

Discipleship Formation for Lay Leaders

Effective discipleship formation fosters the transformation of the whole person; it accomplishes what the delivery of information alone can never do. As we consider our call to discipleship and to promote the Good News, we do so remembering the words of Pope Francis, “If you are to accompany others on this path, you must be the first to follow it, day in and day out” (*Christus Vivit*, 298).

Those seeking formation in their discipleship will have the opportunity to engage in a certification program to the extent they desire, either in individual sessions or for the full program. Classes are asynchronous, meaning you do not need to attend lectures or be present for “class time,” as the learning adapts to your schedule. Those who wish for certification can participate in the following:

- A one-year program in “Lay Leader Discipleship,” that provides a common language and understanding of mission and ministry for laity across the Diocese of Cheyenne. It will consist of six sessions through the University of Dayton’s Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation, and participants will be exclusively from the Diocese of Cheyenne
 - **August 30 – October 3:** A course on the 1999 USCCB document about the priority of adult ongoing formation, *Our Hearts Were Burning within Us*;
 - **October 18 – November 21:** *Bible Basics*, which is open to people of all levels of familiarity with the Holy Bible;
 - **February 21 – March 27:** *Catholic Beliefs*, which offers a tour through Catholic doctrine, its foundations, and its formulation;
 - **April 11 – May 1:** A three-week seminar on the pastoral letter, *On Bended Knee*, regarding our liturgical life;
 - **May 16 – June 19:** *Pastoral and Evangelizing Communication*, which will pair our shared study in discipleship communication skills, and
 - **July 4 – August 17:** A shared course on *Theological Reflection*, which will provide an opportunity to apply learning to your specific ministry.
- Those desiring further formation and certification in specific areas of ministry, which will allow for further learning in the above areas and specifics in ministry areas (catechesis, liturgy, etc.) will have the opportunity to sign up for a second year.

Those who participate will have the opportunity to deepen their formation in:

- Spiritual traditions of the Catholic Church and the practice of one’s own spirituality;
- The Church’s intellectual tradition;
- Their own human formation, including how to be in ministry without over-exerting oneself and avoiding burn-out or compassion fatigue, and
- Pastoral formation that helps ministers respond compassionately in challenging times.

Please contact Joe Wotawa (jwotawa@dioceseofcheyenne.org or 638-1530 x103), Director of Pastoral Formation, to sign up and learn about cost.