



Diocese of St. Augustine

Ministry Formation Program: Newsletter & Updates

Winter, 2015

Mission Statement:

To reflect the mission of the Diocese of St. Augustine, the Ministry Formation Program prepares the participants through academic, spiritual, personal, and pastoral formation for lay ecclesial leadership and service in diocesan parishes and institutions.

Accreditation:

In October 2009 the Diocesan Ministry Formation Program was granted reaffirmation of accreditation by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Commission on Certification and Accreditation (USCCB/CCA) for the years 2010-2017.

The USCCB/CCA is now part of the LEM Office of the USCCB. Programs are no longer accredited as in the past. Our program was the last to be recertified in 2010.

“Our hearts are restless until they rest in You . . .” St. Augustine of Hippo (Confessions)

“St. Augustine defines prayer as the expression of desire and affirms that God responds by moving our hearts toward Him.” Pope Benedict XVI

During the season of Lent, the Ministry Formation Program again extends an invitation to all participants, alumni, faculty and Emmaus Companions, as well as their spouses, to “*come away and rest awhile.*” The beautiful grounds of Marywood will provide the serenity and backdrop for a brief time to immerse ourselves in the beauty and bounty of God’s goodness as we prepare our hearts for the holiest celebration of the Church’s year.

The focus this year is on conversion. The lifelong process of moving toward God, falling deeper into his heart, will be explored thru reflecting on stories from scripture as well as our own stories. We will also see what obstacles we face to that conversion,.

Come and experience a profound awareness of a greater call, a new hope, a small resurrection of being graced. Together let us be lead to find the God that so captured the heart and spirit of St. Augustine.

If you need an application, or more information, contact the Office of Ministry Formation at (904) 262-3200 ext 103 or Layministry@dosaf.org. The deadline for registration is March 13, 2015.

Retreat Director Fr. Jim McBurney,

O.S.A., has served in parishes as a Parochial Vicar and Pastor. He has served his Augustinian Community in Province Administration and as a Vocation Director and Pre-Novice and Novice Director. He offers days of recollection and retreats and has been doing spiritual direction with religious, clergy and laity for 15 years. Seeking to continually explore his own search for God and restlessness of heart, he enjoys engaging others to grow in knowledge of self and God.

Schedule

Friday, March 20

5:30 - 6:45	Arrival/ Check In
6:00 - 7:00	Supper
7:00 - 7:15	Opening Prayer
7:15 - 7:30	Welcome and Introductions
7:30 - 8:45	Session I
8:45 - 9:00	Evening Prayer
9:15	Social

Saturday, March 21

7:30 - 8:15	Breakfast
8:30 - 10:45	Session II
11:00 - 12:00	Mass
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 2:45	Session III
2:45 - 3:00	Closing Prayer

Grounds at Marywood.



View of the beautiful St. John’s River.



Marywood Retreat Center

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Faculty News —

Spotlight: Deacon Bob DeLuca



Greetings friends,

May the Lord visit you with His Peace and Joy!

I write, at the request of Erin McGeever, to share about my experience with the diocesan Ministry Formation Program. I could sum it up with a word – “Blessing”. Truly, it is I who has been richly blessed to serve as an instructor in our diocesan lay ecclesial ministry formation program.

Some sixteen years ago, seated at a luncheon in the dining room at Marywood with Fr. Michael R. Houle and Sr. Lucy Clynes. Father turned to me and stated that there was a need for someone to teach the “Catholic Beliefs” course for students beginning year two. Father looked straight into my eyes and said, “you could do that, Bob”. Sister Lucy quickly added, “I think you would do a great job!” What could I say except “yes”. Afterall, it was Father Houle who had brought me to the Diocese for my new position at Bishop Kenny (at the recommendation of Sister Lucy Clynes—you see our paths had crossed years before but that is a story for another day.) I owed them one. At least I could do it for a few years.....so I thought.

What began as a ‘favor owed’ to Father Houle and Sister Lucy was really a call to an even deeper participation in the catechetical ministry...now focused more intently on the adult learner.

From the start in August 2000, I considered myself less an ‘instructor with all the answers’ and more a ‘facilitator of spiritual growth’ who could lead others by raising the important questions at the right time, stirring the restless hearts of the adult learners, and turning to the Sacred Scriptures, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and the writing of Father Berard Marthaler, OFM. A heavy dose of ‘lived experienced’ was added by exposing the learners to the spirituality of Dorothy Day, Peter Maurin and Oscar Romero, Archbishop and martyr. Trying to move the learners to understand that the words we profess each Sunday by reciting the Creed need to come to life through the lives we live. Religious education, afterall, is in the words of Thomas Groome,” the art of ‘leading students out to new places where

even the educator has never been’ so that together we may bring our life to Faith and Faith to life”.

Each spring, I would ‘sign on ‘ for another year. The busy-ness of the fall would arrive and at times would find myself asking ‘why am I doing this?’ And then I would meet the adult-learners. They came in all shapes and sizes, mostly women and a few men. [Although the number of men has increased with the restoration of the permanent diaconate in our diocese]. I would witness first hand their desire to learn, their zeal for the faith, their commitment of time and energy to a three year ministry formation program. During our time together questions would arise from the learners that would lead me to search to find new meaning and new understandings of the essence of our Catholic faith. For that I am deeply grateful and consider myself richly blessed to have been a part of your faith formation.

Thank you, Father Houle and Sister Lucy for the invitation to serve as an adult educator. Thank you Erin McGeever for the trust and support you have placed in me. Thank you former students for your time, patience and endurance. You taught me so many lessons. A special thanks to my wife Betty who never even once throughout all these years complained for my time away on those special ‘Saturdays’.

