

Lay Ministry Formation



Diocese of New Ulm 2015-2016

“The Risen Lord calls everyone to labor in his vineyard, that is, in a world that must be transformed in view of the final coming of the Reign of God; and the Holy Spirit empowers all with the various gifts and ministries for the building up of the Body of Christ.”

Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord

Contact Information

The Diocese of New Ulm

507-359-2966

Bishop John M. LeVoir: Lay Catholics have the responsibility by Baptism to: “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope...” (1 Peter 3:15).

In the process of giving reasons for their hope, the laity evangelizes the culture. Lay Catholics are called to bring the gospel message of Jesus Christ to the public square. To a culture that increasingly tells us that there is no God and that religion is a private, personal matter, we must answer in the negative. Instead, like the first Apostles, lay people are called to: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature” (Mark 15:16).

Foundations prepares the laity to answer this call.

Information includes:

Overview of Programs

2015-2016 Foundations Information and Application

Spanish Formation/Llamados A Servir

Online Learning

Undergraduate and Graduate Study

Lay Ecclesial Ministry Certification

Financial Support

Overview:

Foundations is a stand-alone year of training, but can also serve as the first of a two year program of training in missionary discipleship. The second year of training (which is open to all first year participants) is called **Together in Mission**. There is no obligation to attend the second year, although most of last year's participants freely and happily signed up for the second year. Both years focus on training participants in the call to holiness and ongoing faith formation. Just as importantly, they seek to train participants to read Scripture in the living tradition of the Church, in order to understand better the dogmatic and pastoral constitutions of Vatican II, and have the evangelical savvy to recapitulate these teachings with the theology of the body. Courses are taught at the cognitive level of undergraduate sophomores and juniors. Presenter-student dialogue is a fundamental component of each gathering. Courses presume the four formative pillars of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*. The principles of Pope Francis' *Evangelii gaudium* are the standard ethos for training in missionary discipleship.

“Sharing in the function of Christ, priest, prophet and king, the laity have an active part of their own in the life and activity of the church. Their activity within the church communities is so necessary that without it the apostolate of the pastors will frequently be unable to obtain its full effect”.

Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, #10

2015-2016 SCHEDULE



Recruiting those interested in missionary discipleship:

Foundations is the diocesan program of basic training in perfective catechesis and theology for paid and volunteer parish staff who are involved in lay ministry. Potential participants include: volunteer catechists, youth ministers, catechetical leaders of parishes and AFCs, school teachers, principals, Christian community leaders, heads of the domestic churches (moms, dads, guardians), and any personnel (front desk greeters, secretaries, and so on) interested in being a part of the new evangelization. The group meets one Saturday a month for 8 months. The curriculum was developed in cooperation with the Bishop of New Ulm's Office of the New Evangelization and the Office of Adult Faith Formation. **Even better, Bishop LeVoir teaches one of the Saturday sessions.**

Location: The Pastoral Center, New Ulm, MN

SEPTEMBER 19 Introduction to Catholic Philosophy

OCTOBER 17 Salvation History I

NOVEMBER 7 Salvation History II

DECEMBER 5 Introduction to Catholic Theology

JANUARY 23 Theology of the Sacraments

FEBRUARY 27 Theology of the Catholic Church

MARCH 19 Morality and Social Teaching

APRIL 16 Lay Ministry and Spirituality

Structure of Saturday Sessions

- 8:45 Gather/refreshments
- 9:00 Morning Prayer from Liturgy of Hours
- 9:30 period 1
- 10:45 break
- 11:00 period 2
- 12:15 lunch
- 1:00 period 3
- 2:15 break
- 2:30 period 4
- 3:45 Midday Prayer from Liturgy of Hours

Coordinator

Mr. Bryan Reising
Office of Adult Faith Formation
Diocese of New Ulm
1421 6th Street North
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Curriculum

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Tel 507-359-2966
Fax 507-354-0268

Location of 2015-2016 Classes

Diocese of New Ulm Pastoral Center

1421 6th Street North

New Ulm, MN 56073

507-359-2966

Schedule of Topics and Presenters in 2015-2016:

1. Saturday, September 19, 2015: Introduction to Catholic Philosophy (Dr. Kevin Rickert) (cf. *Fides et ratio*, USCCB Catechism, chapter 1)

A study of the relationship between faith and reason and how acceptance of revelation works in accord with reason and natural inclinations. Saint John Paul II's encyclical *Fides et Ratio* will be the point of reference.

