



diocese
of limerick
our catholic community



Irish
Institute
for
Pastoral
Studies

A PROGRAMME OF FORMATION FOR LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP

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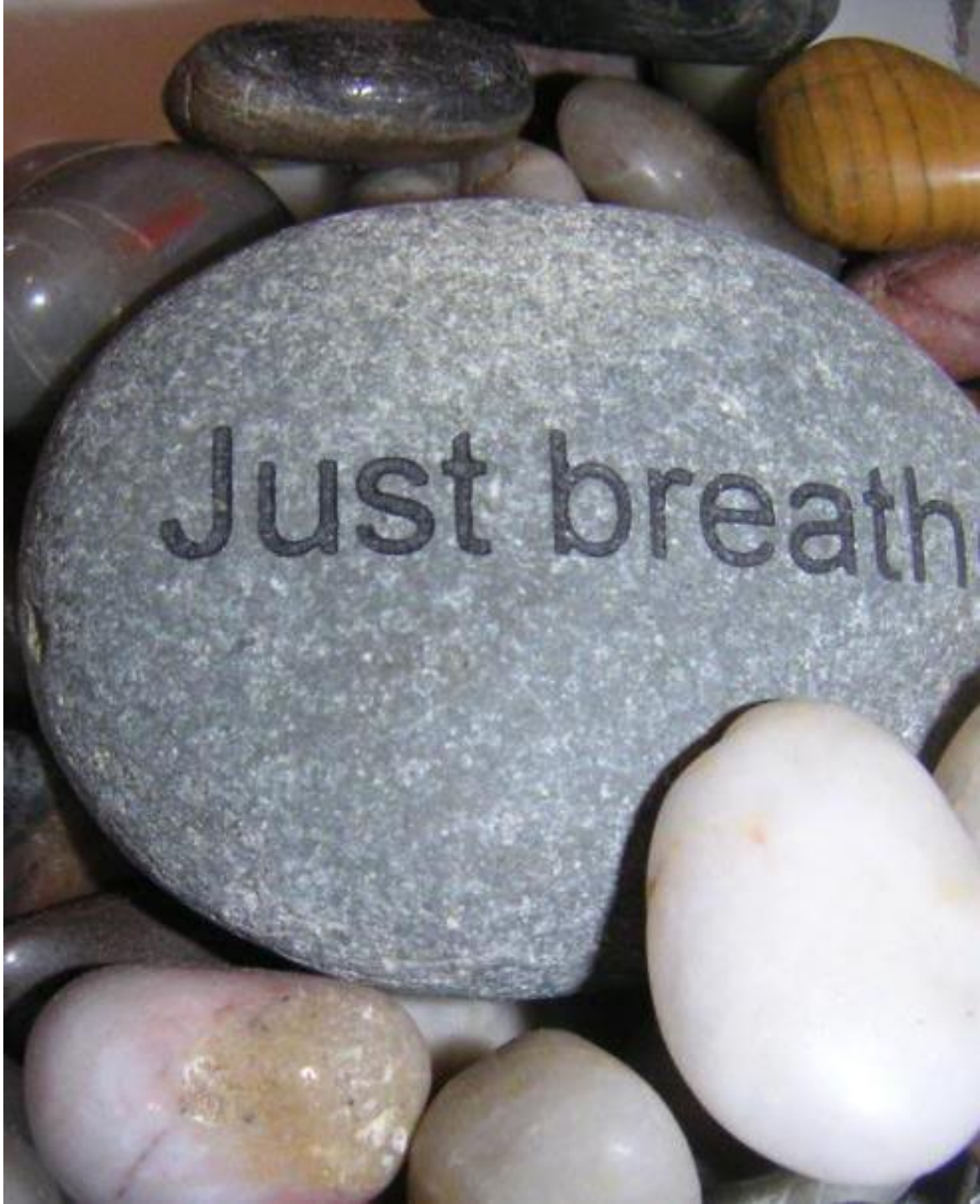


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Sometimes, the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between two breaths or the turning inwards in prayer for five short minutes.

(Etty Hillesum)



To Ponder

“We can all be the sowers of our time, people who sow seeds that will be reaped by the next generation. When we sow we must not expect instant success, but sow we must if a new world is ever to come to fruit...

Even in the face of the impossible, we must act as it is possible to change. That is what hope is. That is what sowing is about. It is living with uncertainty and ambiguity. It is living with hope and hoping against hope.”

Sr Stan: *Now Is The Time*

Reader: From where we are
to where you are leading us...

All: **Christ walk with us**

Reader: From what we are
to what you can make of us...

All: **Christ walk with us**

Reader: From the limitations of our efforts to
what You enable in us and among us

All: **Christ walk with us**

Reader: From tired and lifeless places
to spaces of new possibility

All: **Christ walk with us**

We Pray ...



