

1. **WHAT IS**  
*Foundations for*  
*Ministry?*

4. Lay Catholics from across the diocese come together in an adult learning setting to explore the foundations of ministry: the theological, the scriptural, the pastoral and the spiritual. The program provides a **BASIC OVERVIEW** of Catholic faith through a blend of **LEARNING AND SPIRITUAL INTEGRATION**.

## 2. WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Each session focusses on a different topic and incorporates time for shared prayer, discussion and reflection. The first semester consists of 13 sessions, including an evening of prayer and reflection. There are 14 sessions in the second semester and the program concludes with a full-day retreat at the end of the program. (The schedule is on the back panel of this brochure.)

There are no prerequisites, no tests and no evaluations. All that is required is regular attendance and active participation in the sessions. A textbook and resources for further reading are provided.

## 3. WHO COULD PARTICIPATE?

*Foundations for Ministry* focusses on parish ministry. It offers enrichment and formation to those who are **already active** in a parish ministry. It offers encouragement and formation to those who are **considering getting more involved** in their parish. Participants come from all areas of parish involvement.

**Ministries of Compassion** to the sick or shut-in, the disabled or elderly, the bereaved, the separated and divorced.

**Liturgical Ministries** such as catechist, lector,

musician, cantor, sacristan and ministers of communion, as well as those involved in liturgy committee, children's liturgy and marriage preparation.

**Outreach Ministries** to the poor, the unemployed, the homeless, the hungry or the imprisoned; those involved in the St. Vincent de Paul, Development and Peace, Refugee Support or Social Awareness.

**Leadership Ministries** such as those involved in small Christian communities or prayer groups, C.W.L., Knights of Columbus, Pastoral and Financial councils, Youth ministry and parish administration.

Applicants **must** have the support and sponsorship of their pastor in order to enrol in the *Foundations for Ministry Program*. There is a place on the application form for the pastor's signature.

## WHAT TOPICS ARE ADDRESSED?

### *FIRST SEMESTER*

**CHURCH HISTORY, ECCLESIOLOGY, ECUMENISM  
SCRIPTURE, THEOLOGY AND PRAYER**

orientation, the learning community and personality preferences  
history of Christianity, Vatican II, teaching authority, four marks, models of church, Christian unity  
revelation, inspiration, inerrancy, Tradition and Scripture, Hebrew and Christian Testaments, resources  
nature of God: one and triune, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, grace, the Paschal Mystery  
prayer & reflection  
Mary, model of discipleship

### *SECOND SEMESTER*

**LITURGY, SACRAMENTS,  
CHRISTIAN LIVING AND MINISTRY**

liturgy, the liturgical year, ritual, sign & symbol in Word and Sacrament  
sacraments of initiation and *RCIA* (Baptism & Confirmation), sacraments of healing (Reconciliation and Sacrament of the Sick), sacraments of service (Marriage and Holy Orders), Eucharist  
Christian ethics & morality, conscience formation, personal and social sin, Catholic Social teaching and social justice  
spiritual foundations of ministry, adult faith development, models of ministry, lay ministry, ordained ministry, discernment for ministry