



Alumni Association of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2010

Inside This Issue:

The Class of 2010 is Making a Difference 1

Rowena Wilkinson's reflections on how LPMI has made a difference in her ministry 2

Ministry thoughts and suggestions in a regular column by Karl Stevens 3

Membership Registration Form 4

Alumni Association Representatives 5

Contact Information 5

The Class of 2010 is Making a Difference

How does Gerri Drummond, LPMI Class of 2010, feel about her commissioning this year? "Wonderful!" Gerri is the Youth Minister and Confirmation Coordinator at St. Peter Claver parish and is ready to make a difference wherever she is needed in the area of youth ministry. She wants to make sure the Catholic faith is fostered among our youth and, at last report, she's already off to a great start. St. Peter Claver's youth participated in the Diocesan High School Leadership Retreat offered at the Bethany Center in August. This was their first experience of a weekend retreat, and Gerri reports that it was an inspiring weekend, and that the youth who attended are ready to take the lead within their parish.



Gerri Drummond (center), family and friends celebrate after the 2010 commissioning service at the Cathedral of St. Jude.

Gerri would like to continue her professional development now by becoming certified in Youth Ministry. She is currently making plans to attend the Institute of Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University, Louisiana. In addition, she serves on the Diocesan Culture of Life with Justice Committee for the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Our diocese is truly blessed by Gerri's dedication and devotion in ministerial leadership.

Our Mission Statement

"The Alumni Association of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute seeks to support the program, and those who have become commissioned lay ministers through it, by providing on-going support for the continuation of the LPMI and by offering ministerial and social networking opportunities."



Rowena Wilkinson and
Fr. Dennis Hughes of
St. Peter the Apostle Parish

Before and After: LPMI Makes a Difference!

By Rowena Wilkinson

Have you ever had the opportunity to be on the ground floor of the beginning of a parish? I am blessed to have been part of the formation of two parishes during the past fourteen years. I can testify to the remarkable difference between a “before LPMI” experience and an “after LPMI” experience. It is truly amazing to realize the impact of this additional knowledge and formation in my own ministry. The LPMI prepared me well for my role today as Music Director for the newest parish in our diocese, St. Peter the Apostle, in Trinity, Florida.

When one starts literally from the ground up in a new parish, one has many incredible challenges and wonderful surprises. We opened our doors in the chapel of Trinity Memorial Gardens on Epiphany Sunday, 2008, not even knowing how many people to expect. I have found since then that we have many talented,

dedicated and very generous parishioners in our faith community. We also have a wonderful shepherd for our parish in Fr. Dennis Hughes as our pastor.

In retrospect, it has been easy to incorporate some of the ideas I learned in LPMI, and to put them into action in our liturgies. It has certainly been easier to know more of the “who, what and why” of what one can suggest, how to consider different perspectives, how best to shape liturgical celebrations, and even to just ask better questions. Knowing what resources are available and how to access information has been a great plus as well. In essence, I feel that I have both excellent training and a wonderful group of co-ministers that I can call upon when needed.

LPMI lay ministers are an active and knowledgeable force in our diocese. For example, I recently attended a focus group meeting on the ministries of mercy here in our diocese. There were at least four commissioned LPMI attendees at the meeting. We talked about the awareness of social justice ministries in our diocese and how LPMI’s educational components has given us a better perspective on the issues which affect our lives as we try to live out the Gospel call for justice. From encounters like this focus meeting, and from my experience helping to build a brand new parish, I know that the LPMI is preparing lay people like me to make a valuable contribution to the Church in Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Year Three LPMI Participants Attend Orientation



Rising year three participants in the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute attended a special workshop about abuse awareness this summer as part of their orientation for their final year of studies and formation.



A VIEW FROM ABOVE

***“Ministry Thoughts & Suggestions”
by Karl Stevens, LPMI Class of 2003***



Since this is my first article in our LPMI Alumni Association Newsletter, I thought that I would attempt to offer some general advice that would be applicable to most, if not all, forms of lay ministry. Of all facets of organized lay pastoral ministry, I firmly believe that the single most important aspect of your ministry that will provide the greatest success will be that of collaboration. Loosely defined, “collaboration” is a utilization of all of your ministry’s members, each of whom has a particular talent or talents that they can contribute to better assist the particular ministry, under the supervision of your pastor. It was defined by Pope John Paul II as “the ability to co-ordinate all the gifts and charisms of the community, to discern them and put them to good use for the upbuilding of the Church in constant union with the Bishops. ... (*Pastores Dabo Vobis, Pope John Paul II, 1992*)

As my pastor humorously stated in a recent homily, he foresees that he is “going to die with my boots on” because he could never retire due to the increasing shortage of priests. With that truth in mind, no longer can “Father” be responsible for all ministries in his parish, but rather, *all* the community’s members must share the responsibility for the building and maintenance of various ministries under the supervision of the pastor. Still, some experience difficulty in accepting that a non-ordained person can and should be doing what has for so long been seen as priests’ work. Witness some older communicants at liturgy who will only receive the Eucharist from a priest, and not from a Eucharistic Minister. Indeed, some priests still espouse the belief that the laity should only “pay, pray and obey.”

