



**2011 Collegeville National Symposium
on Lay Ecclesial Ministry**

August 2-5, 2011

Collegeville, Minnesota

Organizational Commitments

August 5, 2011

At the conclusion of the symposium co-sponsors of the symposium made the following commitments to advance excellence in lay ecclesial ministry.

I. Universities

Aquinas Institute of Theology

1. To research the feasibility of a regional meeting for LEM in collaboration with the St. Louis, Belleville, Springfield-IL diocesan offices which would provide the opportunity to build relationship and offer a venue to communicate national initiatives which move forward an understanding of LEM.
2. To develop and implement a strategy to begin to collect the stories of call/journey of our graduates who serve as LEM.
3. Each Aquinas Institute graduate Symposium participant will contribute one essay which reflects some aspect of their experience of this gathering to our online publication, Aquinas Matters.

Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago

1. Continue to evolve and improve the Emmaus Lay Human and Spiritual Formation Program at CTU to include reference and discussion about the identity of LEM as one formal ministerial identity
2. While looking for grant money, the Emmaus Lay Formation Program needs to address new models and methods of theological reflection that connect with young adults.

Franciscan University of Steubenville

1. We want to broaden the accessibility of our Catechetical Formation Program by putting our St. John Bosco conference online.
2. We would like to participate in future Lay Ecclesial Ministry symposia and to contribute to the study of the ecclesiological foundations of LEM.

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

1. To share results of symposium and continue the dialogue among students, faculty, and administrators.
2. To further incorporate the certification standards into our ministerial formation curriculum.

Loyola Institute for Ministry

1. To make a certificate in Spanish entitled *Certificado en Teología y Ministerio* more accessible, especially through networking with other symposium participants.

2. To correlate the new national certification standards, to develop a portfolio mentoring system to assist with certification application, to promote the certification process, and to encourage our students and graduates to pursue certification.

Saint Catherine University

1. We will go back to the theology faculty as a whole at St. Catherine University to reflect theologically and review our curriculum in light of the ministry certification standards. We will be attentive in the hiring processes for three theology faculty positions we are entering into this fall to the candidates' attunement to the education/formation of LEMs.
2. We will renew our efforts to reach out to, recruit, support, and educate/form persons from under-represented populations for LEM.

Saint John's University School of Theology-Seminary

1. We will provide fifteen full tuition scholarships (5 per year for 3 years) for LEM's pursuing M.Div. Preference to applicants with endorsement by co-sponsors of symposium, particularly those from underrepresented groups.
2. Continue conversation and encourage continuing reflection and research into theology a practice of lay ecclesial ministry. Pursue funding to support this work and convene theologians, practitioners and national ministry organizations.
3. Review our degrees and programs to align them as appropriate with emerging certification standards, and intercultural competencies and vocational discernment.

University of Dayton

1. My commitment is to invite some colleagues at the University of Dayton to consider and embrace the possibility of partnering with other persons and agencies in and at the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to explore the multi-faceted potential of viewing lay ecclesial ministry through the lens of the new evangelization.
2. We will use, once they are approved, the revised national certification standards for lay ecclesial ministry as basis for review of our Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry program.

Villanova University

1. Reach out to area lay ministers and national organizations to establish relationships in the Greater Philadelphia area and offer Villanova University as a resource for the formation of lay ecclesial ministers.

II. Ministry Organizations

National Federation of Priests' Councils

1. Dissemination of information from the conversation of the symposium to our member Presbyteral Councils as well as those non-affiliated with NFPC through our social networking reaching the 40,000 priests in the country.
2. Inclusion of a presentation at our annual conference furthering the conversation of Lay Ecclesial Ministry looking toward a joint annual conference in 2013 with the National Association of Diaconate Directors and the 217.2 of canon law as per our previous conversations.

National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management

1. To take a lead role in implementing the recommendations arising from this symposium relating to workplace issues.

2. To explore with co-sponsor partners the possibility of developing an online community of practice where lay ecclesial ministers might gather to continue this conversation and process of development.
3. With other national ministry organizations and associations we offer to convene a gathering in response to Zeni Fox's invitation to have a conversation about national associations.

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry

National Association of Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders

Ministry Training Source

1. (We three organizations, in partnership, commit) To research emerging trends and developments in the young Church in order to call forth and empower the next generation of lay ecclesial ministers.
2. To foster a culture of competence in lay ecclesial ministry by working with the Alliance to advocate with bishops, diocesan leaders and national organizations and partnering with educational institutions and ministry formation providers.

