

Course Unit Outline	
<b>Unit Code</b>	
P7376	
<b>Unit Name</b>	
The Psychology of Religious Vocation	
<b>Unit Weighting</b>	
9 cps	
<b>Type of Unit</b>	
Specialised	
<b>Prerequisites, corequisites or exclusions</b>	
<b>Academic Staff</b>	
Timothy J. Costello, Bachelor of Arts in English Literature (Victoria University of Wellington, 1980), Licentiate in Psychology (Pontifical Gregorian University, 1984), Registered Psychologist (New Zealand, 1992), Doctorate in Psychology (Pontifical Gregorian University, 1998). .	
<b>Curriculum Objectives</b>	
This course unit aims to enable the student to understand the psychological underpinnings of an ecclesial vocation by constructing a framework for understanding the processes relating to vocational commitment and effective pastoral ministry.	
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	
At the end of this unit students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) formulate a coherent understanding of the theology of vocation</li> <li>2) critique different theories of motivation</li> <li>3) determine the basic human and spiritual processes in vocational life</li> <li>4) diagnose the obstacles to human and spiritual growth</li> <li>5) develop a framework for vocational discernment</li> </ol>	
<b>Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit</b>	
The mystery of vocation is grounded in nature and grace.	
<b>Content</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Church documents on the priesthood and the consecrated life.</li> <li>2. Theories of vocation.</li> <li>3. The development of a religious and priestly identity.</li> <li>4. Motivation, perseverance and commitment.</li> <li>5. Sexuality, celibacy and pastoral ministry.</li> </ol>	
<b>Teaching Methods</b>	
Teaching methods might include Practicum, Group Projects, Seminars, Tutorials, Lectures, Field Work, Simulations, Student Presentations, Online Tutorials, Other	
<b>Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment</b>	
<b>Assessment Profile</b>	
The required assessment tasks will enable students to demonstrate how successfully they can: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analyze one relevant book or article on vocation, e.g. critical review (Outcomes 1,3,5)</li> <li>2. Apply basic theological and psychological principles to the living of the vocational life, e.g. essay, film review, class presentation (Outcomes 2,3,4)</li> <li>3. Identify some of the difficulties commonly encountered in reaching vocational maturity, e.g. case study, oral examination (Outcomes 4,5)</li> </ol>	
<b>Representative References</b>	

1. Bohr, David. *The diocesan priest: consecrated and sent*. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2009
2. Fleming, David and McDonough, Elizabeth (ed.). *The Church and the Consecrated Life*. St Louis, Missouri: Review for Religious, 1996
3. Gerrig, Richard and Zimbardo, Philip. *Psychology and Life* (19th ed), Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2010
4. John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores dabo vobis* On the formation of priests in the circumstances of the present day (25 March 1992)
5. John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation *Vita consecrata* On the consecrated life and its mission in the Church and in the world (25 March 1996)
6. McGovern, Thomas. *Priestly Identity. A Study in the Theology of Priesthood*. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2002
7. Nemeck, Francis and Coombs, Marie Theresa. *Called by God. A Theology of Vocation and Lifelong Commitment*. Collegeville, Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 1992
8. O'Collins, Gerald and Keenan Jones, Michael. *Jesus our Priest. A Christian approach to the priesthood of Christ*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010
9. Placher, William. *Callings. Twenty Centuries of Christian Wisdom on Vocation*. Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2005
10. Sperry, Len. *Sex, Priestly Ministry and the Church*. Minnesota: Liturgical Press, 2003
11. Terry, Karen et alia. *The Causes and Context of the Problem of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests and Deacons in the United States, 1950-2010. A Report presented to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops by the John Jay College Research Team*. Washington D.C.: USCCB, 2011