

Franciscan School of Theology Brief Overview

From its inception the Franciscan School of Theology (FST) has been committed to educating its students, lay and religious, in one of the most distinctive and oldest theological traditions in the Roman Catholic Church, rooted in the spiritual intuitions and religious experience of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi

The Franciscan School of Theology brings together three important words: Mission, Franciscan, and California. The Franciscans have provided theological training in California since the beginning of the state's history and have worked with California's diverse population since then.

Mission Santa Barbara was chartered in 1854 as an apostolic college and continued in that capacity until 1885. It also functioned as a college for laymen from 1869 to 1877. The Mission remained the center for theological studies and continued to operate as a seminary until 1968 when the theological school moved to Berkeley, California, as the Franciscan School of Theology, a member school of the Graduate Theological Union (GTU), an ecumenical consortium of nine theology schools and affiliated centers.

With the approval of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents, along with the Board of Trustees of the University of San Diego, FST announced in September 2012 that the school would depart from its membership in GTU and intended to enter into a service and curricular affiliation with the University of San Diego in San Diego, California. The school maintained its autonomous corporate and canonical structure in its affiliation with USD, and over the next two years will move its full program onto the University Campus.

As the school's history indicates, FST was once a seminary that prepared men for service as priests; now it is a seminary and a theology school that prepares religious and clergy, laywomen and men for shared ministry in the Roman Catholic Church. At one time it was one of a number of Franciscan seminaries in the United States; now FST is the only Franciscan seminary/theology school in the country. Its mission is to prepare professional ministers for the Church and society. FST continues to find inspiration in the missionary zeal and educational heritage of Junípero Serra, who founded the first Franciscan mission in Upper California at San Diego.

The Franciscan School offers degree programs leading to the Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies and Master of Arts.

Faculty

The members of the faculty are actively involved in every level of course development from the establishment of the learning objectives to the delivery of the courses, student assessment, and program assessment. The current faculty of the school is made up of the following:

Professors

Fr. Joseph Chinnici, OFM – President Emeritus
D. Phil., History, University of Oxford, Oxford, England

Fr. Michael Guinan, OFM
Ph.D., Semitic Languages, The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.

Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ
Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Bro. William Short, OFM
S.T.D., Theology, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome

Mons. Liam Bergin
S.T.D., Theology, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome

Fr. Martín Carbajo Núñez, OFM – Visiting Professor
S.T.D., Moral Theology, Alfonsianum, Rome

Fr. Johannes Freyer, OFM – Visiting Professor
Dr. theol. habil., Systematic Theology, University of Trier, Germany

Associate Professors

Fr. Garrett Galvin, OFM
Ph.D., Biblical Studies, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Bro. John Kiesler, OFM
Ph.D., Theology with specialization in missiology, Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Dr. Darleen Pryds, Ph.D.
Ph.D., Medieval Religious History, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Assistant Professors

Dr. Maureen Day, Ph.D.

Ph.D., Ethics and Social Theory, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA

Adjunct Professors

Dr. Jeffrey Burns, Ph.D.

Ph.D., US History, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Dr. Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou, Ph.D.

Ph.D., Theology, Université Laval, Quebec City, Quebec

Fr. Kenneth Laverone, OFM

S.T.L., Canon Law, Pontifical University of St. Thomas, Rome

Fr. Finian McGinn, OFM

Ed.D., Education, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

Fr. C. Michael Weldon, OFM

D.Min., Liturgy Concentration, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL

The FST faculty is made up of highly qualified scholars each of whom holds a terminal degree in his or her own discipline and the core faculty enjoys a gender balance of three female and three male professors. The faculty also includes members who hold doctorates from a wide variety of different schools.

At this stage in its history the school is opening a new chapter – one in which we hope to collaborate closely with our colleagues in the University of San Diego and with the Diocese of San Diego. Together we can continue the charge given to Saint Francis by the Lord to rebuild his house.