May the Lord continue to guide each of you and bring to the completion of the wonderful work he has begun in you.

Deacon Bob DeLuca



Prayer Requests

- ◆ Jerri Hurtt (Class of 2000) who entered eternal life December 2014.
- ◆ Dcn. Ralph Martinez (Class of 2009) for his mother Gloria, who is suffering from kidney problems.
- ◆ Dr. Brian Schoonover (Class of 2017) for a healthy birth of their second child.
- ◆ Richard Ulmer (Class of 2002) for Eloise Ulmer who is very ill
- ◆ Sonia Rivera (Class of 2012) for families.
- ◆ Mary Andrysiak (Class of 2002) for successful hip surgery and for the repose of the soul of Dcn. Sal Daidone.
- ◆ Robert Roldan (Class of 2011) for peace on earth.
- ◆ Patty Cook (Faculty) for Chuck Miller who is suffering from Parkinsons and for Barbara Miller, his caregiver.
- ◆ Jeanette Ghioitto (Class of 2002) for a healthy delivery for her daughter-in-law, Rachael in April.
- ◆ Arthurine Gussie (Class of 2010) for Keilah in her studies,
- ◆ Mike LeBlanc (Class of 2017) for grace and safety for Hunter in his studies and for a healthy pregnancy for Amber who is expecting in August.

Lay Ecclesial Ministry: Developing Co-Workers

In November, 2005, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry*. This Document is important for understanding how the Catholic Church calls forward members of the laity for particular service to the Church.

Lay ecclesial ministers are women and men whose ecclesial service is characterized by:

- ◆ *Authorization* of the hierarchy to serve publicly in the local church
- ◆ *Leadership* in a particular area of ministry
- ◆ *Close mutual collaboration* with the pastoral ministry of bishops, priests, and deacons
- ◆ *Preparation and formation* appropriate to the level of responsibilities that are assigned to them

Dentro de este amplio grupo se encuentra un grupo menor, en el cual se centra este documento: esos hombres y mujeres cuyo servicio eclesial tiene las siguientes características:

- ◆ *Autorización* de la jerarquía para servir públicamente en la iglesia local
- ◆ *Liderazgo* en un área particular del ministerio
- ◆ *Colaboración mutua y estrecha* con el ministerio pastoral de obispos, sacerdotes, y diáconos
- ◆ *Preparación y formación* apropiadas para el nivel de responsabilidad que se les asigne

Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Resource of Lay Ecclesial Ministry USCCB, 2005

If you or someone you know feels called to service as a lay ecclesial minister in the Church, the Diocese of Saint Augustine's Ministry Formation Program might be a good fit. For information, please contact Erin McGeever, Program Director at emcgeever@dosafll.com or 904-262-3200, ext. 118.

Ministry Formation Program From the Program Director

The Bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States have recognized that, with the emergence of more lay ministries, there is a corresponding need to formally train lay ecclesial ministers for service in the church.

The Diocese of St. Augustine Ministry Formation Program (MFP) responds to this pastoral need as well as reflects the mission of the Diocese by preparing the participants through academic, human, spiritual, personal, and pastoral formation for lay ecclesial leadership and service in diocesan parishes and institutions. It offers a three-year comprehensive program of study. The first two years focus on the academic subjects of Scripture, Catholic Traditions, Catholic Beliefs, Morality, Sacraments and Liturgy. The third year combines the process of Theological Reflection and the planning and execution of a Supervised Practicum.

Classes are held on Saturdays throughout the months of August to May at Marywood Retreat Center in St. Johns, near Jacksonville. The coursework involves assigned readings as preparation for the course topic and a written assignment after each session. In addition, a retreat is held during Lent of each year. Upon successful completion of the program, the participant receives a certificate of completion at a ceremony with the Bishop of the Diocese of Saint Augustine.

The program is for anyone who is actively involved in ministry and is seeking to be a recognized leader within the diocese, on a parish level, diocesan level, or within our Catholic Schools.

The first step in the process is to meet with your Pastor to speak about your interest in the MFP, discuss with him the area of ministry for which you will prepare for leadership; and obtain his endorsement. Once your Pastor has approved the endorsement, contact Erin McGeever at (904)262-0661 or email her at layministry@dosafll.com. She will answer any questions you may have about the application process, forward you an information packet, and finally, arrange a time to meet with either the director or a member of the MFP Advisory Board to learn about discerning for the program and exploring your sense of call to ministerial leadership. Application deadline is May 1st. The application process takes 4-6 weeks.

Ministry Formation Program
11625 Old St. Augustine Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32258
Phone: 904-262-3200
Fax: 904-262-0698
www.dosaformation.org

Erin McGeever, Director
Office of Christian Formation,
emcgeever@dosafl.com

Program Highlights—2015-2016

August 1, 2015 – Year I Orientation Overview of Program
August 1 – Year I Orientation Academic Study of Scripture
August 29, 2015 – MFP Year I & II Fall Classes Begin
September 12, 2015 – Year III Orientation to Theological Reflection
October 24, 2015 – Skills Workshop I – Prayer and Spirituality
November 7, 2015 - MFP Year I & II Winter Classes Begin
January 23, 2016 – Skills Workshop II – Liturgical Skills
February 20, 2016 - MFP Year I & II Spring Classes Begin
March 18–19, 2016 – MFP Annual Retreat at Marywood
May 7 2016 – Skills Workshop IV – Communications
June, 2016 – Ministry Formation Closing Ceremony and Certificate Presentation



Address Updates

Has your e-mail or mailing address changed? If so, please send us an update so you can continue to receive our newsletters and invitations to join us on the annual retreat. Miss our Summer 2014 issue? Find it on the web at www.dosaformation.org

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