2. Saturday, October 17, 2015: Salvation History I (Mr. Dan Wambeke, M.T.S.) (cf. *Dei Verbum*, USCCB Catechism, chapter 2)

Having laid foundations in faith and reason, the divine revelation will be studied in terms of how the transcendent works with human nature to bring it to an understanding of the mystery of God in stages for the permanent covenant God intended (cf. Ex 19:5-6 & Eph 1). The emphasis is upon the divine pedagogy as found in CCC #51-53.

3. Saturday, November 7, 2015: Salvation History II (Mr. Dan Wambeke, M.T.S.) (cf. *Verbum Domini*, USCCB Catechism, chapters 3-4)

Having laid a general overview of God's plan and salvation history, this day will trace in greater detail the main figures in Salvation History, more detail on the Davidic Kingdom, and the Major Prophets (especially Isaiah's portrayal of the Suffering Servant 42), leading to the fullness of revelation in Christ (cf. Heb 1: 1-3; Mk 1).

4. Saturday, December 5, 2015: Introduction to Catholic Theology (Sr. Myriam Rose Shaffer, ACJ) (cf. USCCB Catechism, chapters 5-10 and CCC)

This day covers natural theology and God's attributes, theodicy, and doctrines on the most Holy Trinity which shed light on God's freedom and human freedom made in the image of the Triune God. It sheds light on doctrines surrounding Original Sin, the mission of Christ as Redeemer, and the mission of the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier.

5. Saturday, January 23, 2016: Theology of Sacraments

(Mr. Bryan Reising, MA) (cf. *Sacrosanctum concilium*, USCCB Catechism, chapters 14-21)

This day covers how Christ arranged for humans to share in his redemption and partake in divine life. It covers the seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church as mysteries of initiation, healing, and communion/mission.

6. Saturday, February 27, 2016: Theology of the Catholic Church

(Bishop John M. LeVoir) (cf. LG and USCCB Catechism, chapters 10-13)

This day is an overview of the Mystical Body of Christ in accord with the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen gentium* and the institution of the Church to continue the forgiveness of sins. Mindful of the goals of the Fourth Plan for Parishes, it will cover how both the hierarchy and laity share in Christ's three-fold mission as priest, prophet, and king as well as the Blessed Virgin Mary's heavenly role as Mother of the Church.

7. Saturday, March 19, 2016: Morality and Social Teaching

(Sr. Candace Fier) (cf. *Gaudium et spes*, USCCB Catechism, chapters 23-34, and *Familiaris consortio*)

While covering the basics of how humans are developed through the exercise of freedom, this day will overview the role of the Christian family in the modern world: forming a communion of persons (freedom and it's purposes/image to likeness); at the service of life (covering basic human goods and Commandments); participating in the development of society; sharing in the life and mission of the Church.

8. Saturday, April 16, 2016: Lay Ministry and Spirituality

(Mr. Bryan Reising, MA) (cf. Co-Workers, *Redemptoris missio*, *Evangelii gaudium*, USCCB Catechism, chapters 35-36)

Covering mission and the four pillars of formation as found in *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord* it will emphasize how those in lay ministry must strive for personal holiness and a deeper knowledge of the faith in order to be effective lay leaders. It will also cover National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers.

Llamados a Servir (Called to Serve) is a Spanish language diocesan lay formation program that provides a solid Catholic formation in the areas of the Creed and Revelation, Introduction to Sacred Scripture, Sacraments and Liturgy, Morality and Catholic Social Teaching, as well as Spirituality and Prayer. For more information and to register, contact the Diocesan Director of Hispanic Ministry at 507-359-2966.

LAMADOS A SERVIR
Un Programa de Formación de Discípulos de la Diócesis de New Ulm

Llamados a Servir es un programa diocesano de formación para los laicos de habla español. El programa ofrece una formación católica y básica con los temas del Credo y la Revelación, una Introducción a la Sagrada Escritura, los Sacramentos y la Liturgia, la Moralidad y la Doctrina Social de la Iglesia, Espiritualidad y la Oración. Para más información y para inscribirse se comunica con el Director del Ministerio Hispano, 507-359-2966.

ONLINE LEARNING

University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is an excellent opportunity for any adult catechist, adults working with youth, for parents, and or any adult for their adult faith formation or continuing education. Learning is done by reading specified books, viewing pertinent videos, and writing online postings and exercises. Online learning eliminates the cost and time of travel. This opportunity is open to any interested adult. Closed courses for your parish, area faith community and the diocese can be arranged. In addition, they offer certificates for catechists, youth ministers, parish leaders, and social concern committees. There are also continuing education possibilities for both priests and deacons.

