



## ***Christ the Teacher Institute***

a mission of the Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern University

2110 Sheridan Road Evanston, IL 60201 847-328-4648

<https://sheilcatholiccenter.org/learn/christ-the-teacher-institute-faith-formation/>

# **Catholic Scholars Program Incoming First-Year Student at NU DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION 2022-2023**

## **CHRIST THE TEACHER INSTITUTE**

The *Christ the Teacher Institute* (CTI) is a mission of the Sheil Catholic Center (SCC) at Northwestern University (NU). Its purpose is to help form Catholic leaders for the Church and the world through the integration of scholarship, prayer, service, and leadership. The Institute oversees the Sheil Seminars, the Catholic Scholars Program, the Catholic Fellowships in Church Leadership, the Simpson Essay Prize, and the Sheil Lecture Series

## **CATHOLIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

In order to enter into an adult relationship with Christ, Catholic Scholars take seriously the commitment to deepen their understanding of faith, pray on a regular basis, serve the needs of others and provide leadership that is distinctively Catholic. Catholic Scholars are theologically grounded, spiritually alive, articulate in their faith, and joyfully involved in Catholic tradition. Graduates of this program will be well-prepared to serve on parish councils, teach religious education, participate in liturgy committees, and lead social justice efforts. In addition, they are able to bring Christian principles to their families and careers. The normal length of the program is six quarters. Rising seniors may apply for a modified program of three quarters. Students in the full program may, in discernment with the director, have the option of leaving the program with a one-year certificate. Applications for the 2022-2023 Catholic Scholars Program are open May 1 and due by August 26, 2022.

## **STIPENDS**

Stipends help pay for the expenses of the Catholic Scholars Program and provide additional self-earned income to pay for any other expenses. All first-year Scholars will receive \$2,000 (less the cost of mission trips and/or retreats). Scholars who continue into the second year will receive an additional \$3,000 which may be used to pay for additional retreats or mission trips or for other expenses. Stipends are paid out at the end of the academic year, unless special arrangements are made. **Students who become Catholic Scholars may decline all or part of their stipend so that others might take advantage of the program.**

The stipend money given here will not reduce NU's commitment to meet full demonstrated need. Any part of the stipend not used for required costs of the program (i.e. cost of mission trips) would be considered an outside source of income to reduce the self-help portion of the student's financial aid award. In very rare instances, the stipend may affect Northwestern financial assistance. Students participating in a coop or study abroad must discuss with the director how they will complete the program and how that will affect the distribution of their stipend. Entry into the program assumes completion of at least the three quarters. **If a student drops out of the program without completing at least three quarters, the student is obligated to reimburse Sheil for all stipend funds given up until the point of departure.**

## **PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

CTI is directed by Sr. Belinda Monahan, OSB. who holds a PhD in anthropology from Northwestern and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from St. John's University School of Theology. She is currently studying for her Master's of Theological Studies in Spirituality and Monastic Studies. She entered the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago in 2007. Sr. Belinda has worked with college and university students since 2000. In her work, she has participated in archaeological excavations in Jordan, Turkey, India, Armenia, Belize, and New Mexico. Sr. Belinda is currently the Director of Transformative Learning for the Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern. She interacts personally with the students, and teaches some of the Seminars for *Christ the Teacher*, as well as serving as an advisor to all Catholic Scholars.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Any full-time student entering Northwestern, who wants to deepen their Catholic faith and is willing and able to meet the requirements, can apply to participate in *Christ the Teacher* Catholic Scholars Program. The program has a limited number of slots each year. First-year students may apply, but first preference will be given to students who have completed their first year.

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Each participant must be involved and committed to a process of deepening their spirituality and achieving a more mature understanding of their Catholic faith and be willing to participate in the program until requirements are met. The program is designed to allow for study abroad or internships off campus during the process in consultation with the Director.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS in the TWO-YEAR TRACK (minimum 6 quarters)**

1. Maintain a GPA of 2.8.
2. Four core seminars in theology, liturgy, morality, and scripture plus two other seminars (or equivalent in NU courses as determined by the director) chosen from the other disciplines
3. Participation in the theological reflection at the end of each quarter, designed to help the student integrate his or her faith and learning into the overall life experience as a Northwestern student and a Catholic young adult.
4. Regular engaged participation *and* witness/leadership in SCC liturgy, SCC activities, and personal prayer (See #8 for examples of participation). All Scholars are expected to come to Mass at Sheil at least weekly and to pray daily. Commuter students are expected to attend Mass in their home parishes and at Sheil as they are able. They must be involved at Sheil in another group or ministry.
5. Personal spiritual direction.
6. Participation in one SCC overnight retreat OR a weekly SCC small faith group or bible study during the year (equivalent to 30 + hours; Busy Student Retreat does not fulfill this requirement).
7. Participation in an SCC mission trip AND at least three additional service opportunities in the year that a mission trip is not taken. (The latter can be fulfilled with another mission trip in the second year). An alternative to mission trips is available in rare circumstances, in consultation with the director.
8. Practice Christian leadership by "Putting on the Mind of Christ" and living out Sheil's values of empathy, encounter, and engagement. Apply what is learned by taking an active role in Sheil ministry or activity for at least three quarters (i.e. become a liturgical minister, organize an event or join a committee in CaSA (Catholic Students Association), join or lead a small faith group, teach religious ed – there are a multitude of ways to be involved.
9. Completion of a final integrative paper in the last year.
10. All Catholic Scholars are encouraged to take at least one course in the Catholic Studies program at Northwestern during their undergraduate years, although this is not a strict requirement.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

