



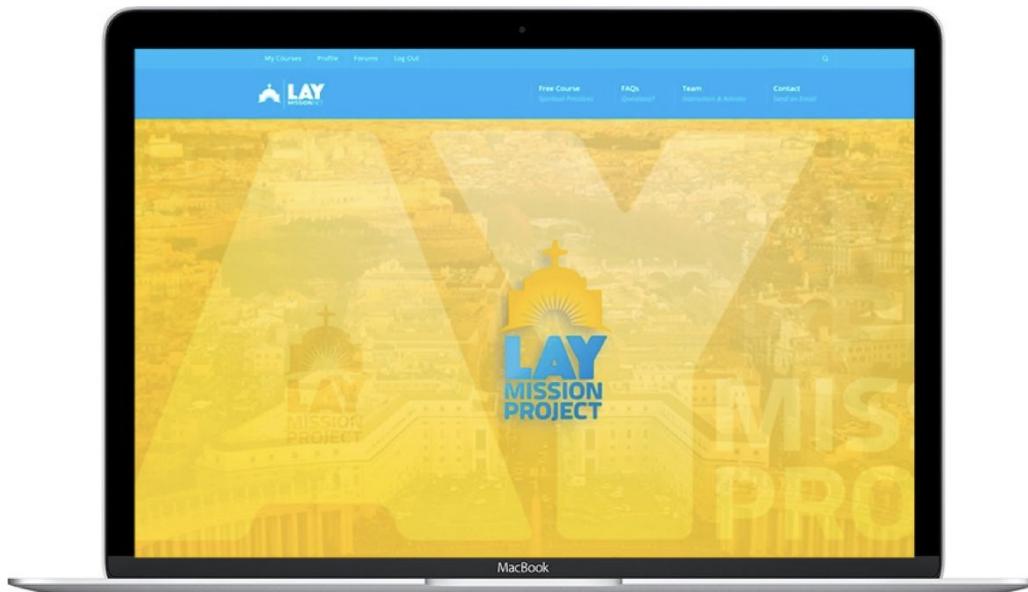
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW WITH FORMATION RATIO

Updated 2 April 2019

PURPOSE

The expressed purpose of the Lay Mission Project is:

to *animate* the lay apostolate in the Church by preparing laypeople for the sake of their fundamental calling: to transform persons and society through living the faith in all aspects of life – in the family, socially, in one’s occupation, etc. This is accomplished through a formation process that involves, prayer, reflection, education, and the animation of localized communities of mission-driven disciples.



laymission.net

Working toward this end, the Western Dominican Province and its *Lay Mission Project* has a hybrid formation curriculum with both online content delivery and in-person formation that:

- is distinctly lay in approach, spirituality, and focus
- is rooted in the Tradition and Magisterial teaching of the Church
- calls each baptized man and women to intentional discipleship
- fosters integration of faith, work, and relationships
- takes seriously the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to every Christian
- enables the faithful to discern more deeply his or her divine calling
- prepares him or her to be an effective & creative apostle in the midst of the world
- encourages collaboration between the clergy and laity in mission to the world
- is geared to the real lives of working adults
- forms participants to be effective evangelizers and formators of lay people
- fosters awareness, discussion, theological inquiry, and pastoral consultation throughout the Church with respect to the evangelization, apostolic mission, and formation of the laity

While there are graduate degree programs in pastoral theology and non-academic programs for the sake of particular ecclesial ministries, to date there has been no comprehensive program of formation for the sake of the lay mission that:

- is specifically focused on the secular mission of the laity in the Church
- is widely accessible to Catholics
- is rooted in personal discipleship and illumines personal and ecclesial vocation
- draws upon lay competence and integrates formal theological education with the practical demands and responsibilities of life in contemporary society
- has sufficient scope and depth to be trusted by bishops and priests for the sake of the type of collaboration that the Council has called for

The Lay Mission Project puts primary emphasis on formation results in order to be effective in mission. The project is committed to avoiding the typical piecemeal approach to formation, where organizations focus on offering particular courses, workshops, seminars, and informational resources. That is why the Lay Mission Project has first decided to develop a full-spectrum formation experience that embeds itself into the structure, life, and mission of the local Church.

