

# *Equipping Partners in the Gospel*

## **Earn a Master of Theological Studies (MTS)**

**THE CHRISTIFIDELES PROGRAM** offers a blended in person and online academic formation through a new partnership between the Archdiocese of Seattle and Saint Martin's University to prepare lay ministers specifically for the Partners in the Gospel ecclesial context of Western Washington. Deepen your own understanding of theology, enrich your ministry experience, and explore ways to serve within the Church through this Master of Theological Studies program.

The program offers ongoing spiritual, human, and pastoral care formation opportunities provided by the Archdiocese of Seattle. To prepare lay ecclesial ministers for the newly formed Partner in the Gospel parish families, a holistic approach to formation is necessary; thus, Christifideles students will be guided through the Catholic heritage to apply it to ministry settings and pastoral encounters. Specifically, students will learn:

- Intellectual formation to understand the living tradition of our faith
- Human formation to live a virtuous life
- Theological reflection for appropriate discernment in pastoral ministry
- Spiritual formation to encounter the Holy Spirit in service

**Take advantage of the most affordable  
theology degree on the West Coast!**

More information available soon.



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## **CHRISTIFIDELES**

AN ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE PROGRAM

Graduate-level Formation for  
Lay Ecclesial Ministers

### **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

Students participate in Saint Martin's University Academic Learning and complete complete 12 courses/36 hours:

- Foundations in Catholic Theology
- Spirituality
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Christology
- Ecclesiology
- Church History
- Moral Theology
- Sacraments/Liturgy
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Thesis/Capstone Project
- Elective

**Graduates of this theology program  
are well positioned to serve in roles  
such as:**

- Director of Pastoral Ministry
- Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation
- Youth and Young Adult Minister
- Chaplain and Outreach Ministers
- Other essential roles in the Church



## FAQs

### **What is the total cost for the MTS graduate degree?**

The Archdiocese of Seattle and Saint Martin's University (SMU) are offering generous scholarships to provide Christifideles (CF) students the most affordable Theology degree on the West Coast. The estimated out-of-pocket cost for tuition is \$480 for each 3-credit course. (Textbooks are extra). This comes to just under \$6,000 for a fully accredited graduate degree (36 credits).

### **How long is the MTS degree program?**

Two Years. Students will take two courses per semester in Fall, Winter, and Summer semesters each year. Because most students are working in their local faith communities, classes will be scheduled to reduce overlapping as much as possible. For example, students will take an Old Testament course during the first half of the semester and then New Testament in the second half of the semester starting in January 2026.

Alternatively, it is possible to complete the program in three years, taking one course in the Fall and Winter semesters and two courses in the summer. Applicants applying to complete the program in two years will be given preference due to the limited scholarships.

### **What is the format of classes offered?**

All courses are offered in a blended learning/hybrid format where students attend classes in-person half of the time while the other half will be online in a Zoom Classroom. In-person classes will be held at Saint Martin's University, ABRC Palisades, and/or the Chancery. While all classes will be available online, any exemptions from in-person attendance must be made ahead of time with CF and SMU.

### **Who are the Professors?**

The unique collaboration between the Archdiocese and a local university allows the faculty at Saint Martin's to teach half of the courseload while the Archdiocese will invite instructors from across the country specializing in different ministerial fields. Thus, students learn a local approach to their theological endeavors focused on the Partners in the Gospel ecclesial context as well as a global perspective from renowned scholars.

### **How much time do I need every week for the course?**

Students are expected to read approximately 100 pages a week in preparation for their class time. Additionally, assignments range from individual to group projects, papers, exams, etc.

### **How do I prepare for the January 2026 start date once I'm accepted?**

The new cohort will be introduced to ongoing spiritual, human, and pastoral formation beginning on September 6, 2025 to complement their intellectual formation in the graduate program. In addition, students are required to take a pre-theology workshop in October and November 2025 as an introduction to philosophical categories necessary for theology. These workshops will help students to read, think, and write critically on the graduate level.