

BASIC E-COURSE INFORMATION

LS - LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE AS A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Most spiritual directors emerge from training programs having absorbed a particular approach to the ministry—often without recognizing it as one approach among many. The methods, theological assumptions, and relational styles we learned can feel like "the way" spiritual direction is done, rather than one of many choices we might examine and expand as we grow in experience as directors.

Drawing on research conducted for the recently published book *The Making of Modern Spiritual Direction: A 20th Century History*, in this webinar series, you will explore the origins of your current practice, discover the rich variety of approaches that exist across the tradition, and begin developing a more intentional and authentic voice as a spiritual director. Whether you've been practicing for decades or are newly trained, this series invites you to notice what you've absorbed, consider what you might release, and experiment with what could emerge.

COURSE FOCUS:

This course will focus on:

1. Uncovering the theological and methodological assumptions embedded in your training—both formal programs and arising from what Adrian van Kaam called "hidden spiritual directors" who shaped you informally,
2. Exploring the diverse definitions, models, and approaches to spiritual direction across centuries of practice including how first-generation training programs in the 1970s answered foundational questions differently,
3. Examining the four sources of authority (charismatic, derivative, institutional, earned) and how they function in your ministry, and
4. Developing practices for ongoing "troubling" of your assumptions as a lifelong spiritual exercise. Using Father Shaun McCarty's dimensional framework, participants will assess their baseline tendencies and adaptive range across structural, relational, theological, and methodological dimensions of practice.

COURSE FORMAT:

Let Your Light Shine is a four-week facilitated online course that takes place in Moodle (our online learning platform). Each week includes presentation content exploring a different aspect of finding your voice: uncovering your current approach, exploring the repertoire of options, integrating and experimenting, and sustaining authenticity. Participation includes asynchronous engagement with weekly presentations and active participation in threaded (Forum) discussions. Presentations will include stories of charismatic directors who developed their approaches before standardized curricula existed. These include Baron Friedrich von Hügel, Father William Connolly SJ, Sister Irene Dugan rc, and Father Shaun McCarty ST who offer us models for how authentic voices emerge. Prior to the course, participants will complete a survey, based on work by Father McCarty, assessing their practice across multiple dimensions. Aggregated, anonymized survey results will be shared to help the group understand its collective profile.

PRE-COURSE SURVEY

Participants will complete a survey before the webinar begins, using Father McCarty's dimensional framework to identify their baseline tendencies and range of adaptation across key dimensions of practice.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Coming soon