



Diocese of Gary Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program (5-semester)

The Diocese of Gary's Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program is designed for two audiences:

- For those who are currently working or hope to work someday as lay ecclesial ministers in the Diocese of Gary. This includes but is not limited to service as a pastoral associate, liturgy coordinator, parish catechetical leader, Catholic School principal, youth ministry leader, director of pastoral music, and parish business manager.
- For those who aspire to the Diocese of Gary's Deacon Program for which the Diocese's Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program is a prerequisite.

Prospective participants apply for admission to the Diocese's Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program while participating in the *Introduction to Catholicism* course.

The Diocese's rigorous Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program is comprised of four components: five academic courses; monthly formation sessions; practica or service experiences in parish and diocesan settings; and two retreat experiences.

Introduction to Catholicism (1 semester)

This academically rigorous 13-session survey course is designed to serve:

- As a stand-alone course for Catholics who wish to deepen their understanding of Catholicism's core beliefs and intellectual foundations;
- As a gateway course for those who wish to pursue admission to the Diocese of Gary's five-course Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program; and
- As a gateway course for those who hope to apply at a future date for admission to the Diocese of Gary's Diaconate Formation Program.

Academic Courses

- Lay Ecclesial Ministry
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Moral Theology
- Life in the Spirit: The Sacraments and Spirituality

Formation Sessions

- Prayer
- Diversity
- Theological Reflection
- Administrative Best Practices
- Ecumenism
- Balance in Ministry

Practica/Service

- Liturgical Service
- Faith Formation
- Charity
- Evangelization
- Social Justice

Retreats

- The Beatitudes: a Foundation for Christian Discipleship
- An Exploration of Calling

Catholicism and Other Faith Traditions
Salvation History
God
The Creed
Revelation
Discipleship
The Sacraments
Our Understanding of Church
Canon Law
Leadership in the Church
Moral Theology
Social Justice
Catholic Spirituality



Dispositions associated with service as a lay ecclesial minister:

- Prayer that is habitual and enriched by Scripture and the Liturgy
- Knowledge of and adherence to Church doctrine in teaching and discussion
- Respect and appreciation for Tradition and the traditions of the Church
- Regular celebration of the sacraments, especially Eucharist and Penance, and participation in the life of one's parish community
- Ability or potential to direct others in their service