



Dear Friend,

I am pleased to hear of your interest in the Formation Programme for Spiritual Directors. The application process for this programme includes completion of the following:

- Application form (enclosed).
- Reference from an individual who has known you at least two years (not a family member). This person should be someone able to answer the questions on one of the enclosed reference forms. The reference should be returned directly to **Sr Éibhlís NicUaithuas DC** at the address below.
- Reference from a pastor, ecclesiastical superior or lay minister in a position of authority in your church/congregation. This person should also use one of the enclosed reference forms and return it directly to our office by mail or by fax.
- An interview with the programme director (in some cases this may be done by telephone).
- €100.00 application fee (non-refundable).

All application materials should be sent to: **Sr Éibhlís NicUaithuas DC**, Spiritual Directors Programme Coordinator, Vincetian Spirituality Centre, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3 Ireland.

The application deadline is **February 28, 2018**. Applicants are encouraged to apply to the program as early as possible. Applications will be reviewed as soon as they arrive and you will be contacted for an interview. All interviews will be conducted during March 2018.

Admission to the programme presumes a commitment to both residency sessions (13-28 July 2018 and 21-27 September 2019), all webinars, and the responsibilities of the supervised internship as outlined in the brochure.

Thank you again for your interest. I hope to have the opportunity for further contact with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vie Thorgren".

Vie Thorgren
Programme Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Éibhlís NicUaithuas DC".

Éibhlís NicUaithuas DC
Programme Coordinator

Location

Class sessions for the programme are residential and are held at:
St Catherine's Provincial House,
Dunardagh, Blackrock, Co Dublin

Our office is located in:
Holy Cross Diocesan Centre,
Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3.

Programme Cost

Application Fee

€100 non-refundable

Tuition Cost

€1,500 for the entire programme.
Books are additional.

Tuition may be paid in three instalments of €500 each. A payment schedule will be provided upon acceptance into the programme.

Accommodation

First Intensive (15 days): €1,000
13-28 July 2018
Second Intensive (6 days): €400
21-27 September 2019



Application

Acceptance to the programme implies a commitment from the participant to both intensives as well as the supervised internship and the study programme with webinars.

Closing Date for receipt of applications:

28 February 2018

To receive further information or request application form contact:

Sr Éibhlís NicUaithuas DC
Spiritual Directors Programme Coordinator
Vincentian Spirituality Centre
Holy Cross Diocesan Centre
Clonliffe Road
DUBLIN 3
Ireland



eibhlisnicuaithuas@daughtersofcharity.ie

+353 1 808 7550/+353 87 417 0628

Application materials also available at:

Daughters of Charity
www.daughtersofcharity.ie

Vincentian Fathers
www.vincentians.ie

Society of St Vincent de Paul
www.svp.ie

Vincentian Centre for Spirituality and Work
www.cfsaw.org



Vincentian Formation Programme for beginning and experienced Spiritual Directors

A fifteen-month programme with two required intensives

13-28 July 2018

and

21-27 September 2019

**Vincentian Spirituality Centre
Dublin 3 Ireland
In collaboration with
The Vincentian Centre for Spirituality and Work, Denver, Colorado, USA**

**Supported by:
Vincentian Fathers, Daughters of Charity,
Society of St Vincent de Paul**



Vincentian Formation Programme for Spiritual Directors

Statement of Purpose

We are in a time marked by constant change, where discernment becomes increasingly important and spiritual companionship is a way of recognising what is enduring. For these reasons we commit ourselves to the formation of beginning and experienced spiritual directors

In faithfulness to God's particular concern for people who are poor or abandoned we are committed to providing spiritual direction and retreat opportunities for those who would otherwise not have access to these ministries. Not every spiritual director is called to accompany those who have been marginalised, but the tradition clearly reveals that the charism of spiritual direction is linked to a concern for the most abandoned. We provide an opportunity for participants to explore this reality.



Goals

The Formation Programme for Spiritual Directors is designed to meet the following needs of the spiritual director:

- ◇ To establish a solid framework for the ministry of spiritual direction based in the tradition
- ◇ To more freely 'put on the Spirit of Christ' and to grow in knowledge of the ways of the Spirit
- ◇ To explore the meaning of contemplative action
- ◇ To discover a deeper relationship with persons who are poor and marginalised
- ◇ To discern his/her own call to this ministry
- ◇ To grow in the art of spiritual direction

Content

Topics include:

- ◆ Historical development of the ministry of spiritual direction
- ◆ Various approaches to this ministry
- ◆ Basic principles of the spiritual life
- ◆ Methods of Prayer
- ◆ Discernment
- ◆ Use of Scripture
- ◆ Distinctions between counselling and spiritual direction
- ◆ Understanding the human person
- ◆ Human growth and development
- ◆ The contributions of Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac
- ◆ Reflection on the gift of the poor
- ◆ Spirituality of work
- ◆ Continued growth of the spiritual director

Content is presented through an adult learning model respectful of the experience of all participants in an environment that understands 'faculty' to be facilitators and co-learners. The facilitators are experienced spiritual directors who receive spiritual direction themselves and who are committed to their own growth and development.

