



INSTITUTE OF LAY FORMATION

Diocese of Winona

Calling lay women and men to a deeper living out of their Christian vocation



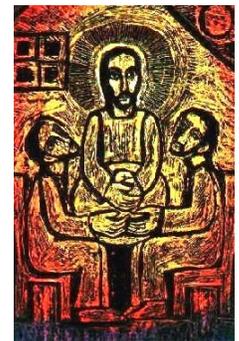
The diocesan **INSTITUTE OF LAY FORMATION** is a program of prayer, study, and reflection on the Catholic Faith and on the life of discipleship and service within the Church. The Institute has three components:

- ❖ a catechetical/theological formation component, **CREDO ~ TOGETHER IN FAITH**
- ❖ a lay leadership formation component, **CARITAS ~ TOGETHER IN SERVICE**
- ❖ a continuing education/formation component, **EMMAUS ~ TOGETHER IN CHRIST**.

EMMAUS ~ TOGETHER IN CHRIST

EMMAUS ~ TOGETHER IN CHRIST provides an annual program of continuing formation and renewal for lay leaders serving in the Diocese of Winona. Offerings include academic sessions, days of reflections, retreats, workshops, etc. The program provides lay leaders with opportunities for growth in the four core areas of formation: intellectual; human; spiritual; and pastoral.

(Application to the INSTITUTE OF LAY FORMATION's 2017-18 **EMMAUS** formation program [described below] is open to all – Institute alumni, prospective Institute students, and any other interested people of the diocese.)



2017-18 Year

Forming Missionary Disciples for Gospel Witness...

A year-long formation program/process in the Church's mission of evangelization for lay leaders consisting of five weekend sessions (i.e., Friday evening through Saturday afternoon).

The content of the formation program will include:

- ◆ a study of **Scripture and Church teaching** on evangelization and discipleship
- ◆ study and reflection on **the call to holiness and discipleship**, and the spiritual formation which leads to a deeper communion with Christ and with His Church
- ◆ training on effective forms of **evangelization within the parish community**
- ◆ training on techniques and practices for **evangelization of the broader community**.

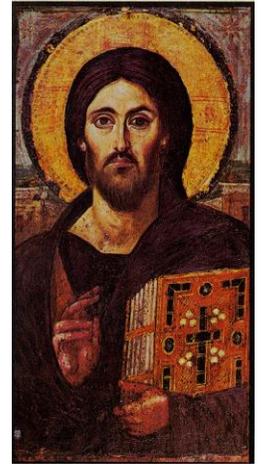
The word of God constantly shows us how God challenges those who believe in him "to go forth".... In our day Jesus' command to "go and make disciples" echoes in the changing scenarios and ever new challenges to the Church's mission of evangelization, and all of us are called to take part in this new missionary "going forth".

(Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, #20)

Background on the Program

In the Acts of the Apostles, before he ascends to heaven, Jesus tells his apostles: “[Y]ou will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus instructs them to, “Go, and make disciples of all nations.” And, he assures them: “I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Blessed Paul VI affirmed this central mission of Christ’s followers, teaching that the Church “exists in order to evangelize, that is to say in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace.” (*Evangelii Nuntiandi* #14) Saint John Paul II declared “that the moment has come to commit all of the Church’s energies to a new evangelization.” (*Redemptoris Missio* #3). And our present Holy Father, Pope Francis, states that, by virtue of our baptism, “all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples [and] agents of evangelization.” (*Evangelii Gaudium* #120).



Bishop John Quinn, drawing on this scriptural and teaching tradition, is calling on our diocesan Church to strengthen its ministry in terms of four aspects of evangelization and discipleship:

- **Encounter** ~ *To invite others to experience the person of Jesus Christ, and his saving love*
- **Accompany** ~ *To walk in love and companionship with others on their spiritual journey*
- **Community** ~ *To worship and witness together as Christ’s Body*
- **Mission** ~ *To always move outward in healing and hope to the broken people and places of our world.*

To support and promote our local Church’s ministry of evangelization, the INSTITUTE OF LAY FORMATION is offering our alumni and other leaders in our local parishes, schools, institutions, and lay movements and associations a year-long formation program. This year will include prayer and reflection, study and discussion, and discernment concerning our call – both as individuals and as a community – to live out our Christian witness more deeply and fully.

Program Faculty

The faculty for this formation year will be:

- **Todd Graff, MA** (Director of Lay Formation, Diocese of Winona)
- **Deb McManimon, PhD** (Regional Missionary, St. Paul Street Evangelization)
- **Deacon Christopher Walchuk, MA, MAT** (Deacon, Diocese of Winona)
- **Susan Windley-Daoust, PhD** (Associate Professor of Theology, Saint Mary’s University).

Calendar & Accommodations

All weekend sessions will be held at the **Alverna Center in Winona**, and will take place from Friday evening through Saturday afternoon. Overnight accommodations are available at the Center, and there is also a “Saturday-only” option for participants.

The sessions will be held on the following dates:

- **September 15-16 / November 3-4, 2017**
- **January 12-13 / March 2-3 / April 27-28, 2018.**