

### **Encounter:**

•“Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” -Deus Caritas Est, Pope Benedict XVI

### **Accompany:**

“The personal discipleship of each individual makes possible a community of disciples formed by and for the mission of Christ.”  
-Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry, USCCB.

### **Mission:**

The Lay Formation Program seeks to foster an “ecclesial consciousness” as Pope St. John Paul II urges: “fix deeply in one’s mind, heart and life — an ecclesial consciousness which is ever-mindful of what it means to be members of the Church of Jesus Christ, participants in her mystery of communion and in her dynamism in mission and the apostolate.” -Christifidelis Laici, Pope John Paul II

### **Missionary Discipleship:**

“Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are ‘disciples’ and ‘missionaries’, but rather that we are always ‘missionary disciples’.” -Evangelii Gaudium, Pope Francis

*The time line for review of applications:*

- \* Application Deadline: June 15th
- \* Applicants will be notified after July 1st.
- \* The formal program begins in August.

*Applications are to be directed to:*

Deacon Phil Lawson  
Office of Evangelization & Catechesis  
Diocese of Burlington  
55 Joy Drive  
South Burlington, VT 05403

Phone (802) 658-6110 Ext. 1453  
Fax: (802) 658-6112  
plawson@vermontcatholic.org  
www.vermontcatholic.org

“It is for you to radiate the Gospel. When they see you,  
let them discover Jesus Christ!”  
-Radiating Christ by Raoul Plus, S.J.

# Lay Formation Program



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Institute for Missionary  
Discipleship

## Rationale and Mission

“The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few...” - Luke 10:2

To answer this need, the lay formation program, as part of the Institute for Missionary Discipleship, seeks to form laity to assist in leadership roles in their parishes. For example in serving as RCIA leaders, directors of religious education, facilitating pre-marriage preparation, leading evangelization efforts, facilitating the Church’s charitable outreach, etc. Key to this formation is inspiring and equipping the laity to serve and evangelize their parishes and communities as missionary disciples.

The aims of the program are:

- To provide enrichment for those who seek adult formation in their Catholic faith by providing a firm and practical foundation in Scripture, Liturgy and Sacraments.
- To call forth, affirm and support the gifts and talents of participants who want to glorify God and serve God’s holy people by fostering a deeper appreciation of the Baptismal call of the faithful to service in the church.
- To provide education, training and support for those called by the Pastor, in consultation with the parish staff and parish council, to service apostolates through continued studies and practical formation.
- To nurture participants’ spiritual growth and fidelity to the Church and to help them to reflect prayerfully and critically on their own experiences in ministry and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ especially through the Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, prayer and the Liturgy of the Hours.
- To develop an awareness, appreciation and respect for the diversity and complementarity of vocations and states of life, of ministries, of charisms and responsibilities within the Church.

## Program Description

The program is designed to integrate the four pillars of lay formation described in *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*: **human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral**. Since it is the whole person who serves, the program is designed to enhance all aspects of the individual’s growth.

Participants in the lay formation program will meet one Saturday per month from September-May for formation. In addition, there will be roughly 2 online courses, per academic semester.

### Year 1 -

- Introduction to Theology
- Sacred Scripture
- The Profession of Faith (CCC Pillar 1)
- Liturgy and Sacraments (CCC Pillar 2)

### Year 2 -

- Life in Christ : Christian Morality (CCC Pillar 3)
- Spirituality and Prayer (CCC Pillar 4)
- The Church

Prayer and worship with fellow participants are important features of the program. Participants in the Lay Formation Program participate in an annual August retreat. Praying the Liturgy of the Hours together as a group and individually is promoted and encouraged. These experiences will stress the importance of silence and prayer. Participants are also encouraged to meet regularly with a spiritual director who will assist them in their journey with the Lord.

During the Pastoral Formation period, participants will undertake a supervised project in an area of service to their Parish Community in order to demonstrate competencies and skills in serving God’s people in the Church.

## Application Process

To apply you must be an adult Catholic woman or man who demonstrates the following qualifications:

- An appreciation and support for the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
- Willingness to give time and energy in service to the Church
- Ability to study and learn
- Personal and spiritual maturity
- Openness and respect for others and those in authority
- High school education preferred or its equivalent

Application to the program is through the Pastor. Application deadline is June 15th. Notification of acceptance will be given by July 15th.

Application forms can be found online at: <http://www.vermontcatholic.org/>

## Tuition

An equitable formula has been established to fund this course, instructors, all textbooks, materials and programs. The Diocese, the sponsoring parish, and the individual will each pay: \$250 per year.

Tuition will be due by August 15th.