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Second Vatican Council taught that the evangelization of the temporal order is preeminently a work of lay Catholics in collaboration with their pastors. The Lay Mission Project offers a comprehensive three-year formation for lay Catholics that emphasizes personal discipleship for the sake of animating the mission of the Church to secular society.

Instructors in the program are men and women of national and international prominence, including both clerics and lay men and women. Course and seminar content are placed online so that it is readily accessible to participants. Participants also meet regularly in local discipleship communities, which are led by facilitators who are chosen by pastors and trained to facilitate discussion and discernment at the local level. There have also been measures put into place to monitor the local implementation of the curriculum and to obtain feedback from facilitators, participants, and diocesan staff.

OBJECTIVES

Provide a spiritual, intellectual, and practical formation so that lay men and women:

- are disciples of Jesus
- know clearly what Jesus is asking of them through the Church (the lay vocation)
- have a theological and philosophical formation adequate to collaborate with their pastors in the Church's mission to the world
- allow revelation to illumine their secular commitments
- can discern both their charisms as well as their personal vocations
- can assist others in discerning both their charisms and personal vocations
- integrate faith and secular involvements to exercise their royal priesthood and participate intentionally in the life and mission of the Church
- collaborate with their pastors and with each other in discerning the Church's mission
- utilize their charisms to take on leadership roles of evangelization in the areas of their secular engagement
- are capable of engaging others in critical social dialogue in a manner informed by the faith

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

UPDATED
- 3/25/2019 -



RETREATS (3)
2 days ea. (one weekend)
In person

WORKSHOPS (3)
1 day ea.
In person

CORE COURSES (7)
5-14 weeks ea.
Hybrid (online & local meeting)

LECTURE
30-60 min/week
5-8 hrs/course

DISCIPLE COMMUNITY
3-7 discussions
2-3 hrs/meeting

SUPPLEMENTAL FORMATION
1.5-3 hrs/week
(reading, online coursework,
& reflection/prayer)

APPLIED COURSES (3)
5-6 weeks ea.
Hybrid

LECTURE
60 min/week
5-6 hrs/course

DISCIPLE COMMUNITY
2 discussions
2-3 hrs/meeting

SUPPLEMENTAL FORMATION
1.5-3 hrs/week
(reading, online coursework,
& reflection/prayer)

SEMINARS (3)
3 weeks ea.
Hybrid

LECTURE
60-90 min/week
5-6 hrs/seminar

DISCIPLE COMMUNITY
2 discussions
2-3 hrs/meeting

SUPPLEMENTAL FORMATION
1.5-3 hrs/week
(reading, online coursework,
& reflection/prayer)

YEAR ONE

Vocation: Ecclesial & Personal

LIVING THE BEATITUDES

THE LAY VOCATION

A Theology of the Lay Vocation

14 Weeks - 7 Lessons - 7 Discussions

CHARISM DISCERNMENT I

Discernment of Divine Gifts

SCRIPTURE I

Revelation & the Person of Christ

7 Weeks - 7 Lessons - 3 Discussions

ECCLESIOLOGY & HISTORY

The Church & the Lay Vocation:

An Historical Look

5 Weeks - 5 Lessons - 3 Discussions

YEAR TWO

Church Teaching & Witness

ACCOMPANIMENT

SCRIPTURE II

The Early Christian Communities

6 Weeks - 6 Lessons - 3 Discussions

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Witness to Christ

7 Weeks - 7 Lessons - 3 Discussions

CHARISM DISCERNMENT II

Helping Others Discern Their Charisms

MORAL THEOLOGY

Happiness: The Purpose of Morality

7 Weeks - 7 Lessons - 3 Discussions

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

A Primer for Secular Engagement

7 Weeks - 7 Lessons - 3 Discussions

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Communities Fostering Communion

YEAR THREE

Practical & Specialized Application

APOSTOLIC COMMISSION

EVANGELIZATION

Living the Christ Encounter

LAW & POLITICAL ORDER

Human Dignity in Social Structure

THE LOCAL CHURCH

Structure, Organization, & Resource

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Illumined by Social Teaching

SCIENCE & ARTS

The Material Order Imagined & Perceived

LITURGY

Summoned, Sanctified, & Sent

CAPSTONE PROJECT



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

UPDATED
- 3/25/2019 -

— KEY —

Core Formation Year

Specialized Formation Year

RETREAT
2 Days (one weekend)

In person

CORE COURSE
5-14 Weeks

Hybrid (online & local meeting)

