



Diocese of St. Augustine

Ministry Formation Program: UPDATES Newsletter

Fall 2016

Mission Statement:

To reflect the mission of the Diocese of St. Augustine, the Ministry Formation Program prepares the participants through academic, spiritual, personal, and pastoral formation for lay ecclesial leadership and service in diocesan parishes and institutions.

Accreditation:

In October 2009 the Diocesan Ministry Formation Program was granted reaffirmation of accreditation by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Commission on Certification and Accreditation (USCCB/CCA) for the years 2010-2017.

Class of 2016 Closing Remarks Lisa Bell

Praise God for this day! With God all things are truly possible! A very special thank you to our spouses, children, and parents for their support over the past three years. Also, a heartfelt thank you to our parishes for their prayers and support.

Our MFP class has become its own extended family. We have had the privilege to witness a classmate get married, another raising her first child, and classmates having their 2nd and 3rd children. Some have had children graduate from high school and college, and some of us acquired new jobs. So many blessings have occurred while we've been together. However, like any other family we also experienced hardships. We were warned in our initial interviews that we would experience trials as we sought a deeper understanding of our faith. But we overcame them together with God's grace, love, and unceasing prayer. We were encouraged by our Emmaus Companions to stay the course.

illuminated bibles. Pat Cook taught the New Testament with such passion that it was contagious. Fr. Tim Cusick spoke of Church History in a way some of us had never heard before. Dcn. Bob DeLuca spoke about our Creed and shared with us how to live it. Fr. Mike Houle gave us wonderful insights on morality. Fr. Tom Willis shared his expertise with us on the liturgy. Gladys Stewart and Evelyn Hinkle were patient and kind with us as we sought to appreciate the beauty of theological reflection. Erin McGeever, you find the time to teach us AND run the MFP and we are truly grateful for you!

Class of 2016, it has been an amazing journey. Our journey however is not over since our ultimate goal is to share in eternal life with our heavenly Father. I look forward to living a sacramental life with you and seeing you at the MFP yearly retreats and other events. As we celebrate completion of the Ministry Formation Program, let us take all we have learned and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in the ministries where we serve. Let our desire to serve others be a true witness of our love for Jesus Christ as we strive to lead others to Him, "giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father." May God bless us all!

Our teachers were excellent and each one helped us gain a deeper understanding of our rich Catholic faith. Dr. Jack Daniels brought the Old Testament alive especially through the

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(back, left to right) Claude Fiori, Erin McGeever (director), Rev. Michael Houle (presider), Lisa Bell, Dan Callahan, Nick Rebbe. (front, left to right) Sarah Pascual, Carlos Gonzalez-Chavez, Hannah Gonzalez-Chavez, Stefanie Raines, Don Pepino, Ronda Nakamichi



Class of 2016

Focus: Skills Workshops

An important component of the Ministry Formation Program are the skills workshops offered throughout the year. By the time a student completes the MFP, they will have participated in a wide variety of workshops aimed at advancing their skills and understanding across the range of lay ecclesial ministry. These workshops are based on national competency standards established for lay ecclesial ministers.

At the orientation for Year I students a workshop focusing on Academic Skills for Scripture Study is offered. This workshop is designed to introduce Catholic scripture study in preparation for more advanced study in the first two courses of the program, Old Testament and New Testament. At the orientation for Year III students a workshop focusing on Human Development presents the dynamics of spiritual, moral, and human growth.

Five additional skills workshops will be offered this year. This fall, Year I and II students will participate in Pastoral Skills for Ministry which considers collaborative or servant leadership, personal leadership styles, and effective conflict management. In January, they will participate in the Intercultural Competence workshop. This workshop engages students in an appreciation of their own culture as a basis for understanding other cultures and ministering with openness and sensitivity. Toward the end of the academic year, two workshops will be offered: Prayer & Spirituality and the Church Universal. Prayer & Spirituality examines the basic principles of Christian spiritual formation, the fundamental qualities of authentic personal prayer, and the guiding values for preparing and leading prayer. The Church Universal introduces students to a broader picture of the Catholic Church.