Format

The fifteen-month programme consists of:

Opening Webinar: TBD

Session 1: 13-28 July 2018

Session 2: 21-27 September 2019

Monthly Webinars

Supervised internship and study programme.

Each intensive includes ample time for study, prayer, reflection and learning in a small community environment.

Between intensives participants

1. Read six books chosen from the reading list and submit a reflection paper for each book. Reading is processed in the context of a small study group of peers.
2. Are actively involved in a ministry of spiritual direction/retreat direction.
3. Receive monthly supervision in their local setting.
4. Are actively involved in service with people who are poor/marginalised.
5. Receive spiritual direction themselves.
6. Prepare for and participate in monthly webinars



VINCENTIAN FORMATION PROGRAMME FOR SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS



Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Name of Spiritual Director: _____

Email Address: _____ Skype Name: _____

I. Please answer the following (using a separate sheet of paper) as completely as possible:

1. Briefly state the reason(s) for your interest in this programme.
2. In what context do you expect to use your learning from this programme?
3. What has been your own experience of spiritual direction? As directee? As director?
4. At present, what distinctions would you make between counselling, therapy, social work and spiritual direction?
5. What do you feel are your main liabilities to competency as a spiritual director? What are the areas in which you feel you most need education and training?
6. Identify the faith community of which you are a part. In what ways have you participated in the life of your own faith community? What do you see as your primary commitments in the past? At present?
7. What commitments to your own growth have you made in the past five years?
8. What reading have you done in spirituality/spiritual direction in the past five years?
9. Are you presently involved in direct ministry to the poor and marginalised? If so, please explain. If not, are you willing to make a commitment to some level of contact with the poor during the 15-month interval?

Over →

II. Please assess your competency in the following areas:

Characteristics	Poor	Average	Good	Superior	Outstanding
Knowledge of Scripture					
Knowledge of the various traditions of spirituality					
Theological background					
Spiritual theology					
Understanding of Social Justice issues					
Knowledge of psychology					
Understanding of developmental theory					
Communication skills					
Discernment					

Please return this form with your €100.00 Application Fee before 28 February 2018 to:

Sr Éibhlís NicUaithuas DC
Spiritual Directors Programme Coordinator
Vincentian Spirituality Centre
Holy Cross Diocesan Centre
Clonliffe Road
Dublin 3
Ireland



To Individuals Providing References:

The Vincentian Spirituality Centre and the Vincentian Center for Spirituality at Work recognizes spiritual direction as a vital ministry and we have committed ourselves to the education and continued development of competent spiritual directors. It is our belief that this ministry involves a personal call that can be verified by the community's experience.

We are grateful that you are willing to assist us with the selection process by serving as a reference for this applicant. We hope that you will take the time to respond fully to the questions on the attached form.

References should be returned no later than **February 28, 2018** to:

Sr Éibhlís NicUaithuas DC
Spiritual Directors Programme Coordinator
Vincentian Spirituality Centre
Holy Cross Diocesan Centre
Clonliffe Road
Dublin 3
Ireland

Sincerely,

Vie Thorgren
Programme Director

Éibhlís NicUaithuas DC
Programme Coordinator

Vincentian Spirituality Centre, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3 Ireland

T: +353 1 808 7550 M: +353 87 417 0628

E: eibhlisnicuaithuas@daughtersofcharity.ie



VINCENTIAN FORMATION PROGRAMME FOR SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS



Name of Applicant: _____

How long have you known this person? _____

In what capacity? _____

Please rate the applicant in the following areas:

Characteristics	Poor	Average	Good	Superior	Outstanding	No Basis for Judgement
Social Awareness and Concern						
Emotional Maturity						
Ability to work with others						
Ability to relate to others						
Openness to personal growth						
Independence and initiative						
Adaptability						
Common sense						
Openness to criticism						
Communication skills						
Developed value system						
Respect for others						
Quality of affective presence						
Openness to others of different faiths, ethnicities, cultures, economic levels						
Understanding of the Gospel message						
Commitment to Church community						
Lived experience in the Christian tradition						
Basic knowledge of contemporary theology						
Integration of Christian living, prayer life, spirituality						

Please comment (using a separate sheet of paper) on the following based on personal observation and experience with the applicant:

- 1. In what kinds of situation have you had the opportunity to directly observe the behaviour and quality of relationships of this applicant?*
- 2. Do you personally believe that this applicant is called to the ministry of spiritual direction? On what evidence do you base your opinion?*
- 3. Do you feel that this applicant has an awareness and recognition of God's presence and activity in his/her life? In what ways have you seen this demonstrated?*
- 4. How is this applicant involved in his/her faith community?*
- 5. Please give any other information or observations that would be helpful to us in evaluating this person for admission to this programme.*

Name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

May we contact you for further clarification if necessary? _____