Adult Faith Formation

Courses & Certificates
THE VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR FAITH FORMATION (VLCFF) IS A GROWING INITIATIVE TO OFFER ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION ANYTIME AND ANYWHERE VIA THE INTERNET. THE GOAL IS TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH’S PROFESSIONAL MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION IN CYBERSPACE.

THE VLCFF IS COORDINATED AND SPONSORED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR PASTORAL INITIATIVES (IPI) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON - A CATHOLIC MARIANIST INSTITUTION.

OUR MISSION IS TO MOBILIZE THE RESOURCES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON FOR PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE CHURCH THAT CREATE AND IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE PASTORAL INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH AND TO ARTICULATE FAITH WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF CONTEMPORARY CULTURE.

TWO SISTERS OF CHARITY, RITA HAWK AND LAETITIA SLUSSER, HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING ONLINE COURSES SINCE 2009 AND 2011 RESPECTIVELY, TO CERTIFY TEACHERS IN DIOCESES FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES TO JAPAN; FROM GERMANY TO AUSTRALIA; FROM CANADA TO SOUTHERN ARABIA; FROM ITALY TO HAWAII AND POINTS IN BETWEEN.

All the information in this handbook is available at vlc.udayton.edu. The following is a collection of information arranged by the Office of Catholic Formation Services in the Diocese of Helena to further promote our partnership with the University of Dayton and to advocate for online adult formation opportunities.

The Diocese of Helena is a partner member of the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation at the University of Dayton. This relationship provides you access to an incredible amount of online learning opportunities at extremely affordable prices.
The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is one of many means to enhance quality adult faith, catechist and lay ministry formation in the Catholic Church today. We are pleased that you have selected The University of Dayton’s program. As a Catholic Marianist university, we strive to reflect the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church. We invite you to join other Catholics in your diocese and dioceses across the country and around the world seeking to intensify their understanding and appreciation of the faith.

-Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, MHSH, D.Min.
VLCFF/IPI Director
Professor - Department of Religious Studies

Courses
VLCFF courses are 4-6 weeks in duration. For individuals who live in a VLCFF partnering diocese, courses cost $40.00 each. For individuals who live in a non-partnering diocese, courses cost $90.00 each. The Diocese of Helena is a partner diocese.

Seminars
VLCFF seminars are 3 weeks in duration. For individuals who live in a VLCFF partnering diocese, seminars cost $30.00 each. For individuals who live in a non-partnering diocese, seminars cost $70.00 each. See partnership information for a list of VLCFF partners.

Book Requirements
Some courses require books. Upon registering, you will receive an e-mail message telling you where the books can be purchased.

Payment Policy
Payment is due before the course begins. You may pay by credit card on the VLCFF secure site or you can send a check or money order, payable to the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives, to:
Institute for Pastoral Initiatives/VLCFF
300 College Park Drive
Dayton, OH 45469-0328

Course Access
Only students who are listed as Paid in Full for a course will be given access to the course material. Those who have the course fee covered by a parish or other entity are encouraged to self-pay by credit card and then request a reimbursement from whoever is covering the cost.
COURSE LIST

Note: List is subject to change annually.

Adult Formation Leadership
Designing and Implementing Adult Learning and Faith Formation (AFL 7)
Facilitating Adult Learning and Faith Formation (AFL 4)
Foundations and Vision for Adult Learning and Faith Formation (AFL 1)
Leadership Roles and Skills for Adult Learning and Faith Formation (AFL 5)
Many Faces of Adult Learners (AFL 3)
Parish as a Learning Community (AFL 2)
Spirituality in Adult Learning and Faith Formation (AFL 6)

Catechesis
Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan
Digital Catechesis: Web Literacy
Evangelization and Discipleship
Faith and Human Development
Introduction to Catechesis
National Directory for Catechesis
Our Hearts Were Burning
Overview of the GDC and NDC
RCIA
Spirituality and Inclusive Faith Communities
Vocation, Spirituality and Discipleship of Catechists

