MEMORANDUM

TO: Theology of Lay Ministry Instructors
FROM: Nelsa I. Elías
SUBJECT: Comments Regarding Course
DATE: Summer 2011

The Pastoral Institute has made some changes to program procedures that will affect all instructors. The most significant is the use of the PI Online Classroom (Aula en Linea del Instituto Pastoral). Beginning last year with the Class of 2013, most of the participants’ required reading materials (except for books) were posted on the PI Online Classroom. This year many of the instructors’ materials will be posted online as well, for example the course outlines, memos to instructors, and some of the instructors’ background reading materials. We ask for your patience as we transition to this new procedure. We are aware that change is not always easy and want to remind you that we are here to assist you as well.

With regard to the course, remember that it is important that participants in the lay formation program have every opportunity to become acquainted with the course goals and objectives which will guide your presentation of the course material as well as indicate what they are expected to have learned by the completion of the course. Therefore, we ask you to please review the course purpose and the objectives of the participants’ education/formation experience at the first session of the course. We ask that you allocate time for questions or comments from the group. We also request that you remind the participants that the articles are available on the PI Online Classroom and that they are responsible for printing their own copies.

A copy of the United States Bishops document on lay ministry entitled Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord is being provided to you as background reading. Part One, Section B is particularly useful for explaining in terms of communio the theology of lay ministry that is contained in the documents of Vatican II and more recent theological reflection. One point that must be emphasized is that the document is focused on paid professional lay ecclesial ministers (see description on pages 11-13), the distinction of which must always be made clear to the program’s participants who are being prepared to be volunteer lay pastoral leaders.

Again we are also providing you with a copy of Forward in Hope-Saying Amen to Lay Ecclesial Ministry by Bishop Matthew H. Clark. This book gives an overview of the kinds of issues that have come up after Co-Workers came out. Participants need to know that the Church and theologians are engaged in an ongoing conversation about lay leaders. They are trying to answer questions like: What should lay ministers be called? Is lay ministry a “vocation” in the sense that the priesthood is a vocation?
At the end of this material is a supplemental reading and resource list. This list will be posted on the PI Online Classroom and the participants will be able to access it when they complete the program as part of an overall comprehensive packet of information. There is no need for you to make copies and distribute in the class; however, if someone asks for a reading list feel free to make a copy for him or her.

Please note:
Finally, there is no Integration Paper for this course. In its place, the participants will be asked to submit two one to two page integration essays. Please see Part I and Part IV of the course outline for details. For the sake of consistency, we are now requiring that you offer the participants a choice of the two questions provided only. This will help us ensure that the theological and intellectual goals of the Pastoral Institute are met.

Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the Pastoral Institute. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this or any of the course material. Our prayer is that you will have a fruitful and positive experience this semester.

Enc.
Course Title: Theology of Lay Ministry

Course Length:
8 hours

Purpose:
Through this course, those lay persons who are, or will be, serving in volunteer parish leadership positions, will come to understand the development and theological underpinnings of the Church’s teaching on the source and meaning of their call to ministry. Particular emphasis is placed on the impact of the work of Vatican Council II (1962-1965) on the ministry of the laity in the Church and in the world.

Objectives:
1. To present the concept of vocation as rooted in baptism and the baptismal foundation of all ministry as a sharing in the priestly, prophetic and kingly roles of Christ.
2. To highlight the theological development in understanding the universal call to holiness and the role of the laity in the Church as a consequence of the work of Vatican II and beyond.
3. To heighten awareness of the laity’s call to be leaven in the world, especially through their role in the new Evangelization.
4. To introduce the concept of servant leadership in the context of mission and ministry in the Church.

Required Reading:


Lumen Gentium: Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. (Available in English and Spanish)


Recommended Reading for participants:

English:

Spanish:

Instructor’s Background Reading:


John Paul II. Christifideles Laici: Apostolic Exhortation on the Laity. (English and Spanish)


Course Title: Theology of Lay Ministry

**Course Outline**

**Part I: Why Lay Ministry? What is Lay Ministry?**

- The aim of this part is to provide the overall context for the work of the course and to highlight the one ministry of Jesus Christ in which all the baptized have a share.
  - Discuss course purpose and objectives
  - The need for and urgency of ministry formation
  - Outcome of the Seventh Synod of Brooklyn (1996-1997) relating to lay ministry formation in this diocese
  - The Gospel call to ministry
  - Servant leadership as the context for ministry
  - Vocation rooted in baptism and the call to ministry to continue the mission of Jesus Christ

- Participant readings
  - Selected Scripture passages
    - The one ministry of Christ; serving as Christ’s hands and feet; sending of the 72
      1 Cor 12:12-26, Luke 10: 1-12
    - Jesus’ ministerial actions
      Mt 15:32-39 (feeding), Mt 8:14-15 (curing), Mt 5 (teaching), John 4 (listening), John 6 (filled hunger and thirst for God), Mt 25:31-46 (needs of our brothers and sisters), Mt 9:8, Luke 5:25-26 (all for the glory of God)
  - The call of Simon; call of Levi
    - Parish Ministry Today: *We’re All in it Together* (Catholic Update)
    - Ministerio Laico: No sólo para unos pocos elegidos (Catholic Update)
    - Your Ministry is a Vocation

- **Writing assignment #1 (English):** (Instructors: Please only use these questions.)
  Participants will be asked to answer one of the following questions:
1. Based on what you have learned so far in the course, has your understanding of vocation and lay ministry been challenged? Does it make a difference if you understand your ministry as an expression of your vocation?

