

Renewal Underway

Scores of Minnesota's Lay Ecclesial Ministers certified in 2005 have sent their applications for renewal to their diocesan certification administrators. The goal of the MCEA is to renew the certification of all lay ministers who are still active in ministry in a participating diocese, even if their role or status has changed.

Dioceses and parishes have experienced many changes in the past five years, including new bishops in five of the six Minnesota dioceses. Lay leadership, one of the constants in parish life, changes, too. So whether a minister has changed parishes, dioceses, job descriptions, or moved from full time to part time, from employment to volunteer status, we encourage every active, certified lay leader to apply for renewal. The certification of those certified in 2005 is valid until December 31, 2010.

Diocesan administrators have been accepting renewals since late February. What a variety of formation and goals they are encountering!



An example would be Monica Priebe of the Diocese of Winona. Monica has moved from full time to volunteer status, but now leads the marriage preparation ministry at Sacred Heart in Waseca. Since 2005, Monica has earned her MA in Pastoral Studies from St. John's

University. Life Innovations of the Twin Cities has invited Monica to be a trainer for PREPARE/ENRICH in southern Minnesota; she is currently discerning. For now, Monica is writing a booklet for the newly engaged about the sacrament of marriage. Diocesan and parish expectations, a time line, theology of the body and marriage, the mentoring process, and the marriage liturgy are topics covered. Monica plans to offer her booklet to parishes and help them customize it to their needs.



Ministers have made the most of continuing formation in their dioceses, including online courses. In the Diocese of Crookston, where technology such as Skype is common fare, Kristine Jensen, a practitioner in both specialties, ministering at St. Philip's Church

in Bemidji, took courses from the University of Dayton geared to her learning goals. Her picks were *Images of Jesus*, *Catechetics*, *Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan*, and *NDC and GDC Seminars*. Kris has served as Religious Formation Director at St. Philip's Church for almost 14 years. Responsible for Children's Liturgy of the Word, Preschool, Elementary and High School Formation,

"Servitium" is the newsletter for Certified Lay Ecclesial Ministers in the State of Minnesota. According to Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord, servitium means ministry. We all feel called to ministry and are living out this calling in a special way by being certified as Lay Ecclesial Ministers specializing as parish catechetical or youth ministry leaders. This newsletter will hopefully support and enhance this special call you feel to ministry. Please read on. If you would ever like to submit an article for this newsletter, please e-mail Peter Noll at pnoll@mncc.org.

Vacation Bible School, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation, no wonder that Kris also serves on the Diocesan Pastoral Leadership Program Board.

Pamela Osborne, a master catechetical leader in the Diocese of New Ulm who ministers at St. Francis De Sales in Winthrop, has been attending the diaconal formation program with her husband, Roger, and has been in spiritual direction since March 2008. Pam also has listed the *Images of Jesus* course from the University of Dayton taken by Kristine Jensen from Crookston. Pam's ministry, too, has changed from full time in 2005 (Area Faith Community Director of Religious Education), to a volunteer in 2009. Her ministries include setting up for the weekly Mass at the nursing home; weekly singing with youth of St. Francis and St. Willibrord; singing and playing guitar for liturgy, being a bilingual catechist; Hispanic ministry; helping select music for St. Francis's liturgies; making worship aids for special liturgies at St. Francis, and helping with the religious education coordination at St. Francis de Sales. "In rural parishes, wearing many hats is a very common occurrence!" laughs Pam.

If your certification is up for renewal, do not hesitate to get started. We have numerous examples that can be e-mailed to you, as well as expandable electronic forms. For either of these helps, contact Alma Richard at arichard50@gmail.com.

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MCEA 2010 Convention

We Are People of HOPE!

Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center

August 23-24, 2010

More info at www.mncatholiced.org.

Connections across the state...

Diocese of Crookston

Certification Administrator Deacon Dan Hannig

On February 14, 2010 Bishop Michael J. Hoeppner joined Our Lady of the Pines in Nevis as they celebrated the recognition of John Lindow as an MCEA certified Lay Ecclesial Minister. Two CLEMs have submitted applications for recertification. We finished our season of lay formation (Pastoral Leadership Program) on April 17, 2010. There were forty lay participants. Twenty were "first-timers," most of them participating in our "4 Saturday Mornings" series.

