



Diocese of St. Augustine

Ministry Formation Program: UPDATES Newsletter

Fall 2017

Congratulations Class of 2017! Selected Closing Remarks by Jonel Laguerre

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.

Inside this Issue

Mission Statement Class of 2017	1
Focus on Year III Skills Workshops	2
Faculty Spotlight Information Nights From the Director	3
Contact Information Program Highlights	4

We, the 2017 graduates of the Ministry Formation Program of the Diocese of St. Augustine, want to thank the Lord for all the good things He has done for us. He chose us, blessed us, and led us to this wonderful program.

We thank Bishop Estévez for supporting us in the MFP program. We thank our pastors and fellow parishioners who encouraged us the past three years. A special thanks to Erin McGeever, her staff, and her fellow teachers who have been very kind and loving, dedicating their time and talents to make us better prepared to serve the Lord and His Church.

We also thank our Emmaus Companions who walked with us as we journeyed through the program. Once a month, this mentor helped us navigate the challenges the MFP presented through their own experiences of the program. As in Scripture, our Emmaus Companion helped us see and encouraged us to share our encounters with the Lord. We thank our family members for their sacrifices as we spent time studying, writing, and working on our practicums. Please receive our gratitude for your love.

It has been three years since we began this journey together. We were eighteen students in the beginning. Seven of us stopped along the way for different reasons. Each time a fellow student left the program, it was painful because our relationship was built on a tacit covenant to

watch over one another. Over the years, we have become a new family in Christ that is strong because we have shared our experiences as brothers and sisters while in the MFP.

Our class is a diverse group of Catholics from the beaches of St. Augustine to the far edges of Macclenny and Lake City. We all possessed a hunger for knowledge of Scripture and of the history of the Church. We were hoping that this hunger would be satisfied by the MFP. It is now clear that the MFP was just an appetizer to our unquenchable appetite for a deeper knowledge of God. We have studied theology, morality, liturgy, and much more, but most important was the spiritual experience that we undertook together. This third year, we shared our own ministerial experiences. This was an unforgettable time as we exchanged knowledge and insights. This prepared us to face the pastoral challenges awaiting us in our Christian lives and ministries.

Thank you for attending this ceremony. We look forward to applying what we have learned within our own parishes. As stated by St. Peter: "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." We have been given pastoral tools in the MFP program. Please pray for us as we go forth and use them in the service of others.

Back, from left:
Rev. Michael Houle
(faculty), Mike
LeBlanc, Mark
Flippin, Jim Palleschi,
Joe Riffe, Mike Ortiz,
Erin McGeever
(director).
Front, from left:
Beth Greene, Jonel
Laguerre, Anita
Michaels, Most Rev.
Felipe J. Estévez,
Virginia Kell, Bonnie
Palleschi.
Not pictured: Ray
Stiles.



Class of 2017

Ministry Formation Program: Focus on Year III

During the third year of the Ministry Formation Program, participants “put it all together,” building upon coursework and experiences of the previous two years to hone their ministerial skills for leadership. The Theological Reflection course introduces the essential principles and practice of intentional reflection on experiences in dialogue with Scripture, Tradition, and cultural perspectives to formulate pastoral responses.

Year III students also participate in a Human Development Skills Workshop and a series of Parish Skills for Ministry sessions addressing practical aspects of ministry. This year we are adding a presentation by Msgr. Vincent Haut on the Ecumenical and Interfaith Documents of the Church. We are also adding discussions of *The Joy of the Gospel* and *The Joy of Love* by Pope Francis.

The culmination of the MFP is the Supervised Practicum, which brings the acquired knowledge and skills of participants to address recognized pastoral needs. Participants choose a ministry focus which will enable them to acquire and refine their theoretical and practical knowledge in a practical setting with the guidance of a supervisor.

Here are examples of the fine work done by the Class of 2017:

Jim Palleschi: My supervised practicum was to work to develop and implement an organized ministry to train, supervise, and assign altar servers at St. Mary, Mother of Mercy in Macclenny. My goals for this supervised practicum were to insure that all altar servers understand the importance of what they do while assisting the priest in celebration of the Mass and that they perform their duties in a correct and reverent manner.

We used the *Called to Serve* guidebook for altar servers and the Diocese of Saint Augustine’s handout “Norms and Guidelines for Altar Servers.” I also made a handbook for altar servers with a glossary of liturgical terms and a visual guide of items

used at Mass. Fr. Slawomir walked the servers through the Mass celebration before they served at an actual Mass.

A challenge to my work was scheduling the altar servers given today’s sense of busyness and ways of communicating. I have learned to be more patient through this process. I would like to believe that through this work and my other areas of ministry that I am striving to do what Jesus would want me to do in a way that He wants me to do it.



Bonnie Palleschi: My practicum was to develop and implement an organized ministry that brings Holy Communion to the sick and homebound of St. Mary, Mother of Mercy. By visiting our sick and homebound parishioners, we want each one to know that they are a vital part of the church community.

I set three goals: To foster an understanding and knowledge of the true meaning of the Eucharist and a deeper understanding of our faith; to provide formal training to our parish team of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, to include theology and rubrics of Holy Communion, deepening their reverence for the Eucharist; and to develop a process and procedure for training and scheduling ministers, using the Rite of the Sick and to incorporate this into our parish handbook.

