

## **PASTORAL MINISTRY 220:**

### **THE WOUNDED HEALER: THE MAKING OF A PASTORAL PERSON**

Winter Quarter 2025  
Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries  
Santa Clara University

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#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:**

With his classic image of the “wounded healer,” Henri Nouwen reminds us that imperfect people do effective ministry. Drawing on the insights of developmental psychology, *The Spiritual Exercises*, and contemporary theologies of ministry, this course will examine the psychological and spiritual formation of the pastoral person. Students will discover within their own human imperfection the deepest wellsprings of pastoral identity and ministerial effectiveness. They will also experience a model of theological reflection on ministry which will help them:

- Integrate more deeply personal and spiritual development
- Explore their call to ministry in the context of their personal developmental process
- Articulate their personal, operative theology of ministry
- Deepen self-awareness and spirituality as the ground of ministry
- Expand their capacity for empathy, compassion, and service
- Practice using a model of ministerial reflection which deepens their facility with the tools of discernment

Class activities and assignments are designed with **GPPM Program and Learning Objectives** in mind, and students will be evaluated in light of the following specific objectives:

**GPPM Goal 2: Pastoral Proficiency**

Students will demonstrate familiarity with practices in various manifestations of church life, expressed in concrete pastoral applications which include discernment, compassion, and ministries of accompaniment.

**GPPM Goal 3: Servant Leadership**

A commitment to identify injustices and developing skills to work individually and in collaboration with other ministers, in accompanying those in need and in service to the poor, the marginalized, and the alienated, both within and outside the Church.