



# INSTITUTE OF LAY FORMATION

Diocese of Winona-Rochester

*Forming lay women and men for discipleship and Gospel witness*



## *PARTICIPANT EMAIL*

*Greetings of Peace on this first day of September!*

**Thank you for registering to participate in the 2023-2024 year of our diocesan INSTITUTE OF LAY FORMATION, “Eucharistic Formation for Missionary Discipleship.”** (As of now, we have 37 people registered to participate in the year.)

I am writing to provide you with some information as we prepare for our first formation session on **Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**, at **Sacred Heart Parish in Owatonna**. Please note the following items:



- **First...** A full **session calendar** for the year is attached. *Please let me know if you are not able to participate in this first session (and please remind me, if you’ve already let me know this).* Thank you!
- **Second...** There is a brief **reading assignment** for the first session. From the U.S. Catholic Bishops’ statement, “The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church,” please read the Introduction and Part I: “The Gift” (pp. 5-18). You can find it online by [clicking here](#).
- **Third...** Fr. John Sauer, who will be one of the leaders for our first session, is also encouraging you to view the movie, “**Babette’s Feast**,” before the session – if you can do so and have the time. *This is not required.* (You can find viewing information for the movie by [clicking here](#).)
- **Fourth...** Please let me know if you have any **special needs** for this first session (e.g., dietary needs). You can simply reply back to let me know. [And, see the form below, regarding this.]
- **Fifth...** I am attaching a “**Participant Information Form**” for you to complete and bring to the first session (or send to me). Thank you!
- **Sixth, and finally...** Many of you have already paid your **tuition** for the year. Thank you! If not, you can bring your payment to this first session. You can also pay the tuition over the course of the year, if you’d like. And, **the diocese will provide any tuition assistance needed for your participation.** You only need to indicate this on the Participant Information Form, and we will cover that amount (up to the full amount of tuition).

That’s what I have to share for now. Thanks for your attention and assistance! I will be back in touch, via email, the week before our first session to touch base and to provide some final details before we gather. If you have any questions before then, please don’t hesitate to contact me (by email or phone).

**I am very excited to begin this year of Eucharistic formation through the Institute! Please pray for our group as we begin this spiritual journey together.**

Enjoy the Labor Day weekend, and *God bless and be with you!*

Todd Graff (Director of Lay Formation and RCIA)