



INSTITUTE OF LAY FORMATION

Diocese of Winona

Calling lay women and men to a deeper living out of their Christian vocation



Program Overview

The diocesan **INSTITUTE OF LAY FORMATION** is a program of prayer, study, and reflection on the Catholic Faith and on the life of discipleship and service within the Church. The Institute has three components:

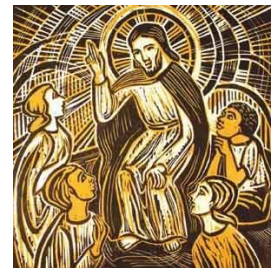
- ❖ a catechetical/theological formation component, **CREDO ~ TOGETHER IN FAITH**
- ❖ a lay leadership formation component, **CARITAS ~ TOGETHER IN SERVICE**
- ❖ a continuing education/formation component, **EMMAUS ~ TOGETHER IN CHRIST.**

CREDO ~ TOGETHER IN FAITH

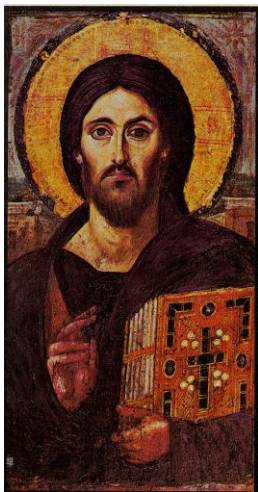
“Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives.”

(Pope Francis, *Lumen Fidei*, #4)

The **CREDO ~ TOGETHER IN FAITH** program consists of ten Saturday sessions (9:00 am - 3:30 pm) held from September through April, and an optional weekend retreat at the conclusion of the year. The majority of each Saturday session is devoted to instruction [in both video and “live” formats], discussion, and reflection. There are two years of formation offered through the program, and students have the option of completing one or both years. (The retreat after each year is designed to assist participants in discerning the next step(s) in their journey of faith and discipleship.)



At the conclusion of the program, students have the opportunity to complete an additional year of formation – through the **CARITAS** program – in order to be commissioned as a lay leader by the Diocese, or to apply for entrance to the diocesan Diaconate Formation Program.



Year I

- **“The Church’s Story”** [two course sessions]
- **“The Creed: The Faith Professed”** [six course sessions]
- **“The Catholic Understanding of Scripture”** [two course sessions]
- **“Discerning Spiritual Gifts and Personal Vocation”** [optional weekend retreat]

Year II

- **“Christian Morality: The Faith Lived”** [two course sessions]
- **“The Sacraments: The Faith Celebrated”** [six course sessions]
- **“Prayer: The Faith Prayed”** [two course sessions]
- **“Finding Your God Given Mission”** [optional weekend retreat]

Entrance Guidelines

Students in the **INSTITUTE OF LAY FORMATION** ...

- ❖ are able to commit to the requirements of the program.
- ❖ have a desire for renewal and growth in their faith lives.
- ❖ have the support of their pastor (or the leadership of their church institution).
- ❖ have the support of their spouse, if married, and family.
- ❖ are in good physical and emotional health.
- ❖ are active participants in the sacramental life of the Church.
- ❖ have the desire and capacity for serving as lay leaders.
- ❖ are open to people of diverse backgrounds and faith experiences.

Tuition and Expenses

The tuition is \$325.00 for each of the two formation years. Tuition covers all program-related expenses – instructional expenses (e.g., books and course materials), prayer and worship materials, food, etc. Annual tuition expenses can be paid for in multiple payments over the course of each year, if desired. (The full amount of tuition for each year needs to be paid before the final formation session.) Students will assume the cost of their travel-related expenses.

Sponsoring parishes/institutions are encouraged to assist their students in covering Institute expenses, if this is possible. Tuition assistance is also available from the Diocese, and may be applied for at the beginning of each formation year. ***The Diocese will work to ensure that financial constraints do not preclude anyone from participating in the Institute of Lay Formation.***

Program Outcomes

INSTITUTE OF LAY FORMATION students ...

- ❖ receive a solid, introductory education in the Church's history, teaching, and tradition.
- ❖ are provided with opportunities to pray and reflect on, and to grow in, their personal faith lives, and to deepen the spiritual foundations that nurture and animate their lay vocation.
- ❖ learn together and build relationships with other women and men committed to growth in their faith lives and in their ministry.
- ❖ become part of a supportive, prayerful, vibrant community of faith together with their fellow Institute students and Institute alumni.

*[T]he forms and tasks of life are many but there is one holiness,
which is cultivated by all who are led by God's Spirit....
All, however, according to their own gifts and duties
must steadfastly advance along the way of a living faith,
which arouses hope and works through love.*

(Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*, #41)