Diocese of Duluth

Certification Administrator Brian Pizzalato

In the Diocese of Duluth we spent one year without a Bishop, and are grateful now to have Bishop Paul Sirba, our new chief catechist. However, without a bishop formative opportunities continued to be offered. Over the last year catechetical leaders have been gathered to study Theology of the Body, Church history, living a life in Christ, and the use of new online technologies that are helpful to parish catechesis. Next year we look forward to a new format of deanery level catechetical leader meetings, so as to make formation more accessible. We look forward to studying the social doctrine of the Church through our annual catechetical conference, and a discussion about catechesis regarding the implementation on the new translation of the Roman Missal.

Diocese of New Ulm

Certification Administrator Karla Cross

All three currently certified LEM's in the diocese have submitted renewal applications. One new candidate is preparing his portfolio for submission in the fall. Currently four known individuals are prayerfully considering applying for certification. The diocese continues to offer opportunities for lay formation through the existing programs of Foundations, Together in Communion, VCLFF (Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation online courses through the University of Dayton) and masters programs and certificates in pastoral administration or pastoral ministry through St. Mary's University in Winona. All these opportunities give the laity basic theological principles to be better equipped for parish ministry and discipleship.

Diocese of St. Cloud

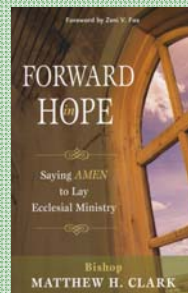
Certification Administrator Brenda Kresky

We have one new applicant and several others starting the application process. Five people have submitted their renewal applications; there will be several others in the fall. Congratulations to the two newly certified in January: Pat Spence from Immaculate Conception in Rice and Kateri Mancini from the Diocesan Mission Office in St. Cloud. We are hoping to offer three Ministry classes this fall in the areas of Scripture, Christology, and Youth Ministry.

Diocese of Winona

Certification Administrator Mark Nuehring

Alma Richard's visit to our diocese in February has sparked a renewed interest for some committed parish catechetical leaders to pursue certification. Alma presented on Bishop Clark's book, *Forward in Hope*, on lay ecclesial ministry. We currently have one new application and two other parish leaders who have indicated they desire to complete their portfolios. We also have many of our certified ministers completing the certification renewal process. This is a wonderful sign that they value the process and want to continue to be models for others in the diocese.



"A New Book About Us"

Bishop Matthew H. Clark of the Diocese of Rochester, New York, has written a book about lay ecclesial ministry. You will enjoy reading *Forward in Hope: Saying AMEN to Lay Ecclesial Ministry*. Zeni V. Fox has written the excellent forward to this small book available from Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame). A true theological reflection, celebrating the call of the lay ecclesial minister, *Forward in Hope* is a marvel of pastoral clarity, sensitivity and Episcopal leadership on a current, though still controversial topic.



Variety is the Spice of Life

Pat Spence, of the St. Cloud Diocese, serves as Director of Faith Formation at Immaculate Conception Parish in Rice. Pat received certification in January of 2010, and her list of ministerial responsibilities encompasses many aspects of parish life.

Here are some of the areas that Pat has coordinated since 2004: Pre-school Sunday School; Children's Liturgy of the Word and Sacramental Preparation, including RCIA. Youth and Adult Formation are also part of Pat's assignment. Pat has been IC's organist since 1996 and has been coordinating liturgy and music since 1998.

If this all sounds like too much, please know that the variety she experiences in leading all these different ministries is what Pat enjoys the most. "The full spectrum of parishioners" with whom Pat journeys is the joy of her work.

Pat was inspired to seek certification because she desired the opportunity to pursue personal and spiritual growth. She also desired that her formation be officially recognized. In the process, Pat says she gained "a deeper understanding of the national standards and how important they are to effective ministry." Pat also liked that the certification process reinforced the importance of setting long term goals in ministry.

Before, during and after the actual steps of the certification process, Pat was supported by diocesan personnel and her fellow parishioners. "It is a blessing to have such supportive diocesan staff supporting my ministry and providing opportunities for growth," says Pat. "Brenda Kresky presented my certificate at Mass (March 14), and our parish had a reception for me. It was a wonderful celebration, and I am so happy to have received certification."