A new workshop has been developed and will be introduced this year. It will be conducted in sections at the end of the class sessions for Year III students. The topic, Skills of Parish Ministry, recognizes that most of us go forth to share the Good News from the “home base” of our parish and that it is at the parish that many lay ministers do their work. There are some practical skills such as staff management, effective office decorum, and sacramental record keeping which lay ministers need to be proficient in so that this “home base” thrives.

MFP Welcomes New Coordinator

Hello! My name is Missy Parkison and I began work coordinating programs in the Office of Christian Formation July 25. My focus so far has been on the Ministry Formation Program as we begin another academic year.



My family is new to the Jacksonville area. We moved here in late June, relocating because of a job opportunity for my husband, Paul, at the University of North Florida. We have two young-adult children. Cassidy graduated from college in May and is working for Nashville Repertory Theatre. Sam is a senior at Bellarmine University in Louisville.

The past few years I have served as Evangelization Coordinator for Annunciation of the Lord Parish in Evansville, Indiana. I have a master’s degree in political science from Vanderbilt University and a master’s degree in pastoral theology from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. I just completed the first year of a doctor of ministry program at Catholic University of America. I am focusing on spirituality.

I am a convert, beginning the RCIA process when Paul and I were engaged and entering the Church when we were expecting Cassidy. Over the years I have enjoyed being active in many ways at our parish, most recently as a sacristan, facilitating group Lectio Divina, and baking birthday cakes at a women's shelter.

Focusing on evangelization the past few years in particular has heightened my awareness of the great yearning so many have to know Jesus Christ. There are numerous ways that we can proclaim the Gospel, inviting and welcoming our brothers and sisters into the truth of God’s love. Each one of us is called and gifted to do this in a unique way. Lay ministers have a special role in helping us to hear that call and discover our gifts, nurturing and guiding us. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to serve the Diocese of St. Augustine supporting the Ministry Formation Program as students develop their skills as lay ministers and grow in relationship with Christ who reconciles the whole world to Himself.



Ministry Formation Program Information Nights

Do you know an active lay minister who might be well-suited to advance their service to the Church by entering the Ministry Formation Program? This three-year program will prepare them to take on leadership roles by facilitating their professional and personal formation. It is often the recognition and encouragement of another that helps us take an important next step on our faith journey. Please share this invitation to our upcoming MFP information nights:

- ◆ **Thursday, October 20, 2016, 7:00-8:30 PM, Catholic Center**
- ◆ **Thursday, February 16, 2017, 7:00-8:30 PM, Holy Faith Parish Life Center**
- ◆ **Thursday, March 16, 2017, 7:00-8:30 PM, Blessed Trinity Parish Hall**

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. John Daniels

Jack is a native of St. Augustine, Florida – born, baptized, and raised within the Cathedral Parish. His first nine years of education were at the Cathedral Parish School and St. Joseph’s Academy. After graduating from Flagler in 1985 with a bachelor’s degree in Philosophy & Religion, Jack married his high school sweetheart, Marcia. After serving as youth ministers for three years, the Daniels’ moved to Atlanta, where Jack began an academic career.

Jack earned a master’s degree in theology (MA) and a Master of Theology (ThM) from Columbia Theological Seminary, and the Doctor of Theology (DTh) in New Testament from the University of South Africa. Jack serves as Teaching & Learning Librarian at Flagler College's Proctor Library, and as adjunct professor of Religion for Flagler’s humanities department teaching a variety of scripture courses including Old and New Testament introductions, St. Paul, Gospels, Greek, and Jewish Wisdom Literature.

Jack’s research and writing about Judeo-Christian scriptures utilizes approaches from the social sciences and cultural anthropology. Jack is particularly interested in gossip and rumor, orality and literacy, and memory in relation to historical Jesus research and Pauline literature. He has recently completed a chapter on gossip for a forthcoming social-scientific handbook on the bible, and a project on “epistolary gossip” in Galatians. He is the author of several academic articles on the New Testament and the book *Gossiping Jesus: The Oral Processing of Jesus in John’s Gospel* (Wipf & Stock, 2013).

Jack and Marcia have served the Cathedral Parish Christian Formation Program, teaching third and fourth grade. Jack has recently rolled off of the Cathedral Parish Council after serving for five years. Teaching Old Testament for the Diocese’s Ministry Formation Program since 2011, Jack thoroughly enjoys serving the Church in its efforts to prepare persons for ministry, and the experience of teaching adults eager to grow in and learn about their Catholic faith.