2. Do you and other ministers in your parish intentionally notice and point out gifts as they arise from members of the community? How do you help people to understand their unique gifts as signs of vocation in service to God and the community?

• Tarea- Ensayo #1: (Instructores: Por favor solo use estas preguntas.
   El participante debe contestar UNA de las siguientes preguntas.

1. Basado en lo que usted ha aprendido hasta ahora en el curso ¿ha sido retado su entendimiento de lo que significa “vocación” y ministerio laico? ¿Hay alguna diferencia si se entiende su ministerio como una expresión de su vocación?

2. En su parroquia, ¿los ministros (incluyéndose a usted), se dan cuenta e identifican intencionalmente los dones de los demás miembros de la comunidad? ¿Cómo ayuda usted a las personas a comprender sus dones únicos como signos de la vocación para el servicio a Dios y la comunidad?

Part II: Theology of the Laity Immediately Prior to Vatican Council II

• Providing a context and foundation for understanding the development of the role of the laity at and beyond Vatican Council II
  o The world and the church prior to 1960s
  o The history, meaning and theological implications of “Catholic Action” as the role of the laity

Part III: Theology of the Laity at Vatican Council II

• Introduction of the theological development of the role of the laity as a consequence of the work of Vatican Council II through examination of Lumen Gentium
  o Chapter II: The People of God
    • The Church described as the “new People of God”
    • The focus on “the total community of the Church” before describing the hierarchical structure of the Church
    • The whole people of God, laity and ordained, participate in the one priesthood of Christ
  o Chapter IV: The Laity
    • The laity as sharers in the priestly, prophetic and kingly roles of Christ (#31; descriptions in #34-36)
    • The lay apostolate as participation in the saving mission of the Church (#33)
    • The laity’s role in evangelization (#35)
    • Collaboration between laity and pastors in the Church (#37)
  o Chapter V: The Universal Call to Holiness
• All the faithful, of “whatever rank and status” are called to holiness (#40 and throughout the chapter)

• Participant reading: *Lumen Gentium*, especially Chapters II, IV and V

### Part IV: Theology of the Laity – Vatican II and Beyond

• “The call to Christian maturity” (see *Called and Gifted* pages 19-23)

• Lay ministry in the church and the world (see *Christifideles Laici* #23)

• Laity’s role in the new evangelization (see *Christifideles Laici* #34)

• Lay ministry rooted in the theology of communion (see *Co-Workers* pages 17-26)

• Participant reading: *The New Evangelization in Brooklyn and Queens*

### Writing assignment #2 (English): The Participants will be asked to answer ONE of the following questions.

In order to facilitate the discussion during the final part of this course, participants will write an integration essay based on the readings for Part V as they relate to one of the areas of discussion and their own particular area of ministry.

1. Explain briefly the meaning of the “new evangelization” as envisioned by Bishop DiMarzio. As a member of the laity and a future lay pastoral leader, what is your role in the new evangelization? What challenges do you think you will face?

2. How does/will the Holy Spirit help you in your vocation as a lay minister? Explain how your ministry will help the needs of the parish and of those in parish leadership.

### Tarea: Ensayo #2 - Español

El participante debe contestar UNA de las siguientes preguntas.

1. Explique brevemente el significado de la “nueva evangelización” usando la visión del Obispo DiMarzio. Como miembro de los laicos y un futuro líder laico pastoral, ¿cuál es su papel en la nueva evangelización? ¿Qué retos cree que va a enfrentar?

2. ¿Cómo le ayudará el Espíritu Santo en su vocación de ministro laico? Explique cómo su ministerio ayudará a las necesidades de la parroquia y de aquellos en el liderazgo parroquial.

### Part V: Theology of Lay Ministry for the Third Millennium: Reflection and Dialogue

• Highlight the current landscape of lay ministry in the church now and in the future.
• Facilitate reflection and dialogue on the ways in which the readings and work of the course relate to the following needs and concerns. (Refer to Forward in Hope-Saying Amen to Lay Ecclesial Ministry.)
  
  o Issues arising after Co-Workers was written, e.g.: What should lay ministers be called? Does recognizing the title “lay ecclesial minister” create a new hierarchy in the Church? From where do they draw their authority? What is their relationship to the priest? What is the difference between professional lay ministers and volunteer lay ministers?
  
  o The challenges and needs of the Church in the 3rd millennium
  
  o The challenges and needs of lay ministry in the 3rd millennium
  
  o The new lay leaders themselves and how they are meeting the challenges and fulfilling the needs of the Church
  
  o Ministry in and for a culturally diverse Church

• Participant reading
  
  o The Holy Spirit’s Call: The Vocation to Lay Ecclesial Ministry
  
  o Lay Ecclesial Ministers and the Future of Parish Leadership
  
  o Multicultural Ministry in Parishes Today and Important Themes for its Future, especially pages 5-8


Paul VI. *Evangelii Nuntiandi: On Evangelization the Modern World.*


Spanish: [http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi_sp.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi_sp.html)