SPECIAL COURSE
5 Weeks - 3 Discussions

Hybrid

WORKSHOP
1-2 days (one weekend)

In person

SEMINAR
3 Weeks - 2 Discussions

Hybrid



YEAR ONE OVERVIEW

YEAR ONE

Vocation: Ecclesial & Personal

LIVING THE BEATITUDES

THE LAY VOCATION

A Theology of the Lay Vocation

14 Weeks - 7 Lessons - 7 Discussions

CHARISM DISCERNMENT I

Discernment of Divine Gifts

SCRIPTURE I

Revelation & the Person of Christ

7 Weeks - 7 Lessons - 3 Discussions

ECCLESIOLOGY & HISTORY

The Church & the Lay Vocation:
An Historical Look

5 Weeks - 5 Lessons - 3 Discussions

The first year lays the foundations for a deep understanding of vocation, both ecclesial as well as personal. Each year begins with a retreat, which sets the focus for the year, and year one begins with the beatitudes.

Retreat

The purpose of the retreat is to invite the participants to become a community of disciples by reflecting upon Jesus' own instruction to the original community of disciples. We emphasize that the first disposition that Jesus requires of us, in order that we may learn from him, is true spiritual poverty. We therefore also emphasize that the community of the Church into which we are called must always be an environment in which we are safe to confess our poverty so that we can receive the gifts that Jesus intends for us. We emphasize that the instruction they receive is unlike any other: our tradition is the handing on of an encounter with Jesus. The tradition is entirely focused upon that encounter; the doctrines of the Church are for the sake of assisting us to encounter him and to live our lives in the light of that encounter. In this light, the whole purpose of their formation will be to deepen their encounter with Jesus as his disciples and to be formed to assist others to encounter him. The participants the assurance that each of their courses will have this focus and objective.

Retreat Director: Michael Sweeney, OP, Co-Founder & Executive Director of the Lay Mission Project; Co-Founder of the Catherine of Siena Institute; Former President of the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology.

The Lay Vocation

Formal instruction begins with a course on the theology of the laity. To be a lay person is not merely the “default” position in the Church whereby, if someone is not ordained or a member of a religious order, he or she is necessarily a lay person. Rather, the Lord calls and forms a People who, together, are to sustain and manifest his presence in the world. There is an emphasis on what is meant by “vocation,” particularly using St. John Paul’s apostolic exhortation, *Christifideles Laici*: to be a lay person is to be a member of the People of God and is to be called by God to participate as a member of that People in the redemptive mission of Jesus. We will show how the realization of one’s personal vocation is always manifested in the light of the vocation of the whole People. Throughout the course, we invite prayerful reflection and conversation supplemented with readings taken from magisterial documents – *Lumen Gentium*, *Gaudium et Spes*, *Christifideles Laici* – as well as excerpts of works by Yves Congar, OP.

Instructor: Michael Sweeney, OP, Co-Founder & *Executive Director of the Lay Mission Project; Co-Founder of the Catherine of Siena Institute; Former President of the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology.*

Scripture I: Scripture as Revelation & the Person of Christ

In order for participants to truly encounter the person of Jesus in the Gospels, some groundwork must be laid to help them receive Scripture as true revelation. Thus, the purpose of this course is not to be overly concerned about questions that would concern Scripture scholars, but to offer access to the Gospels that invites personal commitment and an intelligent wonder. The course begins with an introduction to the place of the Scriptures in the Church’s tradition. Then, a critical portrait of Jesus of Nazareth, fixing attention upon his mission to announce and live the reigning presence of God, his self-understanding as “son,” the parables, and his explanation that his obedient life would lead to suffering, and vindication, as Son of Man. Thus, that the Christian might “walk in the same way as he walked” (1 John 2:6).

Instructor: Fr. Francis J. Moloney, SDB, *Prolific Author; world-renowned Scripture Scholar; Senior Professorial Fellow at Australian Catholic University.*

Ecclesiology & History:

The Church and the Lay Vocation – An Historical Look

Using Scriptural passages that highlight the Church of the Origins, we examine the rising of the Christian community and the progressive self-awareness of the community as it organized to respond to the call of the Gospel and the needs of the times. We then continue by considering the Church’s self-understanding (ecclesiology) as it developed, especially from Trent to Vatican II. In the final portion of the course we highlight tasks confronting the Church in the contemporary world: Church as mystery; prophetic and pilgrim People sent to announce and celebrate salvation; community of disciples that witnesses and serves.

