



## **Missionary Leadership Institute**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is the Missionary Leadership Institute?**

The Missionary Leadership Institute is part of Bishop David Ricken's desire to form missionary disciples. The Institute consists of an Intensive Year of missionary discipleship formation and for those who desire deeper ministerial formation, two additional years. The Missionary Leadership Intensive Year is a process of prayer, basic coursework, discernment of the call to holiness and of God-given charisms, service to neighbor and discipleship formation.

#### **Why is the Institute necessary?**

Bishop Ricken wants to ensure that all our lay leaders (as well as clergy) are first and foremost missionary disciples. A missionary disciple is a friend and follower of Jesus who is sent on mission to disciple at least two others, meaning to form others to discover, follow, worship and share Jesus. The workshops, courses and training involved in the Institute are all designed to form participants as missionary disciples and help them discern their vocation, their particular call to holiness.

#### **Who is the Institute for? Is the Institute for parish staff or for volunteers, or both?**

Both. The institute features the Missionary Leadership Intensive Year, which can serve as a stand-alone year for parish leaders and for aspirants in the Diaconate formation program. Council members, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) leaders, those involved in liturgical roles, catechists and other volunteer lay leaders are invited to apply.

Those who need deeper ministerial formation can continue in the Institute in a two-year process for lay ecclesial ministers. The Intensive Year is a prerequisite.

#### **Does this Institute replace both the Emmaus Program and the Discipulos de Cristo program?**

Yes. The Institute serves the purposes of the previous programs and builds upon them by serving as a single "house of formation." It differs in that, beginning with the first year, the Institute provides explicit formation and accompaniment to those called to missionary discipleship. It is one program offered in English and Spanish rather than two separate programs.

**How will the Spanish-speaking program differ from the English-speaking program? Will there be separate tracks for English and Spanish speakers?**

Yes, there will be separate tracks. The Spanish program is intended to be culturally appropriate for our Hispanic community, with tracks in Spanish designed for Hispanics.

**Where and when will the classes be held?**

During the first year of the Institute, the Missionary Leadership Intensive Year, workshops will be held on Saturdays at the diocesan campus and at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality in De Pere. Participants will also take online formation through “Franciscan at Home,” sponsored by the Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio.

**How will the classes be structured? Weekends/weeknights? Through the school year?**

Coursework will take place throughout the academic year, with the major workshops taking place on Saturdays. Other coursework can be done on the student’s own time or at a mutually convenient time gathered with others in their cohort.

**Who will be the program instructors?**

Like the Emmaus and Discipulos courses in the past, instructors will be diocesan directors, parish lay ministers, clergy and other instructors with the academic credentials and pastoral experience to teach, mentor and accompany our participants. The Franciscan at Home Catechetical Institute coursework is provided by faculty of Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

**What happens during the Missionary Leadership Intensive Year?**

The first year of the Institute is geared toward forming missionary disciples. Orientation will take place in August, with daylong Saturday workshops on topics such as “Encounter Jesus” and “Discerning the Call to Holiness” in September, October, December, February and April. Participants who complete the formation will be commissioned as missionary disciples by Bishop Ricken at the end of the academic year.

Online Franciscan at Home coursework can be completed at the student’s own pace, with opportunities to gather in small discussion cohorts. The new “Entrust: Disciples on Mission Retreat,” (see below) will anchor the Intensive Year. Participants will also go through a process of charism discernment and will take part in a practicum to integrate their learning.

**What is “Entrust”?**

The Missionary Leadership Intensive Year will feature the “Entrust: Disciples on Mission Retreat,” a weekend experience designed to form and inspire those in parishes to become missionary disciples. You can learn more at <https://www.gbdioc.org/office-of-discipleship-formation/entrust-retreat>.

**What will Intensive Year graduates do?**

Graduates of the Missionary Leadership Intensive Year will be strengthened in their vocation and equipped as missionary disciples to disciple others in whatever contexts that they find themselves in.

**If I have already done charism discernment and Entrust, do I have to repeat them?**

Yes. Discipleship formation is best accomplished in community. As such, while prior experiences are valid, we recommend taking the entire process as the composition of the community will be different and accompaniment options are enhanced throughout the process.

**Is the program supported by the Bishop's Appeal?**

Yes. We are most grateful to the generous people of the Diocese of Green Bay, who have supported the Bishop's Appeal and to the Advancing the Mission Leadership Endowment. The Institute would not be possible without it.

**Is the Institute specific to the Diocese of Green Bay, or recognized in other parts of the country?**

Diocesan formation varies throughout the country and as such the Institute is specific to the Diocese of Green Bay. However, reciprocity within the state of Wisconsin is generally recognized in relation to diocesan formation programs.

**What is the tuition?**

Tuition for the first year of the Institute, the Missionary Leadership Intensive Year, will be \$250. Scholarships will be available in case of financial difficulty. For the subsequent two years, tuition is still being determined.

**How do people find out more information or register for the Missionary Leadership Institute?**

A: They can visit our website, [www.gbdioc.org/institute](http://www.gbdioc.org/institute); contact Jamie Whalen at [institute@gbdioc.org](mailto:institute@gbdioc.org) or (920) 272-8268; or Sr. Martha Escobar at [institute@gbdioc.org](mailto:institute@gbdioc.org) or (920) 272-8331.