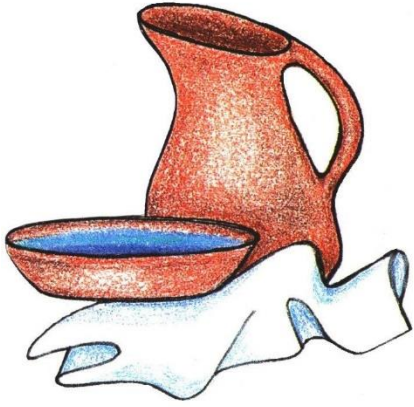


LAY MINISTRY FORMATION - FAQ's



Why should I consider Lay Ministry Formation through the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry*? To any length that you desire to learn more about your faith and expand your skillset for ministry, Lay Ministry Formation is an excellent way to do this! Participants express many different reasons for choosing to enter into the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry*—some out of their own sense of vocation, and some at the invitation of their Pastor. The certification process is designed to comprehensively equip and nurture parish level leaders in specific areas of Word, Worship, Service and Community. These individuals will be prepared to direct parish programming, enlist and coordinate committees, as well as parish volunteer ministries, and accompany parish members in areas of need suited to each person's gifts.

Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Application Process?:

Where can I find the application?

Applications can be found on the Office for Parish Life webpage within the Diocese of Scranton website—<http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/holinessandmission/>—you'll see an icon for "Formation for Servant Leadership"; the Office for Parish Life can also send an electronic copy through e-mail, or hard copy through the U.S. Postal Service, if preferred.

What needs to be in the application?: Within the application process, submissions should include:

- A short overview of your past/current experiences in ministry and background in the first few pages, as well as a clearance form
- A 'Letter of Intent' detailing your call to ministry, and sharing how you think Lay Ministry Formation would be beneficial for you;
- Review the Candidate Learning Agreement
- Three letters of reference (we prefer one of these letters to be from your pastor). The remaining letters can be from fellow ministers at your parish, a co-worker, a trusted mentor—people who know you well, who can discuss your gifts and ways you would grow from formation.

Do you have to be in the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* program in order to take VLCFF courses?: You do not have to be a certificate candidate in order to take advantage of these offerings through University of Dayton. Because the Office for Parish life pays an annual partnership fee to the VLCFF, any member of the Diocese of Scranton is able to get a reduced 'partner rate' for individual online studies. If you are considering joining the certificate, you are welcome to take any online courses that interest you through the VLCFF (<https://vlcff.udayton.edu/>) to get familiar with their structure and content.

Can I get a job at the end of this certificate process? While the *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* offers enrichment and opportunity for building your ministerial skill set, you would have to discuss your options for ministry with your pastor, based on the needs of the parish and the gifts you have in serving the faith community. We cannot guarantee that you will automatically move into a ministry position (paid or volunteer) as a result of completing this certificate process.

The *Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry* is not designed as sufficient formation, by itself, for the more comprehensive professional role of Parish Life Coordinator, but it does invite the participant into the appropriate discernment and practice of ministry which could prepare them to pursue this path more fully.

What if I don't have a computer or internet access? Having access to a computer with internet is very important for the online component of the coursework—if you do not have a personal computer, some local libraries may have computer banks accessible to the public. The University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) website is also "mobile friendly," so many of the courses can be completed via smartphone devices, such as iPhones or iPads.