ALL:

**Gracious God,
Set your blessing on us
as we begin this work;
Take us, renew us
and remake us
So that what we do
may be to your purposes.
We ask this in Jesus name.
Amen**



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CONTEXT





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There is some urgency in Ireland today, to address what could reasonably be termed a crisis in ministry. Vocations to the priesthood and religious life have all but dried up and this presents a serious challenge to structures of ministry that are clergy and religious dependent.

**From
Maintenance to
Mission**



A Church which “goes forth....”



“I dream of a **'missionary option'** that is, a **missionary impulse capable of transforming everything**, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the **evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation**” (#27 Evangelii Gaudium).



“Lay people are, put simply, the vast majority of the people of God. There has been a growing awareness of the identity and mission of the laity in the Church.

At the same time, a clear awareness of this responsibility of the laity, grounded in their baptism and confirmation, does not appear in the same way in all places.

In some cases, it is because lay persons have not been given the formation needed to take on important responsibilities.”

Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium: Apostolic Exhortation on the New Evangelization* (November 24, 2013), no. 102.



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JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH

"THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH WILL GUIDE YOU"

JOHN

JOHN 16:13

Theme: Faith Formation and Education

79. Proposal: Lay Catechists

What?

To develop a Diocesan Policy for lay catechists in order to recruit, train and supervise lay catechists so that they can roll out Diocesan faith formation/development programmes in Pastoral Areas or Parish Hubs.

Why?

The provision of catechists is necessary if we are to offer a multi-layered diocesan approach to faith formation. We need enthusiastic and trained professionals to roll faith formation/development programmes out across the diocese.

Theme: New Models of Leadership

82 Proposal: Establishment of a Team Ministry Structure in each Pastoral Area.

87. Proposal: To move towards the employment of Lay People to fulfil both liturgical and administrative roles in parishes, in clusters and/or in pastoral areas.

What?

Appoint Coordinators who will possibly fulfil both liturgical and administrative roles, whereby they will take lead roles in parishes, in clusters and/or in pastoral areas.

Why?

To ensure that there is a local leader who will coordinate, mobilise, encourage and minister to and with the local community by way of ensuring that the local faith community can become or remain vibrant even in the absence of a resident priest.

97. Proposal: Discernment of the Gifts of Lay People

Discernment of gifts/talents for people of all ages – discipleship/ministry emerging out of those gifts

What?

That we develop good processes and programs which empower adult Christians to acknowledge their gifts and to share them with the community as part of their Baptismal calling

Why?

Ministry is based on Baptism (call) and giftedness (particular ministry).

In moving to a co-responsible model, we no longer seek people to fill gaps or bodies to plug holes in perceived ministry needs. Instead we listen to the gifts and people presented by the Holy Spirit to this community, and in empowering people, we enable all to discern where and how God is calling each person in their life.

Theme: Pastoral Care of the Family

20 Proposal: Volunteer led community bereavement support

What?

Audit of existing parish based bereavement services with a view to each parish establishing a volunteer led community bereavement support group. Groups are trained and supported by Milford Care Centre.

Annual networking meeting.

Why?

Bereavement support should be available for people within all communities. Some but not all parishes have groups available

Who?

People who are living with grief and loss. Training and support offered by Milford benefits volunteers who provide support

Who?

Volunteers in the community organised by Parish supported by Milford Care Centre's Social Work Department and Compassionate Communities Project.

Theme: Liturgy & Life

57. Proposal: Formation training for clergy & laity who lead liturgy

What?

Create a place where people will be able to exchange views on the way the liturgy is celebrated

59. Proposal: Laity & Liturgies/Sacraments: develop and support lay leadership in liturgies and the celebration of sacraments (e.g. lay led liturgies of the Word with Holy Communion, homilies, baptisms, funerals, 'occasion' liturgies, etc.)

What?

Training and encouraging participation in all liturgies, sacraments, etc.

Why?

Shortage of priests and using gifts and talents of the laity

Moving Forward Together in Hope

Limerick Diocesan Pastoral Plan, 2016 – 2026

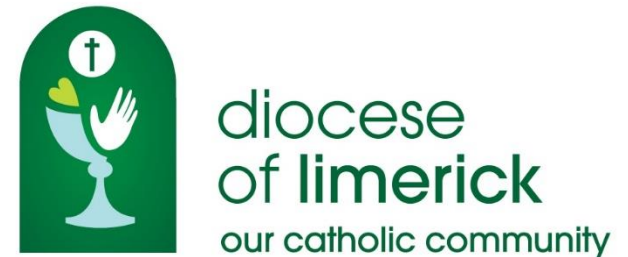
"The diocese will commit to a faith development strategy prioritising adults.