- 4-6 week courses- \$40, 3 week seminars-\$30
- Studies include but are not limited to ecclesiology, church history, liturgy, prayer, sacraments, scripture, morality, various church documents, marianist studies, and leadership roles and skills for adult learning.
- Check out the website for all class offerings and future course cycles. The link is <http://vlc.udayton.edu/>.
- To register first create a user profile at the VLCFF website.

After creating your profile, you will be ready to register for a course!



NIKA Catholic Catechetical Institute (NCCI) exists to make Jesus the Christ better known and better loved. It offers faith-filled college level continuing education for non-traditional students and adults who are seeking to deepen their faith life.

- nikacatholic.com - Click the "Free Distance Education" tab for videos by
- Dr. Matthew Tsakanikas, Director of the Office of the New Evangelization for the Diocese of New Ulm.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS



Those who volunteer in the parish or work as a paid employee will find continuing education to be beneficial for fulfilling current responsibilities and embracing future endeavors. Through human, pastoral, spiritual and intellectual formation the lay leader is led to a deeper understanding of oneself and the church in which they serve.

Undergraduate Programs Available

Bachelor's degrees in Youth Ministry & Religious Education – a rarity among universities!

For more information contact:

Kenneth Stenstrup, Ph.D., Chair

507-457-6625 email: kstenstr@smumn.edu



GRADUATE THEOLOGY

The School of Divinity with St. Paul Seminary Graduate Program

Offers graduate programs in theology to prepare women and men, lay and ordained, to provide leadership and service to the church and society.

Each program has a distinctive focus.

Master of Arts in Theology

Master of Arts in Religious Education

Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry

Ministry of Divinity

For more information contact:

The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, University of St. Thomas

2260 Summit Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55105-5050

(800) 328-6819, Ext. 2-5050 Fax: (651) 962-5790

email: spssod@stthomas.edu

website: <http://www.stthomas.edu/spssod/sod/default.html>

LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY CERTIFICATION

Why should lay Ecclesial Ministers seek certification?

- To demonstrate they are trained and recognized professionally as competent.
- To be recognized and affirmed in their ministry.
- To commit to ongoing formation, as a necessary component for sustaining effective ministry.
- To enhance the quality of their work and their contribution to the Area Faith Community and/or parish staff.

Certification is a process that documents the attainment of specific standards and competencies required for the fulfillment of a specialized ecclesial ministry. It requires a process for assessing that a given candidate has the education, formation, and professional skills necessary to serve in a particular role.

One resource for establishing and approving certification standards and procedures is the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Commission on Certification and Accreditation (USCCB/CCA).

For more information, contact the Pastoral Center at 507-354-2966.

FUNDING and FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Diocese of New Ulm is committed to providing continuing formation and education for the laity. This involves the assistance of highly qualified professors, available books and resources, staff assistance, refreshments and comfortable meeting spaces for our programs. All of the Lay Ministry programs of the Diocese of New Ulm are funded in part by the generous contributions toward the annual **Diocesan Ministries Appeal**. Programs are also subsidized by the Catholic Home Missions Grant. Participants are asked to invest just a small portion of the overall cost of each session, but sometimes this can create a financial hardship to those who serve in parish ministry. To assist participants, we offer the following options:

Hilary and Elizabeth Mohr Catechist Formation Fund

This fund covers four major areas:

Area 1- Catechist Faith Formation Days or comparable special days offered to broaden faith experiences.

Area 2 – Scholarships for workshops and/or seminars related to teaching religious education.

Area 3 – Online college courses – University of Dayton or other colleges for faith formation.

Area 4 – Catholic college scholarship toward a degree in church ministry/ leadership.

For more information, go to <http://dnu.org/word/reducation.html>

Lay Ministry Scholarship Fund

Upon demonstrating financial need this fund is for Catholic school administrators and teachers, religious education directors, catechists, youth ministers, liturgists, and pastoral care providers who are working toward an undergraduate degree, certification, or qualification in a theological field, Catholic school administration or a ministry formation program.

For more information, go to <http://dnu.org/word/reducation.html>

Lay Ministry Grant

Available to lay individuals from the Diocese of New Ulm who are pursuing a Master Degree in Theology, Pastoral Ministry, Pastoral Administration, Liturgy, or Canon Law. Other degree programs may be eligible. Available to applicants enrolled in intensive studies that include Roman Catholic traditions as central to the graduate program.

For more information, contact the Pastoral Center at 507-359-2966.

DIOCESE of NEW ULM

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