

August 2008 to May 2009

Dear Summer Internship Applicant:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding our *Internship in the Art of Spiritual Direction*, which has been offered every July since 1984. The 2009 Internship runs from July 5 to July 30, 2009. The cost is \$3,550 which includes a \$50 non-refundable/non-transferable processing fee.

If you would like to apply for this program, please complete the enclosed application and return with a check payable to Mercy Center no later than May 1, 2009.

Along with the application, you will also need two letters of recommendation from persons in ministerial leadership such as your supervisor, pastor, religious superior, etc. (Not from your spiritual director.) The form for these letters is attached. Print out two copies of this form. Please have the letters sent directly to me. Be sure to put your name at the top of the forms before you send them to your colleagues.

The selection process and notification will take place as applications are received, but we must have your complete package before it is reviewed.

Because the summer program schedule is very full, it requires considerable time commitment. All participants are in residence and are part of the group for all sessions, including all meals. The first session begins, Sunday July 5, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. The other Saturdays and Sundays are free time.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 650-340-7495 or csoracco@mercyburl.org.

We ask your prayers that our program may be blessed by the Spirit and continue to touch the lives of people throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Colleen Shannon Soracco

Colleen Shannon Soracco
Program and Projects Administrator





APPLICATION FACTS

1. To be considered for the program, applicants need to currently be in spiritual direction, and have consistently been in direction for the past year.
2. A file will be considered complete when the application, processing fee, and two Letters of Recommendation have been received.
3. Apply early--notification of acceptance/non-acceptance will be sent as soon as your application has been reviewed by the team. Space is limited, and this is a very popular program.
4. All student visas, travel requirements, etc. are to be handled by applicant.
5. After you are accepted, you may request financial aid paperwork. Contact Colleen Shannon Soracco at 650-340-7495 or csoracco@mercyburl.org. She will forward the financial aid paperwork to you.
6. We have a limited amount of financial aid available. If you need to request financial aid, apply early. All financial aid decisions are made by April 1st.



The following questions are designed to assist the staff in getting to know you in terms of background, experience, a call to this ministry, and your expectations as they relate to our program. Please do not hand write your answers.

1. What do you hope to receive from this program, which will assist your growth in the ministry of spiritual direction?
2. We require that you participate in at least one year of spiritual direction prior to coming to this Internship. What has been your experience of *receiving* spiritual direction? For how long have you been in direction? What in this relationship was most helpful to you?

The model of spiritual direction used by Mercy Center focuses on the experience of God in a person's life. Has this been your experience in *receiving* direction? If not, what has been the focus?

3. Have you ever made a retreat? What was your experience of the "retreat?"
4. If you *have not* been formally serving as a spiritual director, please describe experiences you have had as an informal companion in faith, spiritual counselor, or "sought-out" listener for other people--which encourages you to explore this ministry.
5. If you *are* currently serving as a spiritual director, describe the context (parish, charismatic community, ministry formation program, religious community, etc.) How long have you been *doing* spiritual direction? What experiences affirm you in this ministry?
6. What *recent* (past five years) theological or ministerial training you may have had, i.e., courses, training programs, workshops, lectures, etc. (Please be specific.)
7. What kinds of experiences do you engage in as you pursue your own personal and spiritual growth, i.e., therapy, meditation, journaling, dream work, prayer style exploration, retreats, enneagram, biospiritual focusing, etc.?
8. What groups or kinds of people would you see yourself *serving* in the spiritual direction ministry?
9. What particular *strengths* do you feel you bring to the ministry of spiritual direction?
10. What areas do you feel you most need *to grow*?
11. What evidence of a *call* to do spiritual direction do you see in yourself?



For legal reasons, we are now required to include the following two questions:

- 12 Have you ever been convicted of a felony? If “yes” please explain, briefly.
- 13 According to ADA regulations, do you have a disability that should be known to our staff?

Also, please let us know how you found out about our programs in Spiritual Direction.

Date

Signature

Send completed application to:
Mercy Center
SDI Program Office
2300 Adeline Drive
Burlingame, CA 94010-5599



4. What is this person's sensitivity towards the poor and/or oppressed? Give specific examples if possible. _____

5. How long have you known this person? In what capacity? _____

6. Is this person able to share on a personal level, in a small group? _____



7. Do you experience this person as a mature individual who can share needs, values, and inner experiences?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Your Contact Phone Number: _____

Your Relationship to the Applicant: _____

Date

Your Signature

This letter must reach Mercy Center as soon as possible to complete the application process.