Instructor: Fr. Joseph Boenzi, SDB, *Director of the Institute of Salesian Studies (ISS); Professor of Theology and Spirituality at the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology in Berkeley; Former Professor at the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome (until his appointment as Director of ISS in 2017).*

Charism Discernment I

This process of charism discernment is designed to help Christians see and understand the how the Holy Spirit has gifted them to exercise leadership. After laying the foundation for the beginning of discernment through a workshop, participants take a digitally interactive questionnaire followed by an in person interview to help guide their discernment. In comparable parish-based charism discernment resources, too often the parish neglects the important follow-ups to the workshop. To ensure that participants continue to properly discern, appreciate, and take confidence in utilizing their God-given gifts, the follow-ups are built into the Lay Mission Project's formation with a second workshop, and within their disciple communities.

Instructors: The Lay Mission Project team

YEAR TWO OVERVIEW

YEAR TWO

Church Teaching & Witness

ACCOMPANIMENT

SCRIPTURE II

The Early Christian Communities

6 Weeks - 6 Lessons - 3 Discussions

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Witness to Christ

7 Weeks - 7 Lessons - 3 Discussions

CHARISM DISCERNMENT II

Helping Others Discern Their Charisms

MORAL THEOLOGY

Happiness: The Purpose of Morality

7 Weeks - 7 Lessons - 3 Discussions

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

A Primer for Secular Engagement

7 Weeks - 7 Lessons - 3 Discussions

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Communities Fostering Communion

Vatican Council II teaches that “by his Incarnation, he, the Son of God, in a certain way united himself with each man [and woman].” Commenting this text, St. John Paul taught that “the Church wishes to serve this single end: that each person may be able to find Christ, in order that Christ may walk with each person the path of life....” This second year of formation is designed to form the participants to delve deeply into the riches of the Tradition through the study of Scripture, the Sacraments, and the Church’s moral and social teachings. It is capped off with taking a look at faith formation through the lense of witness, spiritual accompaniment, and stages of relationship.

Retreat

The focus of this retreat will be spiritual accompaniment, whereby the members of the lay faithful may walk with others in the place of Christ. In order to do so, we will reflect on remaining in Christ, and abiding in him. The scriptural components of the retreat will be complemented with particular reference to the teaching of St. Francis De Sales and the spirituality of St. John Bosco.

Retreat Director: Fr. John Roche, SDB, *Vocation director for the Salesian Society; Former Director of the Institute of Salesian Studies; Former Adjunct Professor of Theology at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology.*

Sacramental Life: Lay Witness to Christ

The objective of this course is to consider the sacramental life of the lay person, rooted in Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist: how each sacrament enables us to recognize Christ, to know him, and to participate in his life with the Father; how the sacraments are central to the life of the Church and of lay witness to Christ; how the sacrament of marriage and, with it, the family is the foundation of human society.

Instructor: Michael Sweeney, OP, Co-Founder & *Executive Director of the Lay Mission Project; Co-Founder of the Catherine of Siena Institute; Former President of the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology.*

Scripture II: The Witness to Christ of the First Communities

The focus of this course is on the New Testament epistles, with a particular emphasis upon St. Paul. The objective is that participants will be able to deepen their encounter with Christ and apply what they learn to their secular commitments. Key elements in the theology of St. Paul are explored, as they relate to the formation of the first Christian communities. The epistles challenge our culture emphasis upon individualism and the tendency to regard religious faith as subjective, private, and even as esoteric, and the course emphasizes the relevance of the epistles to the challenge of evangelizing contemporary society,

Instructor: Sherri Brown, *Professor of New Testament Theology at Creighton University; Author.*

Charism Discernment II

After having completed the initial charism discernment process, participants delve further into not only understanding their own charisms, but also how assist others in the discernment of their charisms. Some participants will then be invited to train to be an interviewer, and possibly offer the level one workshop itself.

