



Ministry Formation Program - Foundations

This two-year foundational program will introduce participants to the foundations of parish ministry and help them prepare for a variety of leadership positions in the church. Recognizing that Baptism into Christ calls all Christians to ministry, the Diocese of Davenport's Synod V document directs *"that the church of Davenport recognize, affirm and enable not only ordained ministry, but the baptismal commission of all its members...that formation and education be offered with even greater energy, so that the Christian faithful may more effectively take their rightful place and fulfill their baptismal obligations in the church and society, living the Gospel to bring true justice and peace to the world."*

Goals and Objectives

The first goal of the program is to assist in the spiritual formation of adult Catholics as they continue to develop their relationship with Christ and one another. Objectives used to meet this goal include opportunities for personal and communal worship, retreats, spiritual direction, theological reflection and community building.

The second goal of the program is to develop competent and effective church ministers. Objectives used to meet this goal include a comprehensive academic curriculum, competency-based learning goals and strong ministerial skills development.

Standards and Competencies

The Diocese of Davenport Ministry Formation Program meets the standards and competency-based goals for parish ministry as established by the Alliance for the Certification of Lay Ecclesial Ministers, Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, National Association for Lay Ministry, National Association of Pastoral Musicians, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership and National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry as well as the approval of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Commission on Certification and Accreditation (November, 2011).

Standard One: Human

Lay ecclesial ministers demonstrate the qualities of human maturity needed for fruitful ministry with the people of God.

Vision Statement

Lay ecclesial ministers, as all ecclesial ministers, develop their human character and relational abilities so that they can be "a bridge and not an obstacle" for people in their encounter with Jesus Christ.* This development entails the twofold dynamic of strengthening positive traits that foster ministerial effectiveness and lessening negative traits that hinder it. Accordingly, lay ecclesial ministers strive to deepen their knowledge of self and others, grow from experiences of suffering and challenge,

maintain a balanced lifestyle and positive relationships, appreciate and value diversity, and demonstrate basic human virtues. Cultivating such traits and skills within a Christ-centered community contributes to the development of “a healthy and well-balanced personality, for the sake of both personal growth and ministerial service” (Co-Workers, p. 36).* Pope John Paul II, *Pastores Dabo Vobis: I Will Give You Shepherds* (1992), 43.

Core Competencies 1.0-1.7 (see individual course syllabus for applicable competencies)

Standard Two: Spiritual

Sharing in the common priesthood of all the baptized, a lay ecclesial minister demonstrates Christian spirituality as foundational to ministry, integrated in service with the people of God and possessing a sacramental view of the world that recognizes the world can be a vessel of God’s presence and God’s transforming grace.

Vision Statement

Having encountered the person and message of Jesus Christ, the hunger of the lay ecclesial minister for union with the Triune God is constant. The result of this hunger is the call to holiness, built on the Word of God, experienced in the liturgy and sacraments, formed through suffering, nurtured in joy, and sustained in community with all the baptized and through the Church as Mystical Body. The minister gives witness to a well-formed spirituality through a rich and diversified prayer life, theological reflection, and action rooted in Catholic social teaching. Spiritual formation is grounded in the understanding that “if ministry does not flow from a personal encounter and ongoing relationship with the Lord, then no matter how ‘accomplished’ it may be in its methods and activities, that ministry will lack the vital soul and source needed to bear lasting fruit” (Co-Workers, p. 38). Therefore, open to the mystery of God’s love and in touch with the world’s realities, all actions of the lay ecclesial minister flow from “that fundamental conversion that places God, and not oneself, at the center of one’s life” (Co-Workers, p. 38).

Core Competencies 2.0-2.10 (see individual course syllabus for applicable competencies)

Standard Three: Intellectual

A lay ecclesial minister demonstrates understanding of the breadth of Catholic theological and pastoral studies as well as the intellectual skill to use that knowledge in ministry with God’s people from diverse populations and cultures.

Vision Statement

“Formation for lay ecclesial ministry is a journey beyond catechesis into theological study” (Co-Workers, p. 43). A lay ecclesial minister’s faith and ministry is formed by the study of the Catholic theological tradition focusing on the following core elements: Scripture and its interpretation, dogmatic theology, Church history, liturgical and sacramental theology, moral theology and Catholic social teaching, pastoral theology, spirituality, canon law, ecumenism and interreligious dialogue, the social sciences, humanities, and culture and language studies. Based upon this study, a theologically competent minister can articulate and interpret this Catholic theological tradition with disciples from diverse communities. A key dynamic of effective lay ecclesial ministry is the integration into ministry practices of the key documents and principal theories of pastoral ministry.

Core Competencies 3.0-3.11 (see individual course syllabus for applicable competencies)

Standard Four: Pastoral

A lay ecclesial minister demonstrates a range of leadership and pastoral skills needed for functioning effectively in ministry.

