



“God’s People Doing God’s Work”

LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY INSTITUTE

2015-2016



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Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL

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WHAT IS THE LPMI?

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute (LPMI) of the Diocese of St. Petersburg is a four-year program for lay leadership formation consisting of an informal Year of Discernment, and three years of formational training. Upon the completion of these four years, the Institute offers a certificate in foundational pastoral ministry leadership and participants are formally commissioned to service by the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg during an evening prayer service. The LPMI is built upon the principles put forward by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in the document “Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry.”

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1

The LPMI will serve as a resource for preparing persons, in response to their baptismal call, for leadership and ministerial roles in the parish, the diocese, the local community, and the world.

Goal 2

The LPMI will provide opportunities for persons to acquire knowledge, develop skills, and strengthen commitment to a life of discipleship in order to be effective leaders in specific ministries.

Goal 3

The LPMI will encourage collaboration among LPMI participants and their pastors in order to meet the ministerial needs in their families, their parishes, the Church, the Diocese, and in the world.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute is to provide an integrated lay ecclesial ministry formation program that will prepare the laity to offer their unique gifts in service to the local church. Responding to the implications of their baptismal commitment they will be better equipped to serve as competent leaders in the parishes of this culturally diverse diocese, ever mindful of their primary commitment to family life. In accordance with the teachings and tenets of the Roman Catholic Church, they serve as agents of evangelization and transformation in the society in which they live, as members of the Body of Christ, here in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.



LPMI OVERVIEW

Year of Discernment



The Year of Discernment segment of the Institute is designed to accommodate men and women of the diocese involved in

or interested in ecclesial ministry. The Year of Discernment provides participants with:

- a theological overview of Christ, His Church, and His ministry;
- an enriched sense of the role of the laity in the Church and in its mission;
- a focus on Christian maturity, holiness, community and formal ministry;
- a time for reflective discernment;
- an awareness of the gifts, needs, unity and diversity of the local parish Church, the diocesan Church, and the Church in the United States.
- an awareness of the gifts, strengths, weaknesses, and personality style which the individual brings to his/her ministry.

Formation Years

The formal three-year program focuses on developing leadership skills on a theological, pastoral, and collaborative level for use in the various ministries in parishes and throughout the diocese. As outlined in *Co-Workers of the Vineyard of the Lord*, the program classes and activities contribute to the Human, Spiritual, Pastoral, and Intellectual qualities and abilities of the individual participant.



Apprenticeship Program

Participants in the LPMI program are engaged in study to introduce them to, or to increase their competence in, a particular ministry in the Church. The Apprenticeship Program is an integral part of the second year of studies. The Apprenticeship provides each participant with an opportunity to learn about a specific area of ministry through observation, conversation, and reflection. The participant explores various program models and methodologies; reviews and assesses program materials; identifies and observes the skills appropriate to the ministry; and organizes and plans programs to be pursued and presented in a subsequent practicum.

Supervised Practicum in Ministry

Theological and spiritual formation is balanced by practical on-site learning in a variety of ministerial settings. With the Supervised Practicum in Ministry participants in the LPMI learn the personal and theological skills of ministry by working with an experienced minister during the third year of studies. The LPMI participants who are involved in the Practicum have three goals:

1. to learn and practice the skills needed in particular ministries;
2. to develop a ministerial identity;
3. to bring their book knowledge into conversation with the lived experience of the Christian community.

LPMI Facts

- The LPMI began on October 12, 1998 with the opening of the first Year of Discernment classes.
- Participants enter the three years of formation with the consent and support of their pastors.
- The annual tuition fee for the three years of formation is divided between the participant, their parish, and the diocese.
- The LPMI class year consists of four modules, each comprised of four two-hour sessions, which take place from 7:00-9:00 pm.
- The LPMI offers classes in Spanish when possible.
- Each year of study begins with an orientation day and ends with a retreat.
- The LPMI faculty is an assembly of spiritually diverse individuals from the Diocese with specific area knowledge and practical ministerial experience.
- 330 lay ministers have been commissioned over the past 14 years.



- The LPMI is supported by an Advisory Board made up of a cross section of clergy, religious and lay persons representing various backgrounds, ethnicities, spiritualities, and ministerial experience.



“Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord expresses our strong desire for the fruitful collaboration of ordained and lay ministers who, in distinct but complementary ways, continue in the Church the saving mission of Christ for the world, his vineyard.” (Co-Workers, p. 6.)



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<http://dosp.org/lpmi/>