



LEVEL I MINISTRY CERTIFICATION DIOCESE OF TUCSON

SPIRITUAL FORMATION – 6 hours (Retreat Option)

1. Call to Ministry

Content Objectives:

- a. Understand the recurring themes of “call and response” in the Scriptures
- b. Understand the dignity and responsibilities of being a baptized Catholic, articulated in the Vatican II documents, (*Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity -- Apostolicam Actuositatem*), on the role of the laity in the mission of the Church, and in *Coworkers in the Vineyard of the Lord* by the U.S. Bishops
- c. Understand how the mission of the Church has a dual focus: to build up the Body of Christ and to transform society
- d. Understand how their relationship with Christ and the Church is nourished with on-going formation

Experiential Objectives:

- a. Identify and share points in their spiritual journey when they have experienced God’s call to serve
- b. Appreciate and share their own God-given gifts for participating in the mission of the Church
- c. Experience confidence in the sharing and using of these gifts

2. Spirituality of the Ordinary I: Having Eyes for God

Content Objectives:

- a. Identify early personal images of God and how it hinders or encourages their ability to find God in the everyday
- b. Explore their assumptions about where God can be found
- c. Look at ordinary human experiences and see their potential for being God-sightings
- d. Name cultural or spiritual obstacles which can hinder finding God in the ordinary
- e. Learn one method of theological reflection

Experiential Objectives

- a. Practice one method of Theological Reflection with reference to ordinary life experience

3. Prayer

Content Objectives:

Understand prayer as an expression of a mutual, loving, and deeply personal relationship.

- a. Name and describe the various prayers that Catholics regularly use
- b. Discuss what helps us pray and what gets in the way
- c. Consider what forms of prayer would be appropriate for various age groups

Experiential Objectives

- a. Experience Liturgy of the Hours and a meditation form of prayer
- b. Explore the connection between people’s personality types and certain prayer forms
- c. Prepare a prayer service for a class using information learned in the class

SCRIPTURE – 6 hours

1. Introduction to the Bible

Content Objectives:

- a. Locate a text in the Bible
- b. Articulate the basic differences between the Old and New Testaments
- c. Explain why Jews, Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox Christians have different numbers of books in their Bible canons
- d. Articulate how to describe a Catholic approach to the Bible vs. a fundamentalist approach

Experiential Objectives:

- a. Experience the Bible as the Word of God relevant in their own lives
- b. Increase confidence in using the Bible in their own life and ministry
- c. Articulate to others the role of the Bible in our Catholic Faith
- d. Experience the *lectio divina* method of prayer

2. Introduction to Old Testament

Content Objectives:

- a. Overview of the Books and Structure of the Old Testament
- b. Identify the various literary forms.
- c. Trace the themes of creation, covenant, and liberation.

Experiential Objective

- a. Connect the story of Salvation to their own life experiences

3. Introduction to New Testament

Content Objectives:

- a. Gain an overview of the New Testament
- b. Describe the characteristics/differences in literary styles present in the New Testament, (e.g. apocalyptic writing, narrative discourse, letters, etc.)
- c. See how a specific community experience shaped the formation of each account of the story of Jesus in the writings of the New Testament
- d. Identify the core message of Jesus in his preaching and teachings as well as in his actions
- e. Begin to recognize how the Christian Scriptures are rooted in the Hebrew Scriptures

Experiential Objectives

- a. Encounter the person of Jesus Christ through their study
- b. Examine their own lives in light of the values proposed by Jesus
- c. Experience praying with the Word of God so that they are confident to continue on their own

THEOLOGY FOUNDATIONS – 10 hours

1. Creed: The Trinity

Content Objectives:

- a. Explain what a creed is in the life of a community
- b. Summarize the major mystery of the Trinity
- c. Explore how through the divine missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit, God the Father fulfills the “plan of his loving goodness” of creation, redemption, and sanctification
- d. Understand Church, forgiveness, and life after death found in the *Nicene Creed*

Experiential Objectives

- a. Examine their own personal understanding and use of the creed up to this time
- b. Choose one article that most resonates with them now and write a short/reflection prayer based on that belief

2. The Person of Jesus

Content Objectives:

- a. Summarize the different ways the New Testament reveals who Jesus is
- b. Identify names and titles given to Jesus in Scripture and Tradition and their implications for faith
- c. Become aware of the Church's understanding, past and present, of the humanity and divinity of Jesus

