

Who Is A Lay Ecclesial Minister?

A Lay Minister is a fully initiated member of the Christian faithful, who is responding to the empowerment and gifts of the Holy Spirit received in baptism and confirmation, which enable one to share in some form of ministry.

One who responds to a call or invitation to participate in ministry and who has prepared through a process of prayerful discernment.

One who has received the necessary formation, education and training to function competently within the given area of ministry.

One who intentionally brings personal competencies and gifts to serve the Church's mission.

Identity as a lay ecclesial minister is partly a question of personal awareness and intentionality and partly a matter of recognition by official church authority. The two dimensions must converge.

(Report of the Subcommittee on Lay Ministry ..., USCCB)

The Lay Ministry Formation Program is designed to prepare individuals for ministerial roles in their parishes. This is the broadest of all training programs that the Office of Ethnic Ministry offers. It has practical appeal to address lay people. It provides a general education for ministry, covering a wide range of areas of expertise.

People involved in particular ministries such as the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), Catechists, Youth Ministers, Baptism and Pre-Cana teams, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Liturgical Ministries, etc. will all find this program helpful in enhancing and expanding their pastoral skills and knowledge. Still others might enroll in this program for their own personal and spiritual enrichment.

Some of the students, participating in the Lay Ministry Program are involved in ministries in their parishes. Others are preparing to become more involved in the Church. The program offers opportunities for each person's spiritual development. At the same time it gives the knowledge and skills for various pastoral ministries.

FOUR YEARS CURRICULUM

FIRST YEAR: Theological Foundations

This year consists of studying, comprehending and analyzing the theological and doctrinal foundations upon which the Church has been built throughout history. The year is made up of 7 courses:

1. How God reveals himself
2. Sacred Scripture: The History of Salvation
3. The Gospels – Christology - Jesus and the Kingdom
4. The Trinity;
5. The Profession of Faith – Our Creed – The Communion of Saints
6. Popular Religiosity and Ministry
7. Conflict Management

Retreat: “*Spiritual Exercises for Life (From St. Ignatius)*”.

SECOND YEAR: The Community Celebrates its Faith: Ecclesiology, Liturgy and Sacraments

In this second year, students will delve into how the Christian Community celebrates its Faith. The second year consists of 7 courses as follows:

1. Ecclesiology
2. Liturgy – Prayer within the Liturgical Year
3. Theology of the Sacraments
4. Sacraments of Initiation
5. Sacraments of Healing
6. Sacraments of Commitment
7. Multicultural Theology for Ministry I

Retreat: “*Christian Spirituality*”.

THIRD YEAR: The Community Cares and Respect its Dignity: Moral Theology.

The focus of this year is how the Community cares and respects its dignity. The Students will learn the fundamental concept of Christian morality. This year consists of 7 courses: Moral Principals:

1. Formation of the Christian moral conscience
2. Grace, Sin, Redemption
3. The Commandments/ Beatitudes
4. Dignity of the Person and the Community
5. The Myers Briggs – A Guide to Ministry
6. Ecumenism and Church’s Communion
7. Multicultural Theology for Ministry II

Retreat: *Called to be Disciples in the Spirit of the Beatitudes*

FOURTH YEAR: The Community Shares its Faith: Pastoral Ministry

We envision students learning an adequate pastoral application of the theological and doctrinal principals to the pastoral Ministry, learning and reflecting during the past years. It is the moment of learning how to feel and act as Church in our local reality (historical, social). It is made up of 7 courses:

1. Ecclesial Ministry
2. New Evangelization
3. Parish Life – Ministries and Parish Social Service
4. Pastoral de Conjunto (Collaborative Ministry)
5. Tools for Pastoral Ministry
6. Canon Law
7. Effective Communication

Retreat: “*Called to Ministry*”

What is the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Formation Program?

- The Lay Ecclesial Ministry Formation Program contributes to the theological and spiritual formation of those who are called to enrich their faith and to serve the Hispanic Community.
- Facilitates the formation in the faith of the Hispanic Laity for the Pastoral Ministry in the Church.
- Accompany the Hispanic Leadership in its process of growth and inculturación from an evangelical and ecclesial perspective.
- Recognizes and to celebrates the presence and the process of the Hispanic leadership in the diocese, parishes and ministries towards new stages and perspectives.
- Promotes Christian Self-esteem and values among the Hispanic Lay Ministers.

The Curriculum consists of 28 basic courses and 4 retreats divided into four years.

Certification: At the end of the four years, the students will receive a certificate which is recognized by the Diocese of Reno.

The Program welcomes all lay persons who have a vocation to serve the Hispanic community.

Program’s Requirements

Application Process: Completed application form, a personal essay, a letter of recommendation from your pastor, a copy of your transcripts, an interview with the Director of the program, and a formal letter of acceptance.

Class times: Classes are held Saturdays form 8:45a.m. – 4:00p.m. and Sundays form 9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.

Where: Our Lady of the Snows Parish Center, 1200 S. Arlington Ave. Reno, Nevada
89509

Ongoing Formation: After to have been completed the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program of four years, special workshops will be announced each year. Lay Ministry graduate students are required to participate. These sessions, given by experts in their fields, will be developed to deepen knowledge and foster community. All graduates are invited to participate in an Annual Weekend Retreat.