Instructors: Lay Mission Project Team

Moral Theology: Happiness – The Purpose of Morality

This course introduces the moral life in the light of the Christian understanding of the human person and of our human destiny of beatitude in Christ. The main objectives are (1) to derive the moral teaching through an attention to human agency and responsibility, grounding it in experience, (2) to master some of the key concepts in the Church's moral teaching; (3) to introduce virtue theory, and (4) to apply our understanding to a consideration of some of the major moral challenges in contemporary culture. This course prepares participants to better receive the following course on Catholic Social teaching, in order to provide the proper lens through which the third year special courses are engaged.

Instructor: Michael Sherwin, OP, *Professor Chair of Fundamental Moral Theology, Director of the Saint Thomas Aquinas Institute for Theology and Culture, and Director of the Archives Pinckaers at University of Fribourg, Switzerland; Advisory Board Member of the Aquinas Institute, Blackfriars Hall, Oxford; Associate Editor, Nova et Vetera: International Theological Journal, English Edition.*

Catholic Social Teaching

This course is aimed at enabling participants to acquire a good understanding of the social teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. The objectives are: (1) to show the historical development of the social teaching; (2) to learn of the three necessary societies: the family, state and Church; (3) to define and distinguish the types of justice, commutative, distributive and common good, and their applications; (4) to understand the principles of solidarity, subsidiarity, and the universal distribution of goods; (5) to consider some of the principal challenges facing society since Vatican Council II. These themes are taken up in the third year courses.

Instructor: Francis Russell Hittinger, *Ordinarius: Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas, Ordinarius: Pontifical Academy of the Social Sciences; Warren Chair of Catholic Studies and Research Professor of Law at the University of Tulsa; Fellow at the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology.*

Faith Formation: Faith Communities Fostering Communion

This seminar (3-week course) views faith formation in light of covenant theology, and therefore as a lifelong reality. Key to this reality is how the stages of human relationship correlate with the often gradual process of coming to the faith. Understanding this helps a disciple to closely accompany a person from a hesitant curiosity to fully embracing the faith, and delving deep into its mysteries. The seminar situates and differentiates the stages of formation, and enables the participant to see indicators that the one whom they are accompanying are ready to be encouraged to take the next step. The seminar offers the participant the opportunity to reflect on his or her life as a means to realizing the providential movement of the Spirit in his or her own life, which enables one to attend the life story of another through spiritual accompaniment.

Interviewer: Sean Bryan, *Co-Founder & Operations Director of the Lay Mission Project; Professional American Ninja Warrior Athlete & Social Media Evangelist.*

Professional: Michael Sweeney, OP, *Co-Founder & Executive Director of the Lay Mission Project; Co-Founder of the Catherine of Siena Institute; Former President of the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology.*

YEAR THREE OVERVIEW

YEAR THREE
Practical & Specialized Application

APOSTOLIC COMMISSION

EVANGELIZATION
Living the Christ Encounter

LAW & POLITICAL ORDER
Human Dignity in Social Structure

THE LOCAL CHURCH
Structure, Organization, & Resource

ECONOMY & BUSINESS
Illumined by Social Teaching

SCIENCE & ARTS
The Material Order Imagined & Perceived

LITURGY
Summoned, Sanctified, & Sent

CAPSTONE PROJECT
MISSION PROJECT

The third year of the formation, in real and practical terms, concerns the apostolic call of the laity. The curriculum is highly focused on various areas of secular competency and engagement. The courses for the third year shift from a single lecturer, to a dialogue between an inquirer and a well-formed Catholic who has exhibited competent leadership in their respective area of secular engagement. The dialogue is intended to be picked up by the local disciple groups in their discussion meetings and beyond.

Retreat

The retreat is based upon the “great commission” in the Gospel of Matthew. It focuses upon the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church, and in the lives of the faithful, and emphasizes the call to live in the Spirit, and to invoke the Holy Spirit for the sake of the Church’s secular mission. During the retreat participants will begin to reflect upon their capstone project.

Retreat Director: Michael Sweeney, OP, Co-Founder & Executive Director of the Lay Mission Project; Co-Founder of the Catherine of Siena Institute; former president of the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology

Evangelization: Living the Christ Encounter

Weaving together topics from the first two years, this course sets the groundwork for applying what has been learned to concrete areas of secular commitment. The seminar first clearly articulates the multivalent use of the term, how exactly it is to be understood in light of the kerygma of our Lord, and how it is interpersonal and missionary in nature. However, in order for the hidden energy of the gospel to be actualized, one must consider what gets in the way of it being heard in today's milieu. After a close look at the social imaginaries of this secular age, Fr. John points out how a Gospel-illuminated imagination corrects the misconceptions promoted by these social imaginaries, and offers witness as the primary means to evangelize persons, organizations, and society as a whole.

