

## 6 Integrated Themes Across the Seven Course Sequence

- Family Perspective Lens
- Theology and Church Teaching
- Cultural Mindsets and Tensions
- Spirituality of Dialogue
- Ecumenism and Inclusion
- Evangelization Practicum

## Professional Learning Outcomes for Graduates

- Articulate specialized knowledge of key theological concepts in pastoral ministry and practice
- Analyze factors affecting a family perspective
- Apply principles of a spirituality of dialogue and accompaniment in pastoral ministry
- Apply scholarly and reflective practices for continuous improvement in ministerial praxis
- Communicate and collaborate in scholarly, ethical, respectful and responsible ways

## Acquired Skills

- To think critically and to generate and evaluate complex ideas.
- To review, analyze, consolidate and synthesize knowledge and identify and propose solutions to complex problems.
- To develop specialized theological and creative skills to reflect and apply in professional practice.
- To develop dialogue and communication skills to demonstrate and understanding of theological and pastoral concepts.
- To develop dialogue and communication skills to transfer complex knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences and circumstances.

## Application

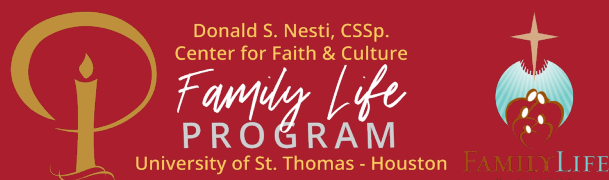
- To initiate, plan, implement, and evaluate broad functions within varied specialized and/or creative

pastoral ministry settings.

- To make decisions with compassion and responsibility to recognized professional, ethical, and Church accountability standards.
- To make appropriate judgements in a range of theological or ministerial functions, in varied ministerial contexts.

## A Family Perspective Includes

- Viewing individuals in the context of their family relationships and their other social relationships.
- Using family relationships as a criterion to assess the impact of the Church's and society's policies, programs, ministries, and services



**Now accepting applications!**

University of St. Thomas  
Donald S. Nesti, CSSp.  
Center for Faith & Culture  
3800 Montrose Blvd. | Houston, TX 77006  
713-442-5066 | [cfc@stthom.edu](mailto:cfc@stthom.edu)  
website: [stthom.edu/cfc](http://stthom.edu/cfc)



**UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS**

Donald S. Nesti, CSSp.  
Center for Faith & Culture



**Family Life  
Certificate Program**

**Donald S. Nesti, CSSp.  
Center for Faith & Culture**

## The Nesti Center for Faith & Culture Family Life Certificate Program

### Certificate in Family Life

The Nesti Center for Faith and Culture offers a Certificate in Family Life which is designed to help interested persons apply elements of a family perspective in their lives and ministries. This certificate program introduces the participants to:

- An overview of family life today and what is meant by a family perspective (The Family Today)
- A Christian view of family life (Theology of the Human Person; Theology of Marriage; Theology of Family)
- Family as a developing system, in its diversity and partnership with social institutions (Marriage and the Family)
- Implementing a family perspective in parishes (Theological Methods, Family Partnerships)

Specifically designed through the lens of A Family Perspective in Church and Society (USCCB, 2000), this multi-dimensional program includes solid theological and updated pastoral formation for those seeking to deepen their understanding of God's intended purpose for marriage and family life, while preparing them to guide and serve families in professional lay ecclesial ministry.

### Target Participant

Professional Family life and other ministry leaders (laity and clergy), leading programs at their home parish or organizations. This program welcomes leaders of all faiths.



**THE FAMILY IS THE FOUNDATIONAL CELL OF SOCIETY**



— ST. JOHN PAUL II



**FAMILIES, CALLED TO A PRIMARY AND VITAL MISSION OF EDUCATION, ARE  
THE PRIVILEGED MILIEU FOR TRANSMITTING THE FAITH.**



— FRATELLI TUTTI

### Differentiation Point

This unique program provides solid, vibrant, and updated pastoral formation in Family Life, explicitly designed for its application in today's society and Church.

### Support Elements:

- The seven modules cover relevant Theological aspects, diversity of family systems, contemporary challenges, and organizational aspects.
- The faculty combines high-level scholars and engaged practitioners, passionate about ministering to families.
- The UST Center for Faith and Culture is a highly regarded formation institution in the greater metropolitan area.
- All classes are geared to practical application in life and ministry.
- This certificate program is an approved offering in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
- This program seeks to implement the USCCB Family Perspective in Church and Society and Pope Francis's encyclical, the Joy of Love.

### Two Enrollment Options

- an area of concentration within the Master of Arts in Faith and Culture for academic credit
- an archdiocesan approved program of Family Life formation and professional development for non-academic credit
- Courses can be taken online or in person.

It is anticipated that new cohorts will begin each semester and complete the 7-course sequence in four semesters. Classes will be offered on a rotating cycle to accommodate new cohorts.

### Sequence of Classes

#### Theological Methods and Reflections

#### Theology of the Human Person

#### Theology of Marriage

#### Theology of Family

#### Marriage and the family

#### The Family Today

#### Family Partnerships