

SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary



GOALS AND CORE VALUES

For nearly 135 years SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary has been aware of its unique place and mission in the Church and in society. The Mission Statement of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary articulates the purpose of the institution and provides a basis for its goals, programs and activities, and its relationship to constituencies served.

The Mission of the Seminary is actualized in the following purposes:

- To provide a program of priestly formation for priesthood candidates that offers the Master of Divinity degree and is in conformity with:
 - The Decree on the Training of Priests, *Optatam Totius* (1965); *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* (1985); and *The Program of Priestly Formation*, Fifth Edition (2006).
- To provide a program of theological education and ministerial formation for lay people seeking preparation for other ministries in the Church, offering the following degrees: Master of Arts (Theology), and Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry.
- To provide a program of English language proficiency and acculturation/inculturation for international students seeking to minister in the Catholic Church in the U.S.
- To offer clergy opportunities for theological and pastoral-ministerial continuing education according to the teaching of the Second Vatican Council.
- To offer adults opportunities for continuing education in biblical studies, theology, spiritual theology, and religious education. The charism of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary was elucidated in light of its patrons by Pope John Paul II in his encyclical *Slavorum Apostoli*, issued in June of our centennial year 1985:

- *It is in the specific area of missionary activity that the example of Cyril and Methodius is of even greater value. For this activity is an essential task of the church and is urgent today in the . . . form of inculturation.*
- *By exercising their own charism, Cyril and Methodius made a decisive contribution to the building of Europe not only in Christian religious communion but also to its civil and cultural union . . . Being Christians in our day means being builders of communion in the church and in society. This calls for openness to others, mutual understanding, and readiness to cooperate through the generous exchange of cultural and spiritual resources. (26, 27) Pope John Paul II*

Core Values of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary

- The mission of Cyril & Methodius, immigrant missionaries to the Slavic peoples, inspires us to welcome newcomers, both candidates for priesthood and lay ministry students, who value the multicultural environment of the U.S. Catholic Church and respect the rich cultural heritage of all believers.
- In the pioneering spirit of our founder, Rev. Joseph Dabrowski, we provide authentic, national leadership in celebrating and interpreting the spiritual legacy of Catholic Polonia and serve as a bridge between the Catholic Churches of America and Poland.
- With a profound reverence for all peoples as complementary expressions of God's multiform creation, we seek to stand on the cutting edge of the dialogue between the Gospel of Christ and human culture.
- As a fellowship of seminarians and lay ministry students we desire to find Jesus among us, discover his presence in each other, and be transformed by His word in vibrant academic study.
- We are committed to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and to actively participate in the inter-religious and ecumenical conversation that fosters a more profound understanding of the church's apostolic witness and liturgy.