

# **Formation For Ministry**



“The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor”

Luke 4:18

*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	Eucharist
New Testament	Sacraments
Ecclesiology	Moral Theology
Spirituality	Social Justice
Creed	Church History

## FOUNDATION LIBRARY

The Foundation Library is needed throughout the two year program. You may purchase these books from your favorite bookstore. The necessary foundation library books are:

- ◆ Catechism of the Catholic Church
- ◆ United States Catholic Catechism for Adults
- ◆ New American Bible
- ◆ Vatican II—The Essential Text

## Course Descriptions

For more course information, please use the link below:

[www.bc.edu/bc-web/scjools/stm/site/crossroads.html](http://www.bc.edu/bc-web/scjools/stm/site/crossroads.html)

2019-2020

### 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.

**Book needed:** 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.

**Book needed:** Thomas D. Stegman, S.J. *Opening the Doors of Faith: Encountering Jesus and His Call to Discipleship*. Paulist Press, 2015.

### Creed

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.

**Book needed:** Thomas P. Rausch, *I Believe in God: A Reflection on the Apostles' Creed*. Liturgical Press, 2018.

### **Sacraments: Fabric of our Catholic Lives**

The sacraments make up the fundamental structure of our faith as Catholics. After examining the notion of ‘sacramentality’ as the foundation for understanding all sacraments, we examine each of the seven sacraments under the headings of initiation, healing and the service of communion.

**Book needed:** Barbara Anne Radtke, *Understanding the Sacraments: The Fabric of our Catholic Lives*. Twenty-Third Publications, 2018.

### **Mapping Your Inner Landscape**

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: changes 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.

**Book needed:** Dolores Leckey, *Interior Journey: A Spirituality for Contemporary Seekers*. Twenty-Third Publications, 2015.

2020-2021

### **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.

## **Catholic Social Teaching**

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.

**Book needed:** 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**

Exploring key events in the church's 2000 history, this course highlights the way in which people strived to give expression to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in various times and places.

**Book needed:** To be determined.

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

Picking up the lenses of 'communion' and 'mission', we examine both our experience of church in the present and the hope we have for the future.

**Book Needed:** To be determined.

## **Eucharist**

Collected into a *C21 Resources* (available in the Canvas course) are articles by a variety of authors, excerpts from key ecclesial documents, and poems, which center on the meaning of the Eucharist, the theme of real presence, Eucharist as sacrifice, and the connection between Eucharist and justice.

## **Workshop Requirements**

**Year 1** All candidates will participate in two day long Saturday workshops:

September: Prayer and Vision of Lay Ministry

Spring: On a theme of evangelization

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 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 youth and parents, electronic media issues, concerns, best practices

**Workshop 4**

Discussing faith 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.*



