Faith and Spirituality Course Syllabus
Senior Year ~ Lansing Catholic High School

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I. Course Description

Faith and Spirituality is a semester course which encourages students to examine what it is to have a relationship with God through prayer and the sacraments. “...In today’s world, despite widespread secularization, there is a widespread demand for spirituality, a demand which expresses itself in large part as a renewed need for prayer.” (Pope John Paul II, Novo Millennio Ineunte) By studying the great saints and mystics throughout church history, the students will be given a model of the many ways the one spirituality between God and man can be manifested in the human person.

II. Course Content

a. Areas of study
   i. Define faith and spirituality and articulate the importance of each.
   ii. Recognize prayer as gift, covenant and communion and name examples of each from scripture. Identify key types of prayer, namely: blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise.
   iii. Know and practice expressions of prayer: vocal, meditative, and contemplative.
   iv. Identify obstacles to prayer: distraction, dryness, temptation, not being heard and be able to express how saints dealt with these.
   v. Articulate the theology and spirituality of the Lord’s Prayer and the rosary and be able to recite each.
   vi. Define vocation and identify how discernment draws us to ours.
   vii. Articulate the mission and meaning of Christian marriage.

b. Reading & Writing Requirements:
   i. Reading - Students will read portions of the class text The Fulfillment of all Desire by Ralph Martin as well as other spiritual classics that will be provided by the teacher.
   ii. Writing - Students will write several short essays demonstrating their knowledge of various philosophical ideas. There will not be any paper assigned greater than two pages in length. All tests will contain essays. Students will need to write longer answers on tests and exams in complete sentence form.
c. **Course Schedule** – for a more detailed plan please see the table at the end of this syllabus. Dates, topics, activities, and assignments are subject to change based upon the assessed needs of the students and how well the class masters the outcomes of the course.

### III. Course Materials

#### a. Textbooks

1. *The Fulfillment of all Desire. Ralph Martin*.

#### b. General supplies –

1. Various handouts will be distributed throughout the semester; students are responsible for bringing these to class as required. In many cases these will also be available on the class website.
2. You will need a pen for note-taking and in-class assignments. Please do not complete written assignments in red ink. You will also need a notebook for class notes used exclusively for this class.

### IV. Course Policies

#### a. Attendance/absences/tardiness –

1. If you are absent please refer to the “Missing Assignment” binder in the classroom for handouts.
2. For excused absences you have as many days as you are absent to make up the work according to school policy.

#### b. Make-up work/late work –

1. Any assignment not turned in on time on the date due is docked fifty percent, unless prior arrangements have been made with me, or you have an excused absence, in which case, the assignment is due in accordance with the policies in the Student Handbook.
2. It is your responsibility to find out what you have missed when you are absent, and to be prepared when you return to class. Ask your classmates for this information. If you miss a test, be prepared to make it up on the day your return, or as noted in the Student Handbook for extended absences. Tests need to be made up outside of class time (before or after school, during homeroom, during my prep periods or your Study Hall).
3. You are responsible for letting me know when you have missed something. If you fail to do so, and sit quietly in class every day hoping I will forget about your missing grade, you will receive a zero on that task because you did not complete it.

#### c. Classroom rules/expectations –

1. **Daily Routine**
   1. When the second bell rings everyone should be in the classroom.
   2. Sit down immediately for the opening prayer.
   3. Class discussions or activities
   4. Recap of the day’s lesson or major points
   5. Make the room look great for the next class and turn in any papers
2. **Classroom Protocol**
   1. Students will be considered tardy if they come to class unprepared without materials or they arrive after the second bell. You will not be admitted without a slip from the Front Office or the teacher who held you over.
2. Bathroom breaks are a disruption during class and should only be taken at an appropriate time during the class if it is an emergency. This should happen rarely.

3. Listening is a crucial skill to develop and is respectful of others. Only one person should be talking at a time. Side conversations are rude and unacceptable.

4. Class does not end when the bell rings, it ends when I have dismissed the class after making sure it is neat and orderly for the next group just as you found it.

5. You may not leave the room to go to the computer lab or library during this class, regardless of what we are doing, unless I have arranged for you to do something for this class. Don’t even ask.

d. Disciplinary policies
   i. Cheating in any form is unacceptable. If you cheat:
      1. you will receive a zero on the assignment/quiz
      2. your parents and the assistant principal will be notified
      3. you will still need to complete the assignment to work towards mastery of the material but it will be for no credit
   ii. Though we teach our students about plagiarism and work to avoid its use in the classroom, our technological society makes it increasingly difficult for many students to discern the appropriate use of information. We at Lansing Catholic High School define plagiarism in the following ways:
      1. Plagiarism is the copying of another’s work without citing the original source. We use the standard of several consecutive words to define copying;
      2. Plagiarism is using the ideas of another and representing them as one’s own. Even when paraphrasing such ideas, one must give appropriate credit to the original author (all students are taught the appropriate MLA method of citation);
      3. Plagiarism is also common in classroom speeches. Reading directly from another author’s work without giving credit is plagiarism.
      4. The consequences of plagiarism at Lansing Catholic High School are outlined in the student handbook. The first offense includes a zero for the assignment as well as the possibility of ten hours of service and/or a one-day suspension. Penalties become more severe as subsequent incidents occur.
         a. Gum ~ you will be given a school detention.
         b. Students who come to class not in the proper dress code will be asked to leave to correct the problem. Learn to dress professionally for your role.

   e. Homework policy
      i. I will generally give at least two days to complete a homework assignment so you can manage your time with other activities and classes. Larger assignments will have more time to complete them.

