

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 course of studies within a learning community of Catholic Wyomingites that provides a common language and understanding of mission and ministry for laity across the Diocese of Cheyenne. It will consist of four sessions, and participants will be exclusively from the Diocese of Cheyenne. Because of a grant, each course within the Certificate in Catechesis program will cost \$30 along with any required books. The courses are:
 - *Survey of Catholic Doctrine* is a five-week course that offers an opportunity to study the development of Catholic Doctrine in several key theological areas;
 - *Bible Basics* is a five-week course that is open to people of all levels of familiarity with the Holy Bible;
 - *On Bended Knee* is a three-week seminar on the pastoral letter of the same name, and it focuses on our celebration of Eucharist and the mission to serve God’s people;
 - *Theological Reflection*, a three-week seminar on a commonly used method of identifying God’s movement in a faith community and discerning how to lead God’s People in response.
- Those desiring further formation in specific areas of ministry have the opportunity to enroll in courses on their own through the [Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation](#), which is a part of the University of Dayton. These courses will have a reduced fee, but the grant does not apply to them.

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
- Pastoral formation that will help them respond compassionately in challenging times.

Participants need to sign up by August 2, and those who complete these four courses will receive a Certificate in Catechesis. Learning begins August 22, 2021, and the four courses will complete by June of 2022. No courses will occur in conflict with major holidays.

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