The following materials must be submitted to the SCC office no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, August 26, 2022**:

1. The official Catholic Scholar application form can be downloaded from the Sheil website: <https://sheilcatholiccenter.org/learn/christ-the-teacher-institute-faith-formation/> For more information or for a word document format, contact [belinda.monahan@northwestern.edu](mailto:belinda.monahan@northwestern.edu)
2. A one - two page typed statement indicating the applicant's reasons for wanting to participate in the program and willingness and ability to meet the requirements, especially the time commitments; as well as high school leadership roles, honors, and cumulative GPA. Applicants may also note their financial situation if they wish.
3. A letter of recommendation from a pastor (or other pastoral leader, youth minister, or campus minister) who can attest to the applicant's commitment to the Catholic tradition, involvement in a faith community, as well as potential for leadership. Pastoral Recommendations can be found on the Sheil website.
4. A letter of recommendation from a teacher, or academic counselor who can attest to the applicant's potential to successfully complete additional college-level coursework. Academic recommendations can be found on the Sheil website.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

The director of the program and the director of Sheil, (possibly others as needed) will review all the fully completed applications received by the deadline. They will make their selections on the following criteria:

1. Student's enthusiasm for and purpose in applying for the program as demonstrated in the application essay,
2. Commitment to embracing all aspects of faith and learning from them,
3. Leadership potential,
4. Academic abilities and current level of engagement as demonstrated in the recommendations,
5. Ability to manage the time demands;
6. Willingness to participate until the requirements are met.



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# **Catholic Scholars Incoming First-Year Student at NU APPLICATION FORM 2022-2023**

Applications will be accepted **between May 1, 2022 and Aug 26, 2022.**

Please *type* or *print* all responses on this application.

I am applying to be a Catholic Scholar

**Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_

*Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial*

**Permanent Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

*Street, City, State / Zip Code*

**Home (or guardians') Phone:** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**NU Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please include zip code if you are not living in a NU residence hall.*

**Your Cell Phone:** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**NU Email:** \_\_\_\_\_@u.northwestern.edu

**Other E-mail if you are using that** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Parish:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Church Name and City*

**Pastor** \_\_\_\_\_

### **HIGH SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Honor Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Stipend Won: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Leadership Position: \_\_\_\_\_

**The following items must be submitted with this application form:**

1. Pages 4-5 of the application.
2. A 1-2 page typed statement indicating your reasons for wanting to participate in the Christ the Teacher program and willingness and ability to meet the requirements, especially the time commitments; as well high school or college leadership roles, honors, and cumulative GPA. You may also note your financial situation if you wish.
3. A letter of recommendation from a pastor (or other pastoral leader) who can attest to your commitment to the Catholic tradition, involvement in a faith community, and potential for leadership (Recommendation forms can be downloaded from the Sheil website: <https://sheilcatholiccenter.org/learn/christ-the-teacher-institute-faith-formation/> or contact Belinda Monahan, OSB ([belinda.monahan@northwestern.edu](mailto:belinda.monahan@northwestern.edu)) for a word document.
4. A letter of recommendation from a teacher, professor, academic advisor, or leadership supervisor who can attest to the applicant's potential to successfully complete college-level coursework in addition to current course load. (Recommendation forms can be downloaded from the Sheil website: <https://sheilcatholiccenter.org/learn/christ-the-teacher-institute-faith-formation/> or contact Belinda Monahan, OSB ([belinda.monahan@northwestern.edu](mailto:belinda.monahan@northwestern.edu)) for a word document.

On a separate sheet, please explain in your own words what the Sheil values of empathy, encounter, and engagement mean to you and how they assist us in "putting on the mind of Christ"? Which do you feel will be the easiest for you to adopt? Which the hardest? And why? (less than one page)

I would pursue this program even if you did not offer a stipend \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

I will be a full-time student at Northwestern University in the 2022/2023 academic year. I am a practicing Catholic and I intend to fulfill the program requirements. I understand that if I do not complete at least the first-year track, I must reimburse Sheil for any stipend money I received to that point.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applications and recommendations can be submitted electronically to Belinda Monahan, OSB ([belinda.monahan@northwestern.edu](mailto:belinda.monahan@northwestern.edu)) or by mail addressed to:

Christ the Teacher Institute  
Catholic Scholars Program  
2110 Sheridan Road  
Evanston, IL 60201

By participating in Catholic Scholars or other Sheil Catholic Center programming, you may be digitally recorded and/or photographed and, as such, acknowledge and agree to grant Sheil Catholic Center the right to digitally record, film, photograph, or capture your likeness in any media now available or hereafter developed, and to distribute, broadcast, use, or otherwise disseminate such media in perpetuity without any further approval from you or any payment to you.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name of guardian, if you are under 18 years of age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of guardian, if you are under 18 years of age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*If you need to opt-out, please email the Director of the program with your request before August 26<sup>th</sup> at [belinda.monahan@northwestern.edu](mailto:belinda.monahan@northwestern.edu). This will not impact your application.*