

*What is the coursework for this program?*

**YEAR 1**

**The Minister (Person, Relationships, Collaboration)**  
**Introduction to Theology**  
**Theology of Ministry**  
**Foundations in Liturgy**  
**Introduction to Scripture**  
**Introduction to Theology of Church & Parish Structure**  
**Introduction to Sacraments**  
**Presentation and Group Facilitating Skills**

**Year 2**

**Church History**  
**Scripture: The Synoptic Gospels**  
**Christology**  
**The Liturgical Year**  
**Ecclesiology**  
**Canon Law & Parish Life**  
**Parish Leadership**  
**Scripture: The Prophets**

**Year 3**

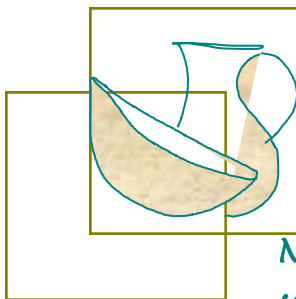
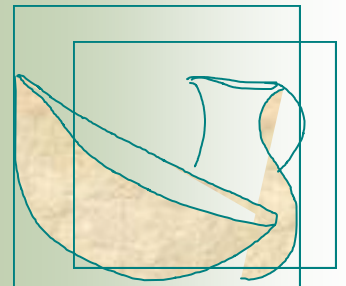
**Scripture: Letters of St. Paul**  
**Sacraments of Initiation**  
**Sacraments of Commitment & Healing**  
**Principles of Moral Theology**  
**Applying Principles of Moral Theology**  
**Social Justice Teaching of the Church**  
**Pastoral Crisis Counseling for Non-Professionals & Conflict Resolution**  
**Scripture: Gospel of John**



*Lay Ecclesial  
Ministry...*

*Not just a job  
but a Calling  
from God.*

*Called and Gifted for the  
New Millennium (1995)*



*Not to be  
served...but to  
serve....*

**Mt. 20:28**

*...in all that we do we strive  
to present ourselves as  
ministers of God..*

**2 Corinthians 6:4**

## Why a Lay Ministry Program?

The Bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States have recognized that, with the emergence of more and more lay ministries, there is a corresponding need to formally train and commission lay ecclesial ministers for service in the church. The Diocese of Orlando's Lay Ministry Program responds to this pastoral need by providing an integrated program of formation for public lay ministry in the church.



In Baptism we are all anointed into the ministry of Jesus Christ as priest, prophet, and king. Participants in the Lay Ministry Program are responding to their baptismal call in a particular way. The laity's participation in the priestly, prophetic and kingly ministry is generally ordered toward bearing witness to the Word of God and the Kingdom of God in the world; lay ecclesial ministry is directed toward service *within the Church*. This is a relatively new understanding which has emerged through the contemporary experience of ecclesial life.



Faithful to the Bishops' document on lay ecclesial ministers, *Co-workers in the Vineyard*, the Diocese of Orlando's three-year Lay Ministry Program focuses on human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation. The curriculum is designed to assist growth in all four areas. The presumption of the program is that, in the area of human formation, participants have already matured as adults and are emotionally and psychologically balanced. This is the ground upon which the spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation is built.



### "EMPOWERING OUR PEOPLE"

*As we listened...in all regions of our diocese, it became abundantly clear that we need to help everyone respond to the call that the Lord has given us in the Great Commission by offering opportunities for resources for training and spiritual formation."*

*Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski  
Bishop of Orlando*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *How many times do we meet?*

The Lay Ministry Program meets one weekend a month, from August to May, at San Pedro Center in Winter Park. The weekends include course work, group theological reflection, morning and evening shared prayer and Sunday Eucharist.

### *Is there any assigned work to do prior to meeting once a month?*

There are assigned readings prior to each class and a writing assignment after class. During the weekend, there is some time for reflection, reading and writing.

### *I am already involved in some ministries in my parish. Can I continue?*

Students are actively involved in ministry throughout the program, and are challenged to reflect upon that experience in light of what they are learning.

### *I am just an ordinary person. Can I still participate?*

Yes. Qualifications for entrance into the program include:

- Recommendation and support from pastor, supervisor, parish mentor
- Active in ministry, with genuine desire to serve God's people in the name of the Church
- Careful discernment and clear support from family
- Minimum high school degree or equivalency
- Over the age of 21
- Catholic in good standings & relatively good health



*Are you interested in deepening your commitment with the Lord?*

**Think about it, pray, and talk with your family and pastor and give us a call.**

**For more information or to request an application package contact:**

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