

School of Spiritual Direction

~ Through Franciscan University of Steubenville ~

Three-Year Intensive Program



The **Immaculate Conception Center**, in partnership with **Franciscan University of Steubenville**, is offering a three-year intensive training program for individuals who feel called to serve as Spiritual Directors. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining our program to begin accompanying brothers and sisters in Christ on their journey with our Lord.

2024-2026 Program Dates:

Year 1: January 28 - February 10, 2024

Year 2: January 26 - February 8, 2025

Year 3: January 25 - February 7, 2026

*John Henry Newman's motto, **Cor ad Cor Loquitur**—"Heart Speaks to Heart," refers to the relationship between the human heart and God. This communion of hearts is the goal of spiritual direction and beautifully expresses the mission of Franciscan University's spiritual director training program.*

Certification

Upon completion, you will be certified by Franciscan University to offer individual spiritual direction through affiliating with a parish, a retreat center, Newman Center, or a ministry sponsored by a religious order or Church organization.

The Students

The program is best suited for mature Catholics including priests, religious, deacons, formators, catechists, and lay faithful from all backgrounds and lived experiences.

The Instructors

Instructors include staff of the School of Spiritual Direction, deacons, laity, and faculty from Franciscan University of Steubenville's theology, psychology, and other departments.

The Mission

The curriculum is faithful to the magisterium of the Catholic Church and embraces Franciscan University's call to educate, evangelize, and send forth joyful disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Cost

The two-week Winter Intensive Program costs \$2800.00 per year. This includes lodging and meals. Books are not included. The cost for commuter students is \$2400.00 per year (2 meals per day included). *Financial Assistance application is available. Some parishes or organizations also help students financially in return for spiritual directors offering their services to the parish/organization.*

The Application

Students are requested to submit the application form along with three letters of reference by September 1, 2023. Application materials will be accepted after this date if necessary.

The Program Requirements

The Immaculate Conception Center, through Franciscan University of Steubenville, provides certification to directors upon completion of the following program requirements:

- Participate in the yearly two-week intensive at the Immaculate Conception Center in Putnam, Connecticut (see program dates above)
- Commit to receiving personal monthly spiritual direction
- Commit to offering monthly spiritual direction to at least one directee
- Commit to monthly supervision meetings
- Between first and second years, students will make either form of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises (30-day retreat or 19th Annotation)
- Between second and third years, students will lead one person through either form of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises

To Apply:

immaculateconceptioncenter.org/programs

Or call 860-928-7955