V. Grading Policy/Assessment
   a. Grading scale
      
      | Grade | Score | Percentage |
      |-------|-------|------------|
      | A     | 4.0   | 100-92%    |
      | A-    | 3.67  | 90-91%     |
      | B+    | 3.33  | 88-89%     |
      | B     | 3.00  | 82-87%     |
      | B-    | 2.67  | 80-81%     |
      | C+    | 2.33  | 78-79%     |
b. **Point Values of Items Graded** – these will vary between assignments. I will make you aware of the point value of an assignment when the assignment is given.

c. **Calculation of Grades**
   i. To calculate your grade, add up all of the points you have earned and divide that by the total points possible for tasks to date.
   ii. As always, you can check your grade on Skyward Family Access. Grades will be updated every two weeks if not sooner.

d. **Extra Credit** – I will offer some opportunities for extra credit. These will usually involve going to listen to a speaker in our area and writing a brief summary of what was said.

e. **Types of Assessments** –
   i. Formative assessments will be given each week which will help me check for your understanding of the concepts and vocabulary. These will not always be entered as a graded assignment.
   ii. Summative assessments will be given at the end of each unit. Some of these will be in the form of a test that will include vocabulary identification/application, summarizing ideas discussed, and comparing and contrasting different systems of thought.
   iii. Formats of these assessments will almost always consist of essays and short answer.
   iv. The final exam will be comprehensive over the class outcomes covered up to that point in class.

f. **Progress Reports** – I will notify parents at deficiency time if a student is at 70% average or below for the semester.

VI. Course Procedures
   a. **Work requirements**
      i. Reading assignments will vary depend upon the ideas we are investigating and the philosophers we are studying. Reading materials and assignments will be made clear before we begin a unit.

   b. **Group work**
      i. Students will be asked in class from time to time to pair up with someone or a few others to read and/or prepare a short presentation about the topic we are studying. These are usually smaller assignments.
      ii. Apologetics Project – this is a large project where students will work in groups to put in to practice the techniques of reason and logic we have learned to defend some aspect of the Catholic faith. This will be done at the end of the second quarter.

   c. **Notebooks/binders** – As noted earlier, I ask that you keep a binder or notebook exclusively for this class with plenty of loose leaf paper in it. You will receive a number of handouts that will be important for you to organize and refer back to.
VII. Personal Statement

a. Words of wisdom- Succeeding in This Class

i. The key to success in this class is the willingness to engage in the classroom conversation. Philosophy is not simply something to be studied and memorized, but rather should engage your entire person and view of reality.

ii. Study Guides will be given out with each unit. Review notes and the day’s class in light of these.

iii. You must also come to class having read the assignment for the previous night. If you do not read, you cannot do well on tests and you cannot participate in class discussions.

iv. Extra help – If you need to see me personally, we can always schedule some time that works for both of us.

VIII. Course Schedule - Dates, topics, activities, and assignments are subject to change based upon the assessed needs of the students and how well the class masters the outcomes of the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tentative Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Class Texts</th>
<th>Activities, Assignments, and Assessments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 27 – 31</td>
<td>The Call to Holiness</td>
<td>The Fulfillment of all Desire by Ralph Martin: Chapter 1</td>
<td>Call to Holiness Essay (15 points)</td>
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<td>Feb 3 – 7</td>
<td>The Purgative Stage and the battle with sin</td>
<td>The Fulfillment of all Desire by Ralph Martin: Chapter 2</td>
<td>Chapter Summary (10 points)</td>
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<td>Feb 10 – 12</td>
<td>Illumination and spiritual learning</td>
<td>Excerpts from The Interior Castle by Teresa of Avila</td>
<td>Stages Summary (10 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 18 – 21</td>
<td>Union with God</td>
<td>Excerpts from The Interior Castle by Teresa of Avila</td>
<td>Stages Summary (10 points)</td>
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<td>Feb 24 – 28</td>
<td>Vocal Prayer</td>
<td>Fundamentals of the Faith by Peter Kreeft</td>
<td>Chapter Questions (15 points)</td>
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<td>March 3 – 7</td>
<td>Meditative Prayer</td>
<td>Introduction to the Devout Life by St. Francis DeSales</td>
<td>Meditation Reflections (15 points)</td>
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<td>Mar 10 – 14</td>
<td>Contemplative Prayer</td>
<td>Excerpts from St. John of the Cross</td>
<td>Meditation Reflections (15 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 17 – 21</td>
<td>The Our Father and the Rosary</td>
<td>Fundamentals of the Faith by Peter Kreeft</td>
<td>Chapter Questions (15 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 24 – 28</td>
<td>Spirituality and Vocation</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Call to Holiness Essay (15 points)</td>
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<td>Mar 31 – Apr 4</td>
<td>Theology of the Body</td>
<td>Various General Audiences of Pope John Paul II</td>
<td>General Audience Summary (10 points)</td>
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<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 14 – 17</td>
<td>Theology of the Body</td>
<td>Various General Audiences of Pope John Paul II</td>
<td>General Audience Summary (10 points)</td>
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<td>Apr 21 – 24</td>
<td>Natural Family Planning</td>
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<td>NFP Quiz (15 points) Philosophy Paper (75 points)</td>
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<td>Date Range</td>
<td>Activity Description</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<td>Apr 28 – May 2</td>
<td>Theology of the Body Projects</td>
<td>Theology of the Body Projects (55 points)</td>
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<td>Exam Review</td>
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<td>May 5 – 8</td>
<td>Theology of the Body Projects</td>
<td>Theology of the Body Projects (55 points)</td>
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<td>Exam Review</td>
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<td>May 12 – 13</td>
<td>Exams</td>
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