

# Formation for Ministry



"I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service"

**Timothy 1:12**

***Sponsored by the Diocese of Ogdensburg***

**Your Bishop's Fund at Work for You**

## **FORMATION FOR MINISTRY PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT**

*“Christ led, Christ fed and hope filled,” the Formation for Ministry Program of the Diocese of Ogdensburg provides spiritual, academic and pastoral formation to those seeking to answer God’s call to lay ministry in their parishes.*

### **Goal**

Formation for Ministry offers a foundation in the Catholic faith to enable Catholic adults to develop their gifts for ministry.

### **Objectives**

- **To provide a foundation in Scripture, Theology and Spirituality consistent with the teachings of Vatican II.**
- **To facilitate an understanding of the lay minister’s role and its complimentary nature to pastoral leadership.**
- **To develop practical and effective skills for ministry.**

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## **Required Courses:**

Old Testament Narrative  
New Testament Visions of Faith  
The Creed: What We Believe  
Sacraments: The Fabric of Catholic Life  
Mapping Your Inner Landscape  
Christian Faith and Moral Character  
Catholic Social Teaching  
History of the Church: Telling Our Stories  
The Church: People of God on Mission  
Eucharist

## **Foundation Library**

It is recommended that you purchase the following titles for your use as reference. The foundation library will help you in your ministry.

- ♦ Catechism of the Catholic Church
- ♦ New American Bible
- ♦ Vatican II—The Essential Text

## Year 1

### **Old Testament Narrative**

Biblical scholar Andrew Davis maps out the main arc of the Old Testament narrative through an exploration of Creation, Covenant, Prophecy, and Kingship. Each week a Boston College faculty member enriches our discussion with a video response to Davis's chapter. Weekly topics include:

Week 1: Creation

Week 2: Covenant

Week 3: Prophecy

Week 4: Kingship

This course has a required text: Andrew R. Davis. *Exploring the Old Testament*, Twenty-Third Publications, (2018).

### **New Testament Visions of Faith**

Guided by Thomas Stegman S.J.'s book *Opening the Door of Faith*, this course explores a rich Scriptural understanding of faith and discipleship by exploring Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Paul. To help us engage with the Scriptural texts, each week there is video commentary by a guest scholar. Weekly topics include:

Week 1: Matthew

Week 2: Mark

Week 3: Luke

Week 4: John

Week 5: Paul

This course has a required text: Thomas D. Stegman, S.J. *Opening the Doors of Faith: Encountering Jesus and His Call to Discipleship*. Paulist Press, (2015).

### **The Creed: What We Believe**

Using the Apostles Creed as its outline but referring also to the Nicene Creed and to Scripture, we explore both what it means to believe as well as what is believed so that we may live our faith more richly every day. The course features video with Father Michael J. Himes from the Boston College "Adventures of Faith" series. Weekly topics include:

Week 1: What is a creed?: I/We believe. . . Amen

Week 2: . . . in one God

Week 3: . . . in Jesus Christ

Week 4: . . . in the Holy Spirit, in the Church

This course has a required text: Thomas P. Rausch. *I Believe in God: A Reflection on the Apostles' Creed* (Liturgical Press, 2008).

### **Sacraments: The Fabric of Catholic Life**

This course provides a basic overview of sacramentality and the seven sacraments in the life of a twenty-first century Catholic. With a sacramental view of life as its backdrop, this course touches on the historical roots, the renewed sacramental rites, and the experience of sacraments and sacramentality. Videos of sacramental celebrations and suggestions for spiritual practice are offered to enhance the exploration of the content and to deepen discipleship. Weekly topics include:

Week 1: Sacramentality: At the Heart of Catholic Life

Week 2: Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist

Week 3: Healing: Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Anointing of the Sick

Week 4: At the Service of Communion: Vocation, Holy Orders, and Marriage

This course has a required text: Barbara Anne Radtke. *Understanding the Sacraments: The Fabric of Our Catholic Lives*, Twenty-Third Publications (2018).