Interviewer: Sean Bryan, Co-Founder & Operations Director of the Lay Mission Project; Professional American Ninja Warrior Athlete & Social Media Evangelist.

Professional: Fr. John Roche, SDB, Vocation director for the Salesian Society; Former Director of the Institute of Salesian Studies; Former Adjunct Professor of Theology at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology.

Political Order & Law: Human Dignity in Social Structure

In this course we will apply Catholic social teaching to the political order in the United States. Our focus will be upon responsible action in the light of Christ's redemptive mission. The following lessons will be offered: **Constitutional Law and Jurisprudence** (reading the Constitution in the light of the Church's social teaching, the relationship of the Church to civil government, the prerogative of our courts, responding to unjust legislation); **Political Process and the Responsibility of Citizenship** (responsibility of Catholics who hold an office, the application of the Church's social teaching in the American context, the role of the Church in the political process, the responsibility of a Catholic citizen given our pluralistic context, how we can best influence political process).

Interviewer: Michael Sweeney, OP, Co-Founder & Executive Director of the Lay Mission Project; Co-Founder of the Catherine of Siena Institute; former president of the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology

Professionals: Three fellows of the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology:

Francis Russell Hittinger, *Ordinarius: Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas, Ordinarius: Pontifical Academy of the Social Sciences; Warren Chair of Catholic Studies and Research Professor of Law at the University of Tulsa.*

Dan Lungren, *Former Attorney General of the State of California; Former US Congressman.*

Ned Dolejsi, *Former Executive Director of the California Catholic Conference; Chair of the State Advisory Committee on Institutional Religion; Chair of the Public Policy Committee of the Catholic Health Association; Board Member for the Alliance of Catholic Health Care, the Leadership Roundtable Institute and Catholic Charities of California; Vice President for the National Association of State Catholic Conference Directors. Ned has been honored by Pope John Paul II as Knight Commander of St. Gregory for his national and international service to the Church.*

Business and the Economy: Illumined by Social Teaching

In this course we will apply the Catholic social teaching to considerations of work, commerce and the economy. Again, our focus is the exercise of the lay apostolate by means of participation in business and the professions. The following lessons will be offered: **Interpreting the Economy** (defining economy, measures of a healthy economy, relationship of the economy to the political order, responsibility for the common good, preferential option for the poor, possibilities for local initiatives); **The Corporate World** (New initiatives in impact investment); **Human Work and Vocation** (“work” in light of Catholic social teaching, relation of work to personal vocation, rights of workers, obligations of employers).

Interviewer: Michael Sweeney, OP, Co-Founder & *Executive Director of the Lay Mission Project; Co-Founder of the Catherine of Siena Institute; former president of the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology*

Professionals: Three fellows of the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology: Mary Hirschfeld, *Assistant Professor, Economics & Theology, Villanova University*; John Denniston, *Entrepreneur: Chairman of the Board of a social-impact company called Shared-X, Former President of the San Mateo County Chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society*; Michael Naughton, *Director of the Center for Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas (MN), and Koch Chair in Catholic Studies*

Science & the Arts

Through the various sciences we attempt to understand and manipulate the material order. Similarly, through artistic expression we imagine and interpret the material creation. In this course we will apply principles from the Catholic social teaching to scientific and artistic endeavors, remembering our obligation to witness to Christ. Lessons will include: **The Arts as a Field of the Apostolate** (responsibilities of a Catholic artist, the “Catholic imagination” and the arts, artistic expressions and Catholic identity, the use of poetry and narrative in Christian revelation, contemporary examples of successful Catholic contributions in the arts); **Science, Scientism and the Catholic Tradition** (Challenging the notion of a “scientific worldview,” the limits of scientific claims, the usefulness of scientific discoveries to Christian theology, Christian vocation and the sciences, the relationship of scientific research to the Church’s magisterium, the Catholic view of the human person and developments in science).