A central element of that strategy will be the training of volunteer lay 'catechists', 'animators' or 'coordinators' to deliver this strategy at a local level."

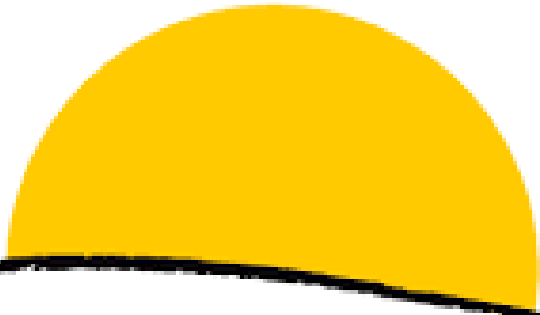


Lay Involvement

- Discipleship
- Ministry
- Co-Responsibility / Leadership



**Faith is
not a thing**



A W A K E N I N G

FAITH

**but a
relationship**

Growing

In

Faith



**My
Vocation
flows
from my
relationship
with God.**

Vocation

- Latin word “vocare”- to call
- A calling is a sacred gift. It’s a way to reach out. It’s very subtle (Chard, 2002).
- “True vocation is using your gifts for the benefit of others in a way that makes you happy. You don’t necessarily need a paying occupation to do that.”

Vocation

For most Christians, the term vocation still applies only to those who have been called to the priestly or religious life. In this sense one is born a Catholic, but only a chosen few 'have a vocation' to special commitment. The others are thereby reduced to a sort of second-rate citizenship, and lesser responsibility than the elite.

Bernier, Ministry in the Church: A Historical and Pastoral Approach 210.

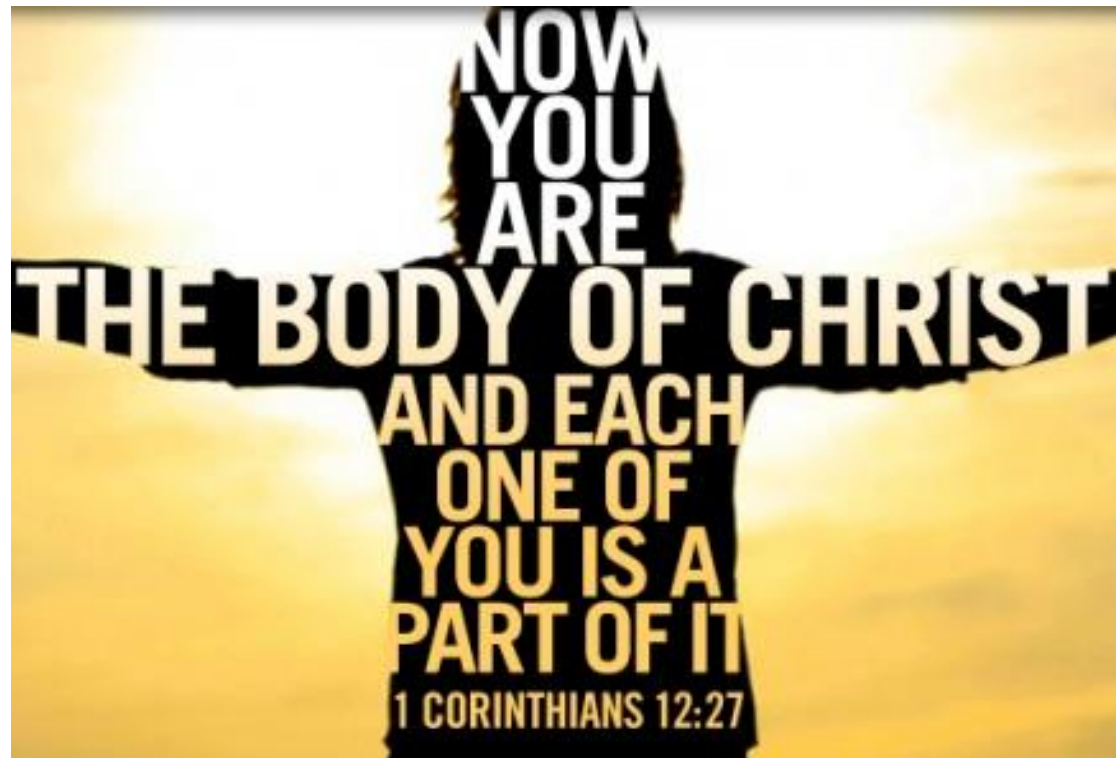
**“Vocation is the place where our
deep gladness meets the world's
deep need.”**

(Frederick Buechner)



What is
Ministry?

Early Christian View of the Church



“You are the Body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it.”

1 Corinthians 12

4 There are different kinds of gifts,
but the same Spirit distributes
them. 5 There are different kinds of
service, but the same Lord. 6 There
are different kinds of working, but
in all of them and in everyone it is
the same God at work.

