats.

Priests, deacons, religious, and lay leaders can offer these retreats to their directees, parishioners, young adult group members, and others and so allow the Holy Spirit to transform the communities of faith from within, as more and more disciples are healed, transformed, and sent out with renewed zeal.

Cost for interns

Initial Registration	\$1,000.00
Year I	\$2,000.00
Year II & III (combined)	\$2,000.00
Total	\$5,000.00

This amount includes accommodation and meals for a total of 24 days in residence during the two summer internships, as well as other program-related expenses. It does not include the cost of travel or books.

For-credit students also pay tuition directly to the University of St. Mary of the Lake. See "Two ways to complete it."



GET IN TOUCH

Begin the conversation

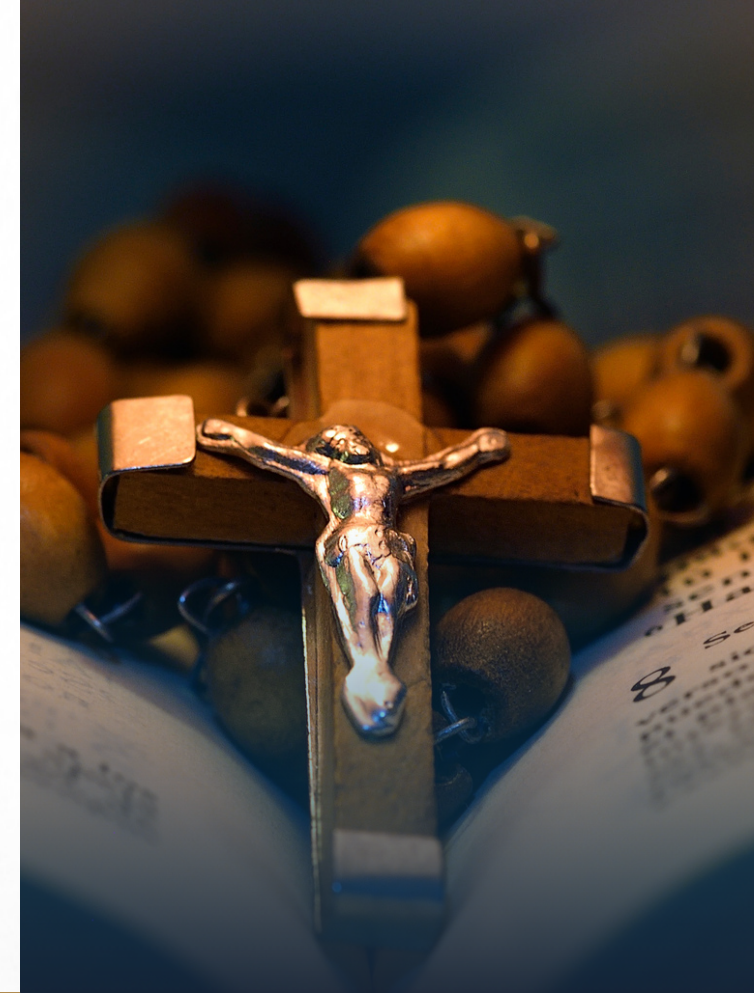
Fr. John Horn, S.J.

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Phone: +1-561-374-2268

Web: www.spiritual-exercises-ac.org/certificate-program

"He called them to be with him, and to be sent." — Mark 3:14



AMORIS CHRISTI

Spiritual Exercises Certificate Program

GRADUATE-LEVEL CREDIT AVAILABLE

In partnership with the University of St. Mary of the Lake

ADMISSIONS

Who is called

Applicants have come from a wide variety of ministries and backgrounds. For the most part, they tend to be priests gifted in spiritual direction, graduates of spiritual direction schools, or those who have been mentored in spiritually accompanying others through avenues such as Jesus Youth or campus ministry.

Because of the limited residential requirements, international applicants are welcome. Through a process of mutual discernment in prayerful conversation, applicants need to be approved by Fr. John Horn, S.J., Dr. Sunil Nadarajan, and Mr. Ryan Rogers, who serve as the admissions committee.

PREREQUISITES

Before admission

The Certificate is designed for those who have experience in spiritual direction and who have themselves made the Spiritual Exercises in either the 30-day or the 28-week format.* Participants must have already discerned a sense of being gifted and called to contemplative spiritual direction, with a desire to grow in the depth and fruitfulness of this call through the ministry of the Spiritual Exercises.

* Those who have not had the opportunity to make the full Spiritual Exercises but who are interested are encouraged to contact us in order to explore possibilities.

THE CERTIFICATE

Two ways to complete it

Every participant follows the same two-and-a-half-year program - the same internships, seminars, and courses - with two options for accreditation.

The Amoris Christi Certificate

The Amoris Christi Certificate involves all the courses, content, supervision, and practica described on the next panel. While the courses involve reading, practica, supervision, and seminar participation, they do not involve research and writing. This valued comprehensive certificate is a non-credit option. Tuition is only paid to Amoris Christi.

USML D. Min. Concentration & Amoris Christi Certificate

The same program can be taken for graduate credit through the University of St. Mary of the Lake. In partnership with Amoris Christi, USML offers the *Doctor of Ministry: Concentration in the Ministry of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises* degree. The courses listed on the next panel, with additional academic requirements, provide 12 of the required 30 credits for the Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) degree. For students who want to earn graduate credit without completing the doctorate, USML also offers the Graduate Certificate in the Ministry of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. For both of these graduate credit options, participants must first apply to the Amoris Christi Certificate program. Once accepted, they must also apply to USML and be accepted into either the D. Min. or the graduate certificate program. Following acceptance into both programs, the respective tuition must be paid to both Amoris Christi and USML.

For USML's current per-credit tuition, visit usml.edu/academic-affairs/tuition-and-fees.

LEARN MORE



USML Doctor of Ministry — Program of Studies:
usml.edu/sple/graduate-programs/doctor-of-ministry



Graduate Certificate — course list (USML 25-26 Catalog, p. 30)
<https://usml.edu/wp-content/uploads/USML-Catalog-2025-2026-V2.pdf>

STRUCTURE

Format of the Certificate Program

YEAR I

JAN - MAY • REMOTE

Contemplative Spiritual Direction

Every 3 weeks for 1.5 hours

MID-JULY • RESIDENTIAL, 12 DAYS

Summer Internship A

Directing 3–4 retreatants on 3-day and 5-day retreats; daily individual supervision; group supervision; intensive seminar on the Holy Spirit and evening seminars.

SEP, NOV, FEB & APR • REMOTE

Group Supervision; 1-hour session each

YEAR II

JANUARY • UNIVERSITY OF ST. MARY OF THE LAKE

Spiritual Exercises and the Human Person

2nd week of January - Monday morning through Friday noon.

* Optional for non-credit students; additional tuition fees as determined by USML.

END OF JULY • RESIDENTIAL, 12 DAYS

Summer Internship B

Directing 3–4 retreatants on an 8-day retreat; intensive study of the text of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola; daily supervision and evening seminars.

SEP - APR • REMOTE

Directing 2–3 retreatants in the Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life; biweekly individual supervision

SEP & NOV • REMOTE

Group Supervision; 1-hour session each

YEAR III

JAN - MAY • REMOTE

Pastoral Diagnostics: Discernment of Spirits

Every 3 weeks for 1.5 hours