The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee is happy to partner with the Catherine of Siena Institute and the University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). Both organizations are at the forefront of providing lay Catholics with opportunities to grow as disciples in their daily lives.

**Catherine of Siena Institute**

Founded by Sherry Weddell, author of *Forming Intentional Disciples*, the Siena Institute is one of the leading Catholic organizations dedicated to helping laity identify their gifts and charisms for the sake of the Gospel. Our diocese will be employing their Called and Gifted workshop and interview methodology to help LFI participants understand how God has equipped them to sanctify the world in a unique way.

**University of Dayton VLCFF**

Over the last two decades, this 170 year old university founded by the Society of Mary (Marianist brothers) has focused on growing their online learning community for laity seeking engaging intellectual formation. Their faculty will lead LFI participants through four VLCFF courses to develop their understanding of Catholic doctrine, scripture, Christology and sacraments.

"The laity, by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God...they are called there by God that by exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven. In this way they may make Christ known to others, especially by the testimony of a life resplendent in faith, hope and charity. Therefore, since they are tightly bound up in all types of temporal affairs it is their special task to order and to throw light upon these affairs in such a way that they may come into being and then continually increase according to Christ to the praise of the Creator and the Redeemer."

*Catherine of Siena Institute*

*Lumen Gentium 31*

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**Format**

- **Virtual Learning**
  - The heart of the LFI consists of 14 Saturday workshops which will be available via livestream and as a recording. Presenters from both inside and outside our diocese will break open key themes from our curriculum.
  - To supplement the core topics, participants will take online theology courses through Dayton’s VLCFF program.

- **In Person Formation**
  - Opening one day guided reflection
  - Weekend long closing retreat

- **Real World Application**
  - Through the Called and Gifted discernment process, participants will identify their spiritual charism and take steps to implement it on a practical level.

**Cost and Commitment**

- $300 per year to cover workshops, VLCFF courses and reflection/retreat days ($600 total LFI cost)
- Saturday workshops will run 3-4 hours. One to two page follow up reflections are required after each session. Preparatory reading to be expected for certain workshops.
- VLCFF courses require approximately 2 hours of work per week between reading, discussion boards and assessments. Each course lasts 5-6 weeks.
This is geared to make you a more effective disciple of Jesus right where God has placed you in the world. While it is expected that all participants are practicing Catholics with a strong attachment to their local parish, the curriculum is focused on sanctifying the cultural spaces outside the usual reach of the institutional Church. Those who are passionate about bringing the presence of Christ to their families, neighborhoods, social circles, workplace and local community are ideal candidates for this program.

2021-2023 Tentative Schedule

**2021-2022**
- **August 14**: Opening Reflection
- **September 11**: Laity’s Role in the Church
- **October 9**: Christian Spirituality
- **November 6**: Lay Spirituality
- **January 8**: The Laity and the World
- **February 12**: Lay Holiness in the Church
- **March 19**: Called and Gifted Workshop
- **April 9**: Called and Gifted: Discerning Our Charisms
- **May to July**: Called and Gifted Interviews

**2022 - 2023**
- **August 13**: Evangelization Threshold Conversations
- **September 10**: Evangelization Apologetics
- **October 8**: Evangelization Fostering Community
- **November 12**: The Compendium of Catholic Social Doctrine – the Human Person and Family
- **January 14**: The Compendium of Catholic Social Doctrine – the Common Good and the Political Order
- **February 11**: The Compendium of Catholic Social Doctrine – the Dignity of Work
- **March 11**: The Laity as Cultural Protagonists
- **April 15**: Closing Retreat

**MORE INFORMATION**
- 📞 850-435-3523
- 🌐 layformation@ptdiocese.org

**READY TO APPLY?**
- 🌐 ptdiocese.org/layformationinstitute