Experiential Objectives:

Participants will:

- a. Identify and share the names/titles of Jesus that are most meaningful to them and why
- b. Become more aware of the diverse ways people see Jesus today and what impact that has on the life of the faith community
- c. Discuss the challenges these different Christologies present to the community of faith

3. Church

Content Objectives:

- a. Identify various biblical images of the Church
- b. Describe different models of the Church from Vatican II
- c. Articulate the Church's vision as a continuation of Christ's life and ministry in the world
- d. Explain the changing role of the laity in today's church and realize that their participation in the mission of the Church is rooted in Baptism

Experiential Objectives:

- a. Articulate how ecclesiological images and models help them to explore and appreciate the mystery of the Church
- b. Provide examples of how these images and models relate to their own lives and concerns
- c. Share how their understanding of their role in the Church has changed over time.

4. Mary & the Saints

Content Objectives:

- a. Familiarize themselves with portraits of Mary in: History, Scripture, Creed, and Liturgy
- b. Review Marian teachings from Vatican II and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- c. Identify the Church's requirements for authentic Marian apparitions
- d. Discuss the place of the Communion of Saints in our Church's life
- e. Review the current process of canonization

Experiential Objective:

- a. Explore the life of one modern saint to see how their times called them to greatness

5. Cultural Diversity & Faith Expression

Content Objectives:

- a. Gain a basic understanding of culture and the extent to which it shapes life experiences
- b. Explore the inculturation of faith in New Testament times

- c. Gain a basic understanding of terms and their use in recent Church documents

Experiential Objectives:

- a. Recognize how the faith is inculturated in their own life and community
- b. Gain confidence in their role to promote the inculturation process in particular ministry settings

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS – 10 hours

1. Liturgy: Celebration and Ritual

Content Objectives:

Relate the human need for ritual and symbols to liturgy

- a. Explain the principles of liturgy as the work of the Christian community
- b. Identify various forms of liturgical celebrations
- c. Discover the relationship between the liturgy, the liturgical year, and the Paschal Mystery
- d. Identify places where Scripture is woven into the liturgy
- e. Appreciate the importance of the role of the community in local liturgy

Experiential Objectives

- a. Experience the relationship between ritual and daily life
- b. Gain confidence in applying some basic principles in preparing meaningful prayer experiences
- c. Begin to apply the cycles of the liturgical year to their own Christian faith journey

2. Sacraments of Initiation:

- **Baptism and Confirmation**

Content Objectives:

- a. Have a basic understanding of Sacraments from Vatican II
- b. Trace the historical, theological and liturgical development of Baptism and Confirmation
- c. Give an overview of the renewed Rite of Christian Initiation
- d. Articulate the importance of family involvement in the preparation for Baptism and confirmation, as well as in all the sacraments

Experiential Objectives

- a. Relate sacraments to ordinary life experiences and moments of transition in life
- b. Deepen their commitment in their own spiritual journey by reflecting on their Baptism and Confirmation

- **Eucharist**

Content Objectives:

- a. Understand the centrality of the Eucharist in Catholic Life
- b. Trace the historical development of the Eucharistic liturgy
- c. Identify the components and rhythm of the liturgical celebration

Experiential Objective

- a. Realize the four presences of Jesus in the Eucharist
- b. Identify mission as inherent in the Eucharist challenges

3. Sacraments of Healing:

- **Reconciliation and Anointing**

Content Objectives:

- a. Relate Sacraments of Healing to Jesus' ministry of healing
- b. Explain that the Sacraments of Healing continue the process of conversion begun at Baptism
- c. Trace the historical, theological, and liturgical development of Reconciliation and Anointing
- d. Become aware of the various relational dimensions of reconciliation

Experiential Objectives

- a. Share ways in which they ask for, receive, and offer reconciliation/forgiveness in their lives
- b. Realize and appreciate the need for various kinds of healing in their lives (physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental)

4. Sacraments of Christian Vocation/Service:

• **Marriage and Holy Orders**

Content Objectives:

- a. Understand the fundamental role of Baptism in all Christian vocations
- b. Give an overview of the historical, theological, and liturgical development of Holy Orders
- c. Articulate the significance of the vocation of Christian marriage for the Church and explain the historical and liturgical development of Matrimony
- d. Explain that the role of the priest is to teach, to offer divine worship, to build and unify the Christian Community, and to draw forth the gift of the faithful to service in the Church and in the world
- e. Become aware of the importance of other Christian vocations: vowed single life, and lay ecclesial ministry

