



Diocese of Scranton

Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry

To serve the leadership development needs for parish ministries of Word, Worship, Service and Community, the Diocese of Scranton, through its Office for Parish Life, introduces a lay ministry formation Program, in **partnership with Dayton University's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)**, and supported by the University of Scranton, Marywood University, King's College and Misericordia University.

Who Will Participate? Persons serving in or interested in such roles as:

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| Parish DRE/DRF | Catechists for all age levels |
| RCIA Teams | Catholic School Teachers |
| Directors of Music Ministry | Liturgy Coordinators |
| Marriage Support Ministers | Caring Outreach Ministers |
| Parish Pastoral Councils | Parish Finance Councils |
| Commissions Members | Parish Staff Members |

Is this Certificate required for persons serving these roles?

Not at this time, though it is an excellent way both to advance the leadership capacities and to affirm the generous service of all those currently on parish staffs and volunteer teams. Inviting someone into ministry formation is also a way to develop new leaders for your parish

Step One: Request an application packet from the Office for Parish Life. This will provide a great deal more information about the requirements, schedule, and options for how you or your recommended parish leader will participate.

Step Two: Once an interested candidate completes the application, with appropriate letters of recommendation, there will be an interview and assistance to complete a Formation Plan which includes your courses, retreats, spiritual companion, and skills workshops. The practicum experience will be addressed later in the process.

Step Three: All accepted candidates will participate in an Orientation Retreat together on August 20 (tentative date) in order to meet each other, learn about the VLCFF, and experience the theological reflection process designed for this ministry formation.



"Discipleship is the fundamental vocation in which the Church's mission and ministry find full meaning. This call is, first of all, a gift. Holiness is nothing other than the gift of loving union with God and the sharing of this love in right relationship with others. This gift, in turn, becomes a mission that must shape the whole of Christian life." Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord, USCCB

(See reverse side for more information)

Pre-requisites: These may be accomplished through the previous PFI/Theological Foundations Courses, with the Echoes of Faith course, or through the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (see additional insert and flyer in this packet).

PFI/Theological Foundations	VLCFF	Echoes of Faith
Introduction to Sacred Scripture	Introduction to Scripture	The Scriptures
Sacraments in General	Sacraments	Liturgy and Sacraments
Fundamental Teachings of the Church	Catholic Beliefs	I Believe/We Believe
Intro to the Spiritual and Moral Life	Introduction to Christian Morality	Catholic Morality
Catholic Church Through Centuries	Introduction to Prayer	Prayer and Spirituality
Catechetical Methodology OR	Faith and Human Development	The Learner/Grade Level Methods
Ministry of Catholic School Teacher		

Components for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry

- **Academic Core:** Old Testament, New Testament, Ecclesiology (3 parts);
Introduction to Liturgy, Introduction to Practical Morality, Vocation to Ministry
- **Specializations:** (choose at least three courses in one of the four categories)
Word: Intro to Catechesis, RCIA, Vocation, Spirituality and Discipleship of Catechists, A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry, Spirituality and Inclusive Faith Communities, Foundations and Vision of Adult Faith Formation, Administration in Ministry
Worship: Intro to Sacraments of Initiation, RCIA, Spirituality in Adult Learning and Faith Formation, Sacrament of Marriage, Pastoral Approach to Culture, (Pastoral Liturgy track still being developed)
Service: Survey of Catholic Social Teaching, Parish and Social Action, Poverty in US and Around the World, Advanced Catholic Social Teaching, Scripture and Justice
Community: Evangelization and Discipleship, Pastoral Approach to Culture, Spirituality and Inclusive Faith Communities, Study of *The Joy of the Gospel*, Parish as a Learning Community, Relational Ministry with Youth, Many Faces of Adult Learners
- **Spiritual Formation:** Orientation Retreat, Culminating Retreat (each one full day)
Theological Reflection Evenings (1 per semester)
Formation Weekend (annually, full weekend)
Monthly spiritual direction; journal (Emmaus Companion)
- **Skills Workshops:** (Offered four times per year; choose two)
Examples: Communication, Group Dynamics and Facilitation Skills, Collaboration and Consensus-Forming, Public Speaking/Presentation Skills, Designing and Leading Prayer, Working with Volunteers, Essential Church Documents and their use in Ministry
- **Practicum/Field Study** (across 4-6 months near completion of process)
Guided ministry experience or project in area of specialization; demonstration of planning, skills application, theological reflection, and identifying future personal growth goals (written elements; portfolio)