It is a blessing for me to serve the sick and homebound and work alongside other ministers who do this work. I think God puts people in our path to teach us something and I know these people have taught me kindness, gentleness, and, most of all, love of one another. When I bring one of our parishioners communion, he always says “you’re bringing me Jesus” and I know that is so true.

Skills Workshops for Ministry Leaders

The Diocese of St. Augustine’s Ministry Formation Program provides a series of skills workshops for its participants. We have room for additional attendees, so the Office of Christian Formation is offering the following workshops to MFP graduates and other leaders across all areas of parish and school ministry.

Prayer, Spirituality, and Leading Prayer

Sat., Oct. 21, 2017, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Presented by Missy Parkison, MA; \$45 (includes lunch and materials); Registration deadline Oct. 2.

Liturgical Skills

Sat., Jan. 20, 2018, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Presented by Rev. Tom Willis, Pastor, Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine; \$55 (includes lunch and materials); Registration deadline is Jan. 2.

Communications

Sat., April 28, 2018, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Presented by Dr. Ted Lombardo, PSYD; \$30 (includes lunch); Registration deadline is April 9.

All workshops are held at the Catholic Center of the Diocese of St. Augustine, 11625 Old St. Augustine Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32258. Please contact the Office of Christian Formation for more information and to register.



Faculty Spotlight: Fr. Tim Cusick

Fr. Tim Cusick has been pastor of Holy Family Parish in Jacksonville since January 2011. His family moved to Jacksonville from Chicago in 1977, joining Holy Family just before the parish's church was first built. Graduating from Bishop Kenny High School, he earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering as well as an MBA at Georgia Tech. He discerned a calling to the priesthood while teaching middle-school Math at a Christian school in Atlanta.



He earned his Bachelor of Sacred Theology (STB) from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, in 2000. Fr. Cusick was ordained a transitional deacon in 1999 at Washington's Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and served at the Cathedral of St. Matthew. Bishop John J. Snyder ordained Fr. Cusick to the priesthood on May 20, 2000. Initially assigned to Our Lady Star of the Sea in Ponte Vedra Beach as a parochial vicar, from 2000-2002 he also taught religion at Bishop Kenny. From 2002 to 2008 he worked in seminaries with the Sulpician Fathers, including St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California, where he taught homiletics and Catholic Social Ethics. He was also a formation advisor and spiritual director.

Fr. Cusick engaged in graduate studies in Social Ethics at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and at the Catholic University of America. He returned to parish life 2008 in Florida, feeling that this was his true calling. He served briefly at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Orange Park before being assigned to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Palm Coast in December 2008.

Fr. Cusick also serves the diocese on the College of Consultors, the Priests' Spirituality Committee, the Diocesan RCIA Board, and the Council on Culture. He has also served as the chair of the Presbyteral Council and as a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and is an instructor in Church History (Catholic Traditions) for the Diocese's Ministry Formation Program.

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, February 8, 2018, 7:00-8:30 PM, Catholic Center, Jacksonville*
- ◆ *Thursday, March 8, 2018, 7:00-8:30 PM, Holy Faith Parish Life Center, Gainesville*
- ◆ *Thursday, April 5, 2018, 7:00-8:30 PM, Holy Family Parish Life Center, Jacksonville*

From the Director / De la oficina del Director

The Ministry Formation 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. The application process takes 4-6 weeks.



El Ministry Formation Program (Programa de Formación para Laicos) es para todas las personas que participan activamente en algún ministerio y buscan 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 la MFP, discutir con él el área de ministerio para la cual usted se preparará para el liderazgo; Y obtener su respaldo. Una vez que su Párroco haya aprobado su endoso, comuníquese con nosotros al (904) 262-3200, ext. 103, o layministry@dosaf.com. Responderemos cualquier pregunta que pueda tener sobre el proceso de solicitud, le enviaremos un paquete de información y, finalmente, acordaremos un tiempo para que se reúna con el director o un miembro de la Junta Asesora de MFP para que conozca y pueda discernir sobre el programa y explorar su llamado al liderazgo ministerial. La fecha límite de solicitud es de mayo. El proceso de solicitud toma 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

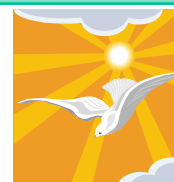
Erin McGeever, Director
 Office of Christian Formation
emcgeever@dosafll.com

Missy Parkison
 Formation Coordinator
layministry@dosafll.com

Upcoming Office Events and Program Highlights

October 7, 2017 - 33rd Annual Faith Formation Day
 October 12, 2017 - Emmaus Companion Peer Support Meeting
 October 21, 2017 - Prayer and Spirituality Skills Workshop
 November 4, 2017 - 4th Annual Western Faith Formation Day
 January 11, 2018 - Emmaus Companion Peer Support Meeting
 January 16, 2018 - MFP Advisory Board Meeting
 January 20, 2018 - Liturgical Skills Workshop
 February 8, 2018 - MFP Information Night
 (For more information, please visit our website or contact the office.)

A warm welcome to the Class of 2020.
 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 online at www.dosaformation.org,



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