Experiential Objectives

- a. Deepen their realization that, as Christians, they have a vocation to the service of others
- b. Realize more fully the importance of commitment and fidelity in their personal lives and in their spiritual journeys

CHRISTIAN MORALITY – 4 hours

1. Moral Principals & Formation of Conscience

Content Objectives:

- a. Identify the basic principles of Christian morality: human dignity and community
- b. Describe the role of the Commandments and Jesus' teaching in our moral life
- c. Relate the Church's teachings on the sanctity of life, from conception to death
- d. Describe the morality of human actions and explore the nature of sin
- e. Explain the term virtue as used by the Church and its foundations in the teachings of Jesus
- f. Describe the nature of conscience and explain the process of forming one's conscience

Experiential Objectives

- a. Apply moral principles to decision-making
- b. Relate how their relationship with Christ enables them to live a virtuous life
- c. Identify the basic qualities of a moral person

2. Social Mission of the Church

Content Objectives:

- a. Become more knowledgeable of the key documents on the social mission of the Church
- b. Describe the major themes of Catholic social teaching

- c. Explain the difference between charity and justice; the two feet of social action
- d. Become familiar with the scriptural foundations of Catholic social teachings
- e. Identify various Church resources for different age groups

Experiential Objectives

- a. Articulate how a person can apply the principles of the social teachings in daily life
- b. Reflect on making moral decisions consistent with the Church's teaching
- c. Share experiences of participation in the Church's social mission and its personal impact

Methodology – 8 hours

1. Catechetical Process and Role of the Catechist

Content Objectives:

- a. Understand catechesis within the context of the Church's mission of Evangelization
- b. Become familiar with the major Church documents which guide catechesis (particularly the *National & General Directories of Catechesis, Catechism of Catholic Church, etc.*)
- c. Identify the meaning, goals and tasks of catechesis as found in above documents, particularly the *National Directory for Catechesis* (NDC)
- d. Understand how the baptismal catechumenate (RCIA) is the inspiration and source for all catechesis
- e. Identify the various settings, priorities and models of catechesis (classroom model, whole community, adult and family, etc.)
- f. Learn the roles of the catechist (i.e. teacher/companion, leader of prayer, witness, storyteller, etc.)

Experiential Objectives:

- a. Reflect upon and share how and by whom they have been evangelized and catechized
- b. Experience themselves as witnesses and storytellers

2. Human & Faith Development

Content Objectives:

- a. Gain an understanding of the theory of Cognitive Development
- b. Explain the various learning styles (MI)
- c. Describe the 8 stages of Human Development, (Erickson)
- d. Describe the stages of Faith Development (Fowler)

Experiential Objectives:

- a. Appreciate the various learning styles including their own
- b. Share experiences of the stages of their faith journeys
- c. Relate practical ways to apply what has been learned personally and in a ministry setting
- d. Plan creative activities utilizing the Multiple Intelligence Theory

3. Effective Methods

Content Objectives:

- a. Learn the components of the physical and social environment to facilitate reaching goals
- b. Identify influences on best practices: learning/expression modalities, age appropriate activity, human needs influence
- c. Learn the components of clear learning objectives

Experiential Objectives

- a. Collaborate with others to create a lesson applying content objectives

4. Safe Environment, Mandatory Reporting Law in Arizona, and Internet Safety

Content Objectives:

- a. Understand the State law regarding mandatory reporting, and the goals and key elements of the Safe Environment Program
- b. Identify the characteristics of abuse/ neglect and their physical and behavioral indicators
- c. Identify the need for Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for usual, unusual and emergency events, and how this relates to liability and insurance.
- d. Become aware of and learn an overview of the Diocese of Tucson Personal Safety Curriculum
- e. Learn recommendations for greater safety in use of internet and social media

Experiential Objectives:

- a. Identify risk factors vs protective factors in children's lives
- b. Demonstrate the ability to respond to suspected abuse or neglect
- c. Discuss age appropriate ways to supervise children and youth
- d. Share experiences of how each has responded to unusual events and emergencies
- e. Apply SOPs to plan ways of keeping the environment safe
- f. Commit to following diocesan Safe Environment policies that include safeguards, reporting protocols and proper behavior.

This outline of 44 hours for Level I Certification is based on the framework of 2-hour sessions per topic with the exception of the Spiritual Formation segment.