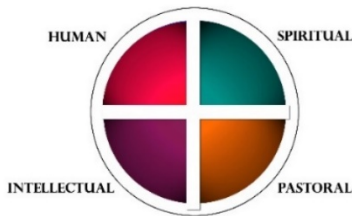


FACT SHEET



LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY INSTITUTE

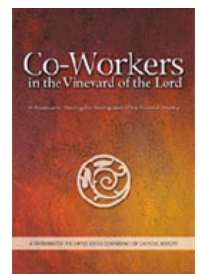
- The Lay Ecclesial Ministry Institute (LEMI) is a four-year comprehensive ministry formation program for lay leaders in the Diocese of Richmond.
- To apply, candidates must be actively ministering in a catechetical-related role in the diocese for a minimum of one year. Roles include: **Directors/Coordinators of Religious Education, Youth Ministers, RCIA/Adult Faith Formation Coordinators, Campus Ministers, and Catholic School Religion Teachers.**
- Each applicant undergoes a psychological evaluation by a licensed professional.
- Two academic tracts with tuition subsidized by Annual Diocesan Appeal for Lay Development:
 - **LEMI-Traditional:** Candidate earns a Master's degree in Theology from a regionally accredited Catholic University. LEMI offers a \$680 tuition subsidy per graduate class.
 - **LEMI-Certificate:** Candidate earns a Certificate of Study with Continuing Education Units from University of Dayton.



“The four areas of formation—human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral – that provide a framework for the formation of deacons and priests provide a framework for lay ecclesial ministers as well.” (*Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*, p. 34.)

- LEMI candidates are required to attend 40 LEMI workshop hours in human and pastoral formation to enhance ministry skills and help them build wholesome, healthy relationships with those to whom they minister.
- Candidates are encouraged to work with a Spiritual Director and are required to attend four annual overnight LEMI retreats to help them develop a deeper spirituality.
- Since 2010, lay ministers from 55 parishes have taken advantage of LEMI. Over the last four years, 42 candidates have been commissioned as Lay Ecclesial Ministers for the Diocese of Richmond. Thirty-two candidates are currently in formation and are expected to be commissioned over the next few years.
- Upon commissioning, candidate receives a \$1,000 financial award from the diocese. In addition, those employed by the diocese are eligible to receive a promotion in pay grade.

LEMI is guided by *National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers* and the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) document *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry*. “Just as the diocesan bishop oversees the preparation of priests and deacons of the diocese, he is rightly attentive to the proper preparation of the growing number of lay women and men who minister in the Church.” (*Co-Workers*, p. 55)



LEMI Testimonials

“In my service as Bishop, I oversee the preparation of priests and deacons as well as the proper preparation of the women and men who minister in the Church. This authorization of lay ecclesial ministers demonstrates to the community in which they serve that their work has my confidence and support. With the many benefits to the individual, the pastor and the parish community, I encourage pastors to take advantage of LEMI and recommend this comprehensive formation program to their parish staff members.”

Most. Rev. Barry C. Knestout, Bishop of Richmond

“Theological training, pastoral training, spiritual formation and human formation – the four pillars that were established for formation for priests and deacons are applied to the laity as well. My staff member who went through LEMI...came out of LEMI with a proficiency that sets her up for *the future*.”

Msgr. Timothy Keeney, Pastor, Church of the Incarnation

“I saw that the LEMI program was greatly beneficial to the individual person but also to the parish as well. They’re getting great intellectual formation but also spiritual formation, pastoral formation and all those human elements. What I found is that it made them competent and gave them a lot of confidence.”

Fr. Eric Ayers, Pastor, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

“The human formation is so important. You need to be able to relate to people. You need to have those skills of dealing with difficult situations. People come from a lot of different backgrounds and they may be hurting in certain ways. You have to be able to be sensitive to people.

Fr. Kevin Segerblom, Pastor, St. Andrew Catholic Church

“I can say that being in LEMI has changed my life. I feel like it’s a path I’ve been meant to walk for many, many years and it’s something I’ve been looking for. It satisfies my desire to learn more about my Catholic faith. It gives me opportunities to grow more spiritually and personally. I feel that without LEMI I would not have made time to do these things for myself.”

Heather Bryan, Special Educator, Charlottesville Catholic School and former Coordinator of Christian Formation, St. George Catholic Church

“As I’ve grown in an understanding of our faith and in my personal spirituality, I’ve been able to share that in our sacramental preparation programs. That not only benefits the families that are in these programs but it benefits the parish as a whole.”

Tracy Brookmire, Director of Religious Education, Church of the Epiphany

“I feel like the four years in this program has helped me become a better minister, a better teacher and a better Catholic. I could not have pursued this graduate degree without the support of the diocese.”

Teresa Lee, Director of Evangelization, St. Mary Catholic Church

“LEMI has been an invaluable tool for me and for our parish. Everything I’ve learned through LEMI has been easily taken from the classroom right into the parish.”

Sarah Brockwell, Director of Faith Formation, St. Michael Catholic Church