Instructors: Fr, Michael Dodds, OP, STM (highest academic honor of the Dominican Order), *Professor of Philosophy & Theology, Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology, Author.* Dana Gioia, *Former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts; California Poet Laureate; Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at the University of Southern California*

Liturgy: Summoned Sanctified & Sent

We will consider the Christian vocation as the worship of God and its expression in the divine liturgy: how the liturgy situates and expresses the lay vocation; how the liturgy establishes our communion in Christ; how, in the liturgy, we are summoned, sanctified and sent into the world. All of this is focused on assisting the participants in their full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy, which extends into their everyday lives as apostles, as priests, prophets, and kings.

Instructor: Lay Mission Project Team

Capstone Project

Participants will reflect upon the lay vocation as they have come to understand it and show an actual application of the lay apostolate to some aspect of their life and work. The purpose of the capstone is four-fold:

1. **For the Participants** – to facilitate further reflection and integration of the material, and to give it expression in a concrete way, exemplifying what they've learned.
2. **For the Local Church** – to foster conversation around the lay apostolate, and explore, and be more aware of, various new and existing initiatives, and assist in the shift of relationships necessary to accomplish the paradigm shift necessary for the lay role in the church to operate as its called.
3. **For the Lay Mission Project** – to assess the effectiveness of the formation, and to be able to share it with other dioceses.
4. **For the People to Whom the Participants are Sent** – So that more people encounter Christ risen!

FACILITATOR FEEDBACK

“It’s wonderful to see the growth in such a short amount of time.”

“I’ve never seen such a diverse group on the spectrum of spirituality all come together and share the faith in such a profound way.”

“A couple people in my small group were hesitant to start this program because of their experience with Notre Dame’s STEP program. They also thought they weren’t going to have enough time. But with my encouragement, they began the Lay Mission Project and are loving it!...One of them said that she didn’t know how much she didn’t know, and the other said, “for the first time in six years, I’m actually feeling peace.”

“My whole disciple community finds the content so engaging! One of the members didn’t think she could make it to the discussion session because she was just getting home from a long trip, but she decided to come right from the airport after hours of traveling.”

“One person in my group began labor, and the person who was giving her a ride to the discussion session had to talk her out of coming to the group anyway, and to go to the hospital.”

“One of my group members heard I was coming to this meeting and said, ‘please let Father know that the material is blowing my mind...I am learning so much about who we are as laity and how the Church views and values us. I didn’t realize how valuable we are to the Church and to the world...’”

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

“The sessions are short and manageable, yet packed with so much relevant information. I find myself taking in the material and already applying it in my life.”

“The Lay Mission Project has helped me in so many areas-my home and work relationships, as a catechist, as a Catholic! Reading scripture has come even more alive! I am grateful!”

“With every lesson, no matter what the topic is, it connects with current life events. Then I take that moment, let it sink in, and watch the beauty of His work before asking what it was that I missed. A habit I am trying my best to do on a daily basis.”

“Goodness...how to respond. I fear you'll grow tired of me expressing my gratitude to be included in this group and formation but I'm totally sincere! To be specific on just a few of many teachings that have changed me: Knowing I have an office, knowing that I am beloved, that I have a vocation to represent our Lord in society as a lay person. More importantly: to SEE with Jesus as I encounter others in life. Knowing the gospel more fully, especially the relationship between Jesus and the Father and that we have also been adopted by "Abba.”

“The Lay Mission Project is a catalyst into deeper learning and growth in my faith and knowledge. I find the instructional sessions so ‘eye opening’ and informational. I am doing my best to use the information I am learning. For example, I gave a teaching to the RCIA group last weekend on ‘The Role of the Laity.’ The feedback was great. Many mentioned how the ‘theology and doctrine’ teachings were good, but this topic on the laity was so relevant and applicable. They felt enlightened and empowered. Yes!”

“As far as the scripture courses, I find I view Scripture a little differently now. At first, I struggled with the history of the evolution of the gospels and I don't know why. What I find as the best part of the learning from the Scripture teachings is the "reconciliation" between the Gospels differences. It made so much sense and provided me explanations for the discrepancies. I looked forward to the rest of the sessions and *I continue to be amazed at the information and the comprehensible way they are presented.* I am so grateful to be a part of this project.”

“This formation is immediately applicable! I have been using it regularly in my work and in my daily life and it continues to impact both myself and others with whom I live and work. We are learning SO much and it is ALL good! I appreciate being able to access the lessons as my schedule allows. What a blessing that the Holy Spirit is giving this to us in these times!”