

INSTITUTE FOR LAY MINISTRY

Ministry Visit

An important goal of the Ministry Formation Program is to prepare lay men and women for ministry and service to their parishes or other related apostolates. The ministry visit provides an opportunity to continue the development of your interpersonal and ministerial skills. Inviting you to move beyond your present understanding of ministry, this visit will hopefully open you to the diverse needs of the Church.

The ministry visit allows you to observe and experience the workings of a ministry in your parish or a parish other than your own. It may be a ministry in which you are already involved, but want to see how it is implemented in another parish. On the other hand, it may be a ministry in which you have never been involved but would like to learn more about and experience.

To accomplish your Ministry Visit you will follow these four steps:

- Discernment
- Arrangements
- Visit
- Reflection

Your ministry visit should take place some time between January and May.

The ministry visit form should be completed and brought to the last mentoring session. These forms will aid in the sharing within your mentoring groups. The form should be submitted to the office via e-mail to ilm@allentowndiocese.org



Discernment: What I plan to do

Is there a place God is calling you to “Come and See”?

We invite you to spend time in prayer seeking God’s direction in your decision. Be open to the possibility that it might be something you least expect. This is an opportunity to broaden your understanding of the many ways in which the Church responds to the call to promote the Kingdom of God. After time spent in thought and prayer, identify a ministry that you would like to learn more about or experience.

You may choose:

- To visit a parish that has a ministry in which you may or may not be participating so that you might experience it or learn more about it.
Some examples are:
Pastoral Council, Formation of Liturgical Ministers, RCIA Team, Liturgy Committee, Baptismal Preparation, Adult Faith Formation, Faith-sharing Groups, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Scripture Study, Social Justice, Respect-Life Ministry, Funeral Ministry, Bereavement, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities, Parish Nursing, Outreach Ministry (*St. Vincent de Paul, Hospital/Nursing Home Ministry, etc.*), Separated and Divorced Ministry, Charismatic Prayer Group, Young Mothers’ Group, Inactive Catholics, Ecumenism
- To visit a service or outreach program not connected to a parish, for example
Prison Ministry, AIDS Ministry, Soup Kitchen, Homeless Shelter, English as a Second Language, Thrift Shop, Natural Family Planning, Marriage Preparation, Multicultural Affairs, Hispanic Affairs.

Consult with your pastor or our office for additional input and ideas if needed. Remember this is only a visit to expose you to a ministry. This does not necessarily mean you will continue with this ministry when you have completed the program.

Arrangements: Preparing for your visit

Identify the parish/program you will visit: You will need to connect with a contact person at the parish you will visit to help in setting up and facilitating your visit. When calling, tell the contact person what you are doing and why, i.e. you are a participant in the Institute for Lay Ministry within the Diocese and, as part of the curriculum, are doing a ministry visit in order to experience a specific area of ministry.

Possible ways to find a contact person for the ministry of interest:

- Refer to the Parish Ministry Lists provided by our office – these lists have the names of contact people for specific areas of ministry as provided to us by parishes within the Diocese.
- Collect parish bulletins from your area
- Talk to your pastor or parish staff
- Network with others in your class
- Contact the Office of Adult Formation

Plan a date and time for your visit.

Ministry Visit: The day has come

Following your visit, complete the Ministry Visit Form.

Reflection: Pondering the experience

You have responded to God's call to "come and see".

After your visit, take time to reflect on your experience.

Bring the completed Ministry Visit Form to the last night of your mentoring session. This is for your sharing purposes only.

Submit the form to the office via ilm@allentowndiocese.org upon completion.