Vision Statement

As a response to their baptismal call, lay ecclesial ministers accept the grace of leadership and manifest a range of skills and pastoral gifts which allow them to function effectively in ministry. In their role as evangelizers, they operate in a parochial setting which has various dimensions—faith formation, worship, cultural diversity, community life, social justice, and apostolic service. They are effective listeners who foster respect and offer compassionate care within varied family, community, and cultural settings. In the spirit of the Gospel, they serve others as companions on the journey of faith. These ministers demonstrate good stewardship, work collaboratively with other lay and ordained ministers, and exhibit human resource and management skills. They have an ability to discern and nurture the gifts of all the baptized in order to build the Kingdom of God. Lastly, these ministers embrace a professional code of ethics worthy of Catholic ministry and abide by civil and Church law. “Pastoral formation cultivates the knowledge, attitudes, and skills that directly pertain to effective functioning in the ministry setting and that also pertain to pastoral administration that supports direct ministry” (Co-Workers, page 47).

Core Competencies 4.0-4.8 (see individual course syllabus for applicable competencies)

General Information

This program is a formation experience which emphasizes the intellectual (formal systematic education), spiritual, pastoral (development of ministerial skills and competencies) and human (fostering a healthy well-balanced personality) development of each participant.

This two-year foundational program is a prerequisite for the following specialization tracks: Catechetical Leader, Liturgical Leader, Youth Minister and Pastoral Associate. One year of this program is a prerequisite for application to the Deacon Formation Program.

Participants may attend all courses for diocesan program certification, or audit one or more of the courses for personal enrichment. A certificate will be presented to those who complete all of the program requirements.

Applicants may apply to the program at any time.

Format Options

On-site

On-site format participants meet at the chancery (780 West Central Park Ave., Davenport, IA) one Saturday per month from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Each session is taught by a qualified instructor and includes small group formation activities.

Video

Video format participants view, via YouTube or DVD, the recording of the On-site instructor session and then meet once a month with their group for facilitator led small group formation activities. Each group determines their meeting schedule. *Note, these participants must submit a two page session summary or the notes taken while viewing the recorded session.*

Fees

The majority of funding for this program is provided by the Annual Diocesan Appeal. However, there is a yearly fee for full-time participants or a **per session** fee for single courses. *Note, some courses are comprised of more than one session.* This fee covers course books and materials.

On-site format:

- Resident of diocese, \$150
- Non-resident of diocese, \$225
- Session fee, \$25

Video format:

- Resident of diocese, \$175
- Non-resident of diocese, \$250
- Session fee, \$25

Tuition assistance may be available through local parish resources or diocesan scholarships.

Admission

Requirements for Admission:

- Completed Admission Application form
- Registration fee received
- Initial Interview
- Completed Recommendation form - mailed by your pastor or dean under separate cover
- Diocesan Safe Environment Compliant www.davenportdiocese.org/safe-environment Includes:
 - Protecting God's Children program
 - Background check
 - Complete the acknowledgement and consent form (Policies Relating to Sexuality and Personal Behavior of the Diocese of Davenport)

Coursework

Program certificate participants:

- All paperwork (self-evaluations, assignments, make-up papers etc.) are expected to be turned in to the Lifelong Faith and Lay Ministry Formation Coordinator within three weeks after the conclusion of each course.

Auditing participants:

- Are not required to submit any written assignments, but will benefit more from the instruction if they complete the assigned reading prior to attending or viewing a session.

Attendance and Make-Up

On-site format participants:

If an **emergency** arises and a participant must miss a session, they should contact the program coordinator to arrange for make-up.

Video format participants:

If an **emergency** arises and a participant must miss a small group meeting, they should contact their facilitator who will arrange for make-up.

Program Certificate Requirements

Participant has:

- attended all sessions (**see Attendance and Make-up**)
- completed all assignments (Video participants must also complete session summaries or notes)
- completed their supervised field experience
- attended an annual retreat (two total)
- completed Keirse Inventory and Reflection
- completed a self-evaluation and competency indicator for each course
- completed the *Discipleship Profile*
- completed a Spiritual Autobiography
- remained compliant with the Diocesan Safe Environment requirements
- developed the skills for competent ministry

All forms and paperwork can be mailed to:

**Diocese of Davenport
Office of Faith Formation – MFP
780 W Central Park Avenue
Davenport IA 52804**

It is preferred that coursework be sent electronically to the Lifelong Faith and Lay Ministry Formation Coordinator at the address below.

Additional Program Information can be found on the diocesan web site:

www.davenportdiocese.org/lay-ministry-mfp

Or contact:

**Rosina Hendrickson, Lifelong Faith and Lay Ministry Formation Coordinator
at (563) 888-4244 hendrickson@davenportdiocese.org or**

Barbara Butterworth, Administrative Assistant at (563) 888-4240 butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org

