

The Liturgical Role of the Deacon

COURSE OVERVIEW

From the time of the earliest Christian community to the present, deacons have played an integral part in the life of the Church (Acts 6:1-6). A deacon in the Orthodox Church plays a vital role both in the liturgy and in the pastoral care of the Church community.

This course introduces students to the role of the deacon within the worship services of the Byzantine Churches, with a focus on the rubrics and the prayers. The main focus is the Divine Liturgy, the evening and morning services, and the major feasts, but the course will also give consideration to the other sacraments in the Church's life. In addition, students will become acquainted with the liturgical cycle and the classical texts of Orthodox spirituality.

GOALS

After successful completion of the course students are expected to:

- Understand the nature of prayer
- Understand the Orthodox liturgical cycle and calendar
- Be familiar with some of the classic texts in Orthodox spirituality
- Understand the purpose and goal of the Liturgy
- Be familiar with the sacraments of initiation – baptism, chrismation and eucharist, and with the sacraments of marriage and unction

ASSESSMENT

There are no examinations for College courses organised by the Folkhögskola. Assessment is based on full participation in all aspects of the course. This includes reading the set texts, completing written assignments and participating in group work.

REQUIREMENTS

All students need to be at least 18 years old, be officially registered in Sweden and have a sufficient knowledge of the language of instruction.

TUITION

Tuition at Sankt Ignatios Folkhögskola is free for everyone who is a citizen of Sweden or another EU country or who have been granted permission to live in Sweden. Students must be registered as living in Sweden.

SERVICE FEE

Students are required to pay a service fee. The service fee for this course is SEK 300 per semester.

Quick Facts

Organizer

Sankt Ignatios Folkhögskola

Level

Preparatory

Length

1 year

Study Pace

Part-time (50%)

Teaching Hours

Weekends and evenings

Type of Instruction

On-campus with additional distance learning

Location

Campus Södertälje

Language of Instruction

Swedish & English, or Swedish & Arabic

Literature & Materials

Alkiviadis C. Calivas, *Come Before God in Prayer and Solemn Feast*. Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 1986

Hugh Wyrew, *Orthodox Feasts of Christ and Mary: Liturgical Texts with Commentary*. London: SPCK, 1997, pp. 7-23

Alexander Schmemmann, *Worship in a Secular Age*, Saint Vladimir's Theological Quarterly 16 (1972)

Alkiviadis Calivas, *Marriage: The Sacrament of Love and Communion*, Greek Orthodox Theological Review, 40 (1995) p. 247- 275

Anton Vrame, editor, *InterMarriage: Orthodox Perspectives*, Brookline, Mass: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 1997

Paul Meyendorff, *The Anointing of the Sick*, St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly, 35 (1991) p. 241-255.

Dorotheos of Gaza, *Discourses and Sayings*. Cistercian Studies Series, no. 33, Kalamazoo, MI: Cistercian Publications, 1978 [read Discourses 1-11]

Symeon the New Theologian, The Discourses. Classics of Western Spirituality, New York: Paulist Press, 1980 [read Discourses 1-2, 15-16, 22, 24, 28-29, 32, 34-36]