## Mapping Your Inner Landscape

This course compares growth in our spiritual life to an interior journey. Guided by a book from Dolores Leckey, we investigate how we might stay on the inner road while embracing life in the 21st Century. Join us as we discuss aspects of inner exploration: change as a dynamic of our lives; the quest for balance and solitude in a noisy demanding world; and the power of gratitude in motivating our spiritual growth. In select video segments presented by Colleen Griffith, we examine compassion, solitude, and silence in the life of Thomas Merton; handling multiple commitments as interpreted through the life of St. Elizabeth Seton; and the Spirit working in our lives through the example of St. Jane de Chantal. David O. Jenkins provides a reflection on friendship as experienced through life in L'Arche communities. The course features video with Colleen M. Griffith and David O. Jenkins. Weekly topics include:

Week 1: Change and Contemplation

Week 2: Simplicity of Life and Balance

Week 3: Solitude and Friendship

Week 4: Gratitude and the Work of the Spirit

This course has a required text: Dolores Leckey. *Interior Journey: A Spirituality for Contemporary Seekers*. The Adult Faith Formation Library, Twenty-Third Publications, (2015).



## Year 2

### **Christian Faith and Moral Character**

This course examines a fundamental element of moral experience: the formation of a person's character. Exploring the tradition of Christian reflection on developing character, this course treats the topics of moral freedom, human sinfulness, and the nature of conversion. Feature film clips are used to discuss various themes emphasized in the articles by Father Himes.

Week 1: Moral Character—what is it and why is it important.

Week 2: Moral Freedom—the nature of freedom and the process of shaping character

Week 3: Human Failing and Sin—examining the language and meaning of the mystery of sin.

Week 4: The Grace of Conversion—understanding the meaning of authentic conversion and its place in moral life.

Everything you need for this course is provided on the course web site.

### **Catholic Social Teaching**

Have you ever heard a breaking news story and wondered, “what has faith got to do with it?” Perhaps you have thought “that’s not right,” but then the moral aspect of the event fades into the background. This course draws attention to key themes of Catholic Social Teaching, e.g., human dignity, human rights, common good. It provides an opportunity to discuss issues such as a just wage and a just war. Guided by *101 Questions and Answers on Catholic Social Teaching* by Fr. Ken Himes, O.F.M., see how our call to live lives of faith in a social context is deeply rooted in the Catholic Tradition.

Introductory Week: Where does Catholic Social Teaching come from?

Week 1: Foundations

Week 2: Political and Economic Life

Week 3: International Life

Week 4: Special Concerns

This course has a required text: Kenneth R. Himes, O.F.M. *101 Questions & Answers on Catholic Social Teaching*. Second Edition. New York: Paulist Press, 2013.

### **History of the Church: Telling Our Stories**

Church history tells the stories that are woven into the fiber of the church as people of God and as institution. The church's beliefs, practices, and relationships have been formed by believers of every generation as they endeavored to live lives of faith in their own time and place. In this course we explore the people and events that shaped culture and society as well as the church across the centuries. We look at both the epoch forming events as well as the people behind them.

Week 1: In the Beginning

Week 2: Establishing Faith in the Context of Culture

Week 3: Faith throughout the Middle Ages

Week 4: Faith and the Reformation

Week 5: Expressing Faith in the New World

Week 6: Faith in Times of Change

This course has a required text: Kevin L Hughes, *Church History: Faith Handed On*. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2002. (Loyola Press) (Amazon)

### **The Church: People of God on Mission**

The church embodies a series of core dynamics: divine invitation and human response; gathering in order to be sent; membership and mission. Reflecting theologically on the way in which these dynamics are expressed in the church today makes up the discipline of "ecclesiology." Through this course, we explore the nature of the church including discussion of ministries, the church's foundation in word and sacrament, and the call to be an evangelizing people about the work of transforming the world in light of the Gospel. Weekly topics include:

Week 1: The Gathering of Disciples

Week 2: Living Baptism in the Church Today

Week 3: Rooted in Word and Sacrament

Week 4 Forming an Evangelizing Church

Week 5: The Church's Mission

This course has a required text Morris Pelzel, *Ecclesiology: The Church as Communion and Mission*. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2002. (Loyola Press) (Amazon)



## **Eucharist**

The Eucharist is like a precious jewel, and as we view it from many angles and perspectives, we deepen our appreciation of its value and beauty.