Catholic Doctrine
Catholic Beliefs
Christology
Images of Jesus
Introduction to Christian Morality
Mary in Scripture and Tradition
Study of The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)
Survey of Catholic Doctrine
Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life

Church History
Church History 1
Church History 2

Communication
Introduction to Media Literacy Education

Ecclesiology
Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church
Ecclesiology: Pilgrim Church
Ecclesiology: Reframing Church
Ecumenism and Parish Life
The Second Vatican Council: An Overview

Leadership in Ministry
Administration in Ministry
Collaboration and Community
Communication and Community
Leadership in Ministry
Pastoral Approach to Culture
Vocation to Ministry

Liturgy, Sacraments, Prayer
Introduction to Liturgy
Introduction to Prayer
Introduction to the Sacraments of Initiation
Marianist Studies: Prayer
On Bended Knee
Praying With Children
Sacrament of Marriage: A Holy Calling
Sacraments

Marianist Studies
Marianist Prayer Circle
Marianist Studies: Celebrating the Life and Legacy of William Joseph Chaminade
Marianist Studies: Charism
Marianist Studies: Community
Marianist Studies: Education
Marianist Studies: Founders
Marianist Studies: Leadership
Marianist Studies: Mary, Holy Possibility
Marianist Studies: Prayer
Marianist Studies: Social Justice
Marianist Studies: Three Offices
Marianist Studies: Virtues for Mission

Morality
Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education
Conscience
Introduction to Christian Morality
Introduction to Practical Morality

Scripture
Bible Basics
Galatians
Introduction to Paul's Life and Letters
Introduction to Scripture
New Testament
Old Testament
Prophets
Scripture and Justice

Social Justice
Advanced Catholic Social Teaching
Introduction to Catholic Social Action
Introduction to Christian Morality
Introduction to Practical Morality
Marianist Studies: Social Justice
Parish and Social Action
Poverty in the U.S. and Around the World
Scripture and Justice
Spirituality and Inclusive Faith Communities
Survey of Catholic Social Teaching

Spirituality
The Parish Nurse as Counsellor and Spiritual Companion
The Parish Nurse: Facilitating Wholistic Health Through the Lifespan

World Religions
Islam

Youth Ministry
A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry
Planning Youth Ministry Events
Prayer and Worship with Adolescents
Principles for Addressing Diversity Issues in Youth Ministry
Relational Ministry with Youth
General Information

Before beginning these programs, be sure to contact your diocesan office and consult through the office to determine their requirements for your certification for ministry. Our program is an avenue to assist dioceses in their work of certifying you for your ministry. The VLCFF does not certify you for a particular ministry - your certification will come from your diocese. You will receive a paper certificate from us for each course you complete in this program, one for completion of each level of the program (if applicable), and a final certificate when you have completed the entire program. These can be presented to your diocese along with other requirements they may set forth to complete your certification.

The application fee for each certificate program is $15.00 for partners; $30.00 for non-partners. The Diocese of Helena is a partner with the VLCFF. If the certificate program for which you are applying has two or more levels, the application fee applies to each level of the program.

Normal Course and Seminar fees apply.

To find more information for each specific certificate program, please click one of the links below or continue reading:

1. [Certificate in Catechesis](#)
2. [Certificate in Adult Formation Leadership](#)
3. [Certificate in Social Justice](#)
4. [Certificate in Marianist Studies](#)
5. [Certificate in Foundations for Leadership in Ministry](#)
6. [Certificate in Youth Ministry](#)
CERTIFICATE IN

CATECHESIS

Audience

Volunteer catechists
Catholic school religion teachers
Others whose ministry would be enriched by formal certification in this field.

Please Note:
If you are looking to be certified as a catechist in your diocese please check with your parish Director of Religious Education (DRE) or contact the diocesan Director of Faith Formation first. You may not be required to sign up for the VLCFF certificate program.

