



## Pat Maruca

### Education Courses

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*Christian Practice in the Higher Education Classroom is described as incorporating instructional spiritual practices into one's course for the purpose of cultivating Godly reflection and practice in academic life.*

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#### Christian Practice:

##### *Hospitality - Fellowship & Testimony - Intercessory Prayer*

As future educators, I want my students to know that teaching is more than the curriculum. It is knowing your students, caring for them, and reflecting Christ's work in word and deed. The three practices I incorporate are:

1. **Hospitality:** I create a welcoming environment by ensuring that students have the resources and supports to be successful. I am present, positive and receptive. I am approachable and respectful. I regularly provide snacks to welcome them and model hospitality.
2. **Fellowship & Testimony:** As future educators, it is important that my students embrace, empathize, and value the differences that their students bring to the classroom, many of whom will come from cultures, religions, ethnicities, languages, and circumstances different than their own. Fellowship provides my students an opportunity to get to know each other, to build trusting relationships and it creates a culture of inclusion and belonging. Testimony teaches and builds empathy, sympathy, compassion, and a deeper understanding of others. As part of our regular class discussions, I remind my students to practice respectful discourse and I encourage them to share their personal stories, ideas and suggestions related to the topic being discussed. I ask them to give respectful feedback and to experience the tensions that arise when someone shares a view or opinion different than their own. I ask them to use these opportunities to reflect on their own biases and seek to understand why they exist and then to see it from the



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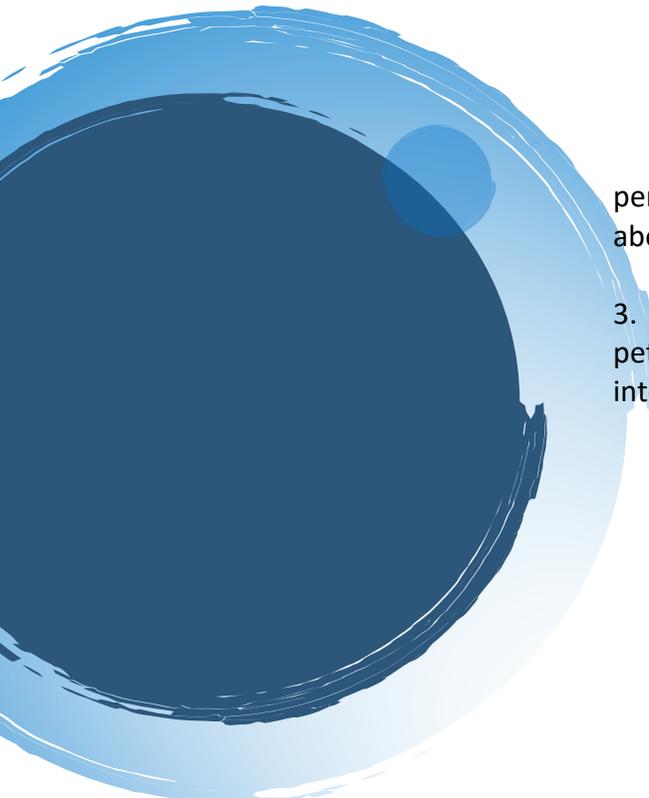
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perspective of the other person. I encourage them to speak about it if comfortable doing so.

3. **Intercessory Prayer:** I ask my students to share their petitions and concerns (silently or aloud) and I incorporate these into my closing prayer before sending them off.