This course provides guided discussion around the Fall 2011 issue of *C21 Resources*, a publication of Boston College's Church in the 21st Century Center. Topics include the meaning of the Eucharist, the theme of real presence, Eucharist as sacrifice, and the connection between Eucharist and justice. Attention is given to parents handing on the faith in reference to Eucharist, praying the liturgy of the Eucharist and a brief look at the new translation of the Roman Missal.

Week 1: Real Presence and Sacrifice; Parents, Children and Eucharist

Week 2: Justice; Liturgy of the Eucharist; Adoration

Everything you need for this course is provided on the course site. View the issue of *C21 Resources*, "*The Eucharist: At the Center of Catholic Life*." If you prefer a hard copy of *C21 Resources*, email The Church of the 21st Century Center at [church21@bc.edu](mailto:church21@bc.edu).

## **Workshop Requirements**

### ***Year 1***

All candidates will participate in two day long Saturday workshops:

September: Prayer and Vision of Lay Ministry

Spring: Gifts: Called to Holiness, Community, Mission and Ministry

After the first year, candidates choose, after consultation with their pastor, a specialty area. Workshops will focus on the specialty.

### ***Year 2***

All candidates will participate in four day long Saturday workshops in the area of their specialty.



### **Specialty Areas**

#### **Ministry to the Sick and Elderly**

Includes praying with and visits to those in hospital, nursing home, homebound or hospice and grief support ministries.

##### **Workshop 1**

Needs of and communicating with the elderly

##### **Workshop 2**

Supporting caregivers and ethical issues; agency networking

##### **Workshop 3**

Stages of grief, dealing with loss

##### **Workshop 4**

Praying with the sick and elderly; listening, what to say and when to say it.

#### **Liturgical Ministry**

Includes art and environment, sacristan, training lector and Eucharistic ministers, altar servers; planning and presiding at prayer services.

##### **Workshop 1**

Role of art and music in enhancing the liturgy; guidelines; symbols; church calendar/seasons

##### **Workshop 2**

Role of liturgical ministers, using the lectionary; resources; training ministers

##### **Workshop 3**

Principles of good liturgical planning; planning and presiding at prayer service and devotionals

##### **Workshop 4**

Duties of sacristans, setting up for Mass, preparing for other liturgical events; altar linens and their care.



### **Parish Outreach Ministry**

Includes how to assess the social needs of a community and planning to meet those needs while collaborating with other ministries in the parish.

#### **Workshop 1**

Dignity of the human person;  
Principles of parish social  
ministry; baptismal call

#### **Workshop 2**

Assessment, tasks of social  
social ministry

#### **Workshop 3**

Recruiting, training, leading  
volunteers; conflict resolution,  
networking; collaboration

#### **Workshop 4**

Sharing experiences in  
outreach; addressing  
challenges; developing a plan

### **Ministry to Youth**

The diocesan youth director will lead you through the diocesan track courses needed for certification as a diocesan youth minister.

#### **Workshop 1**

Overview of current documents  
on youth ministry

#### **Workshop 2**

Evangelizing youth in today's  
culture; social media;  
diocesan demographics

#### **Workshop 3**

Communicating with your and  
parents, electronic media issues,  
concerns, best practices

#### **Workshop 4**

Discussing faith and morals  
and morals in a secular  
society

### **Faith Formation Ministries**

Includes adult, family, children's and RCIA catechetical programming, understanding the relationship between catechesis and evangelization in today's changing world.

#### **Workshop 1**

Stages of faith development  
in children and adults; needs  
of today's families; catechesis  
to those with special needs

#### **Workshop 2**

Catechetical  
methodology, lesson  
design; diocesan  
resources for catechesis

#### **Workshop 3**

Assessing needs of adult  
catechesis; developing  
opportunities; introduction  
to RCIA

#### **Workshop 4**

Effective catechetical  
leadership; diocesan  
certification opportunities  
recruiting volunteers

### Days of Reflection/Retreats

**Year 1:** Attendance at the Saturday day-long Formation for Ministry day of reflection is required.

**Year 2:** Attendance at the weekend retreat provided by Formation for Ministry is required.

*Follow me and I will  
make you fishers  
of men.*