Nonetheless, the primary reason for developing this kind of collaborative ministry is the fact that it should never have been missing from church life in the first place. This is one of many forms of ministry that are called for by reason of our baptismal vocation to participate in the mission of the church, enunciated so eloquently by *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry*, USCCB Publications. The whole responsibility for spreading the Gospel and for the education and sanctification of the faithful is shared by the entire ecclesial community and does not rest on the priests’ shoulders alone.

Collaborative ministry is challenging. You as the ministry leader need to “check your ego at the front door” and allow that other members of your ministry are integral and valuable to the success of the ministry. Each person in your ministry *must* be allowed to contribute fully, each according to the talents with which he or she has been blessed. After all, keep in mind that each member of the ministry you lead has been called by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and, therefore, each member should be treated as possessing that wonderful gift.

The conviction is spreading that collaborative ministry is the only way forward, and that it is not an option. The reason is not simply the obvious need to fill holes as the present shortage of priests expands, but also the realization that collaborative ministry is the best means to minister to each other, if we are to be true to the ecclesiological vision of Vatican II. If you will sincerely allow the light of collaboration in the ministry that you lead, that ministry will be both blessed and filled with the Holy Spirit, and can not possibly fail. May God Bless your wonderful work!

This column will appear as a regular feature of the Diocese of St. Petersburg Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute Alumni Association, and I would hope to provide helpful hints that may serve to aid your various ministries. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome to:

karlstevens@netzero.com.

Join the Alumni Association of the LPMI

Would you like to be a charter member of the Alumni Association of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute? **Your involvement** will help to ensure the continuation of the LPMI for future generations. Our objectives for the first year include a membership drive, formation of an executive committee, support for the Year of Discernment, assistance to the LPMI office for special events, and long-range planning for the Alumni Association. We look forward to offering even more initiatives in the years to come: on-going education, sharing our best practices in ministry, networking with other lay ministers throughout our diocese, fundraising, and social events.

Please fill out the membership registration form below and join us on this journey as we continue to do God's work!

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE LPMI

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Full Name:

Address:

Street Address

Apartment #

City

State

Zip

Home Phone: ()

Alternate Phone: ()

E-Mail Address:

Parish/School Where I Minister:

Area of Ministry:

Year Commissioned:

Please mail a check for your \$10 Annual Dues (August 1, 2010 - August 1, 2011) along with this form to:

**Director, LPMI
Diocese of St. Petersburg Pastoral Center
6363 9th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33710**

Checks should be made payable to **The Diocese of St. Petersburg**
Please note "LPMI- Alumni Association"
In the memo line.

Would you like to serve on an alumni committee this year? Please indicate your area of interest. We will contact you with more information.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LPMI Mentor | <input type="checkbox"/> AA Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> LPMI Office Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of Year of Discernment | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ | |

Contact Information

Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute
Sr. Marlene Weidenborner, OSF
Executive Director
727-341-6837
smw@dosp.org

Dale Brown
Coordinator, Ministry Formation
Placement
727-344-1611, ext. 458
dpb@dosp.org

Elaine Thelen
Coordinator of Mentors
(W): 727-344-1611, ext 410
emt@dosp.org

Fax: 727-374-0207

We're on the Web!
<http://home.catholicweb.com/dosp-lpmi/>

Alumni Association Contact Information

Chairperson, Alumni Association
Karl Stevens
karlstevens@netzero.com
(813) 988-0824

Membership Chairperson
Peggy Genalo
secretary@svdpfl.com
(727) 372-6125

Newsletter Editor
Claudia McIvor
cmcivor@tampabay.rr.com

Treasurer
Rowena Wilkinson
rgwilkinson50@msn.com
(813) 420-5675



Your 2010- 2011 Alumni Association Officers

Karl StevensChairperson
Peggy Genalo.....Membership
Rowena Wilkinson.....Treasurer
Claudia McIvor.....Recording Secretary



Congratulations to Sister Marlene, who has been appointed by our bishop as Vicar for Religious in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

In the next issue...

- Save the Date Information for a Morning of Reflection for all LPMI Alumni
- More about Alumni "Still Doing God's Work"
- Update on the LPMI Curriculum
- Membership report
- Interviews with some of our favorite people

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine

We regret to report that Stanley William Winters, husband of Anne Marie Winters, passed into eternal life on June 21, 2010. Anne Marie was the first director of the LPMI. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Anne Marie.