Please pray for the following members of the MFP family:
Dcn. George Good on the passing of his wife, Missy

From the Director / De la oficina del Director

The Bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States have recognized that, with the emergence of more lay ministries, there is a corresponding need to formally train lay ecclesial ministers for service in the church. **The Diocese of St. Augustine Ministry Formation Program (MFP)** responds to this pastoral need as well as reflects the mission of the Diocese by preparing the participants through academic, human, spiritual, personal, and pastoral formation for lay ecclesial leadership and service in diocesan parishes and institutions. It offers a three-year comprehensive program of study.

The program is for anyone who is actively involved in ministry and is seeking to be a recognized leader within the diocese, on a parish level, diocesan level, or within our Catholic Schools. The first step in the process is to meet with your Pastor to speak about your interest in the MFP, discuss with him the area of ministry for which you will prepare for leadership; and obtain his endorsement. Once your Pastor has approved the endorsement, contact us at (904)262-3200, ext. 103, or layministry@dosaf.com. We will answer any questions you may have about the application process, forward you an information packet, and finally, arrange a time to meet with either the director or a member of the MFP Advisory Board to learn about discerning for the program and exploring your sense of call to ministerial leadership. Application deadline is May 1st. The application process takes 4-6 weeks.



Los obispos de la Iglesia Católica en los Estados Unidos, han reconocido que con la emergencia de tener más ministros laicos, tienen que corresponder a esta necesidad formando y preparando ministros laicos para el servicio de la iglesia. **El programa de formación de ministros por sus siglas (MFP)** de la Diócesis de San Agustín respondiendo a esta necesidad pastoral así como refleja la misión de la iglesia mediante la preparación de los participantes en el área académica, humana, espiritual, personal y pastoral para líderes eclesiales laicos para que sirvan en Diócesis, parroquias e instituciones. Esto ofreciendo un programa de estudios que está compuesto de tres años.

El programa es para cualquier persona que participa activamente en el ministerio y que está tratando de ser un líder reconocido dentro de la diócesis, a nivel parroquial, diocesano, o dentro de nuestras escuelas católicas. El primer paso en el proceso es reunirse con su Párroco para hablar sobre su interés en el MFP, discutir con él el área del ministerio para el cual se preparará para ejercer en esa área su liderazgo; y obtener su apoyo. Una vez que su Párroco haya aprobado el apoyo económico, póngase en contacto con nosotros al (904) 262- 3200 , ext. 103, o layministry@dosaf.com . Vamos a responder a cualquier pregunta que pueda tener sobre el proceso de solicitud seguido de esto se le enviará un paquete de información, y, por último, fijaremos una hora para reunirse con el Director o un miembro del Consejo Asesor de MFP para darle a conocer más acerca del programa y explorar acerca de su llamado al liderazgo ministerial. Fecha límite de inscripción es el 1 de mayo. El proceso de solicitud toma de 4-6 semanas.

Ministry Formation Program
11625 Old St. Augustine Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32258
Phone: 904-262-3200
Fax: 904-262-0698
www.dosaformation.org

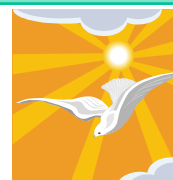
Erin McGeever, Director
Office of Christian Formation
emcgeever@dosaf.com

Missy Parkison
Formation Coordinator
layministry@dosaf.com

Program Highlights 2016-2017

October 29, 2016 - Pastoral Skills for Ministry Workshop
November 20, 2016 - Jubilee Year of Mercy Closing
January 21, 2017 - Intercultural Competence Skills Workshop
March 24-26, 2017 - Eucharistic Congress
March 31-April 1, 2017 - Annual Retreat at Marywood
April 22, 2017 - Prayer & Spirituality Skills Workshop
April 29, 2017 - Church Universal Skills Workshop
June 11, 2017 - Class of 2017 Closing Ceremony, 2:00 p.m. at the
Cathedral Basilica. All are welcome.

A warm welcome to the Class of 2019.
We look forward to walking your
formation journey with you!



Address Updates

Has your e-mail or mailing address changed? If so, please send us an update so you can continue to receive our newsletters and invitations to join us on the annual retreat.
Miss an issue? Find it on the web at www.dosaformation.org



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