Level I Courses

Theology:
Survey of Catholic Doctrine
Introduction to Scripture
Images of Jesus
Sacraments

Method:
Introduction to Catechesis

Formation:
Introduction to Prayer

Level II Courses

Theology:
Old Testament
New Testament
Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church
Introduction to Practical Morality

Method:
Faith and Human Development

Formation:
Vocation, Spirituality, and Discipleship of Catechists
CERTIFICATE IN
ADULT FORMATION LEADERSHIP

Audience

This certificate program is designed for adults in parish or diocesan ministry wishing to design, implement and facilitate adult learning and faith formation for all adults as Adult Faith Formation leaders/coordinators/catechists/facilitators in parishes or dioceses.

Required Courses

Foundations and Vision of Adult Learning and Faith Formation
Parish as Learning Community
Many Faces of Adult Learners
Facilitating Adult Learning and Faith Formation
Leadership Roles and Skills for Adult Learning and Faith Formation
Spirituality in Adult Learning and Faith Formation
Designing and Implementing Adult Learning and Faith Formation
CERTIFICATE IN

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Audience
Certified catechists
Catholic School educators
Persons working in Social Justice offices in dioceses and parishes
Anyone working in Social Justice ministry

Required Courses
Advanced Catholic Social Teaching
Scripture and Justice
History of Catholic Social Action
Poverty in the U.S. and Around the World
Parish and Social Action – Capstone Course
(should be taken last)
CERTIFICATE IN
MARIANIST STUDIES

Audience

Members of Marianist Lay Communities and Lay Marianist in Formation
Directors, Board Members, and Employees of Marianist Institutions
Marianist Sisters, Brothers, Priests, novices, and aspirants
MEAs, Marianist Educators, Spiritual Accompaniment Program members

Required Courses

Five Week Courses (choose six)
- Founders *
- Community *
- Charism
- Social Justice
- Prayer
- Mary
- Leadership
- Education

Three-Week Seminars (choose two)
- Three Offices
- Marianist Prayer Circle
- System of Virtues

A Certificate of completion is awarded for each course upon completion of the entire program.

(*required, not optional)
CERTIFICATE IN

FOUNDATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

**Audience**

Current ministerial leaders who have never had systematic training for leadership
Potential ministerial leaders with pastoral experience who desire to move into leadership positions
Pastoral leaders who desire to update themselves with contemporary pastoral leadership training

**Prerequisites**

Survey of Catholic Doctrine
Introduction to Scripture
Introduction to Liturgy
Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church
Theological Reflection (Seminar)

**Required Courses**

Courses may be taken separately if not pursuing total certificate.

**Level I Courses**

*Theology*
- New Testament
- Christology
- Ecclesiology: Pilgrim Church

*Formation*
- Vocation to Ministry

*Methods*
- Communication and Community
- Collaboration and Community

**Level II Courses**

*Theology*
- Ecclesiology: Reframing Church
- Morality (Christian or Practical Morality)

*Formation*
- Pastoral Approach to Culture

*Methods*
- Leadership in Ministry
- Administration in Ministry

*Capstone Course*
- Church: Living System and Sacrament
CERTIFICATE IN

YOUTH MINISTRY

Audience

This Certificate is designed for adults in parish youth ministry wishing to develop skills for effectively engaging young people in parish settings.

Required Courses

Curriculum for the Certificate in Youth Ministry
Survey of Catholic Doctrine
Introduction to Scripture
Faith and Human Development
A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry *(It is advised that you take this course before taking any of the other courses listed below.)*
Relational Ministry with Youth
Prayer and Worship with Adolescents
Principles for Addressing Diversity Issues in Youth Ministry
Planning Youth Ministry Events

A Certificate of completion is awarded upon completion of the entire program
REGISTER TODAY!

Visit vlc.udayton.edu today to access more information or to register for a course.

Contact Richard Drabik, M.A.
Assistant Director of the VLCFF
(937) 229-3874
Toll-Free: (888) 300-8436

Mailing Address
Institute for Pastoral Initiatives
300 College Park
Dayton, Ohio 45469-0328