Ministry defined

Thomas O'Meara concludes that ministry is
a public action

in the service of the Kingdom which is carried out
on behalf of the community in diverse ways
through a gift of the Spirit.

See O'Meara, *Theology of Ministry*, 141-149 and
Dues and Walkley , *Called to Parish Ministry*,32- 33.

Ministry Defined

“Christians, however, have been repeatedly tempted to reduce ministry to one office and to turn a ministerial community into a passive attending of a sacred cult.”

Thomas O’Meara, *Theology of Ministry*, 5.

Ministry defined by Kathleen Cahalan

Ministry is **leading** disciples through the **practices of teaching, preaching, worship, pastoral care, social ministry, and administration**; for the sake of discipleship lived in relation to **God's mission**; as a **public act** discernible in word, deed and symbol; **on behalf of a Christian community**; as a gift received through faith and **baptism, charism and vocation**, that is **acknowledged by the community** in rituals of **commissioning, installation and ordination**; and as a practice that **exists within a diverse array of ecclesial contexts, roles and relationships**.

To “be” catechists!
Not to “work” as catechists.
Catechesis is a vocation:
“being a catechist”,
this is the vocation,
not “working” as a catechist.

Pope Francis,
Congress on Catechesis



Pastoral Care





To be the
compassionate
presence of Christ
and of the Christian
Community to people
who are suffering.



Encouragement

Prayer

LISTENING

RELATIONSHIP

Empathy

Acceptance

Loving

Support

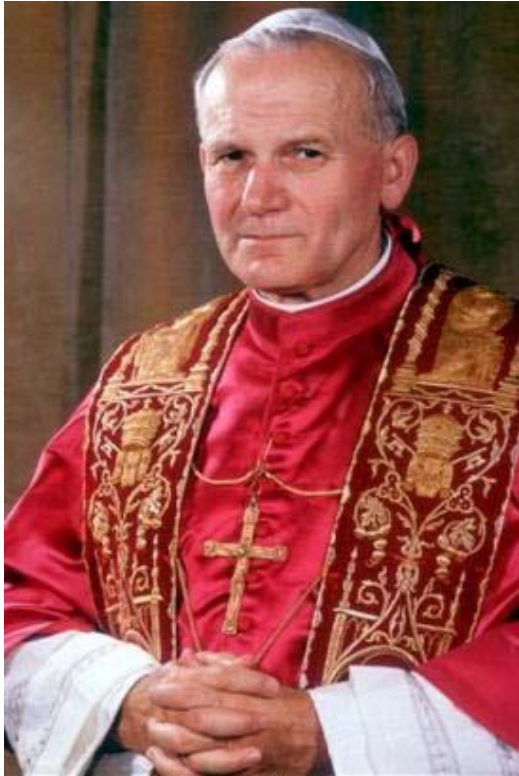
Compassion

CARING





Pastores dabo vobis (I Shall Give You Shepherds)



**An apostolic exhortation
released on March 25, 1992, by
Pope John Paul II.**

**The document looks at four
different areas of formation:**

- **Human**
- **Intellectual**
- **Spiritual**
- **Pastoral**

Programme Outline:

- Prayer and Spirituality (Spiritual accompaniment and days of recollection)
- Pastoral Formation (A practical pastoral placement)
- Personal Development (Mentoring and personal growth)
- Study (Successfully complete an accredited programme entitled Certificate in Pastoral Ministry (Level 6, 30 Credits) over a two year period.

Formation



Information

Programme of Formation in Lay Pastoral Ministry and Leadership

- 30 months
- 6 Months Propaedeutic Time
- One Friday evening and Saturday per month for 8 months per annum

Dates

Initial Orientation and Selection Saturday 25th
January – 10.00a.m. to 4.30p.m.

(Weekends – Friday 6.30 to 9.00 and
Saturday 10.00a.m. to 4.30p.m.)

- 28th 29th February
- 27th 28th March
- 8th 9th May
- 22nd 23rd May
(Residential)
- 25th 26th September
- 23rd 24th October
- 20th 21st November
(Residential)
- 11th 12th December

**Is this a
good fit
for me?**

**What gifts
and strengths
do I bring to
this ministry?**

**Will it help
me to grow,
to develop?**

**Does it fit
with who I
am?**

*Those who are
discerning
their
vocation*

**Am I open to
learning... to
reflecting on
experience?**

**Would it
give me
life?**

**Can I work well
with others?**



let's talk



 **Strike
a Chord**





thank you THANK YOU

THANKS *in appreciation* thanks!

THANKS THANK YOU WITH THANKS
Thanks thank you

THANK YOU thanks

THANK YOU *sincere thanks*

many thanks thank you very much thank you
Thanks

thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you