Ministry Training Source

In addition to our partnership with NACYML and NFCYM, Ministry Training Source commits to providing consultation on how to integrate the national certification standards and processes within ministry formation and theological education programs. Additionally, we commit to provide the training and utilization of online technologies to increase access to ministry formation and education.

iLLUMINARE: Called for Service, Formed in Christ

1. We re-affirm and re-commit ourselves to the mission of iLLUMINARE which is to provide experienced ecclesial ministers with advanced ongoing formation that nourishes and sustains their vocational call and their commitment to and practice of excellent ministry.
2. We will convene groups of ordained and lay ecclesial ministers for dialogue and theological reflection about the vocational call to ministry.
3. We will share the learning and Convergence Points of this symposium with all iLLUMINARE participants, representing 9 states and 18 dioceses. We will ask them to share the information with their pastors, colleagues, and diocesan leaders.

National Association for Lay Ministry

1. The National Association for Lay Ministry will continue its work with the Alliance with even clearer focus in light of what we have heard and seen here, affirming what we have already done, and supporting the Alliance's commitment to inclusion in the Certification process.
2. The National Association for Lay Ministry will heighten our commitment to young adults in lay ecclesial ministry through continued research, support, and the 2012 NALM conference in Crystal City, VA, May 31-June 2.

Center for Ministry Development

1. CMD commits to a review of all its programs and services, to evaluate what we're doing in lay ecclesial ministry. As a staff, we will engage our board of directors this fall in conversation about LEM to work together in transforming existing projects and developing new initiatives.
2. At our spring 2012 Certificate faculty meeting, we will provide an in-service for faculty and review the course curriculum in light of LEM.

Instituto Fe y Vida/The National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana-La Red

1. *Instituto Fe y Vida* commits to: Collaborate with Ministry Training Source in the fall of 2011 webinar training on *Pastoral Juvenil Hispana* in accordance with the new certification standards for lay ecclesial ministry for diocesan and parish youth ministry leaders.
2. *Instituto Fe y Vida* commits to: Offer a program starting in the summer of 2012 to empower and promote future Lay Ecclesial Ministers in the Hispanic community, with the collaboration of St. John's University.
3. *Instituto Fe y Vida* commits to: Conduct a colloquium on Lay Ecclesial Ministry for the Hispanic community in 2014.
4. *La Red* commits to: Collaborate with *La Federacion de Institutos Pastorales* to develop criteria for equivalencies between pastoral and theological formation done in Latin America or through Hispanic pastoral institutes and academic formation.
5. *La Red* commits to: Develop the portfolio requirements to fulfill the certification standards for the specialization for youth ministry leaders working in *Pastoral Juvenil Hispana*, in collaboration with *Instituto Fe y Vida*.

Northeast Hispanic Catholic Center

To bring the conversation on lay ecclesial ministry to the Conference of Diocesan Directors of the Northeast Region to continue promoting the formation of Hispanics involved in lay ministry. We commit to implement the Bridge Program (sensible to Hispanic culture and language) to advance education of Hispanics, designed in alliance with a regional college, beginning with an associate degree in pastoral ministry.

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership

1. To help our members understand and advocate for the implementation of national certification of lay ecclesial ministers
2. To advocate the Alliance and its members to pursue the sponsorship of a Training the Trainers workshop on intercultural competencies in collaboration with the USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church
3. To engage our membership in a theological reflection on the vocation and mission of the lay ecclesial minister; providing feedback through a structured dialogue.
4. With this statement, we formally request the organizers of this Symposium on Lay Ecclesial Ministry to develop a press release in English and Spanish, on this event, to be disseminated no later than Monday, August 15th, Feast of the Assumption.

National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association

1. NCYAMA commits to advocate for young adults in lay ecclesial ministry by working with dioceses and organizations to identify and implement the best practices, utilizing resources already available for discernment of vocation in ministry, retaining young adults in ministry and addressing intergenerational workplace issues.
2. NCYAMA commits to exploring a postmodern articulation of '*communio*' of technology and social media, transience, and emerging pathways to ministry.

National Association of Catholic Chaplains

1. NACC will partner with academic institutions to convene focus groups of young people/ministers for directed conversation about their insights into ecclesial vocation to gain awareness into their motivation and how to position LEM.
2. NACC will explore ways to collaborate with the Certification Alliance partners to promote the importance of common standards and certification on LEM.
3. NACC will further dialogue with our own episcopal representatives on the meaning of LEM in our professional ministry context.

Association of Graduate Programs in Ministry

1. Identify and foster collaborative partnerships between AGPIM and other national organizations, to advance Lay Ecclesial Ministry.
2. Encourage member schools to meet the needs of minority and non-traditional students by increasing accessibility to our programs and offering alternative formation opportunities.
3. Encourage our member schools to increase the breadth of their formation offerings to include human, spiritual, and pastoral formation.
4. Keep our member schools informed about the national competency-based standards and certification process and continue conversation about how standards and certification can inform our formation programs.

National Catholic Educational Association

1. To ask the boards, or executive committees, of the various agencies of NCEA to consider the topic of lay ecclesial ministry and education as an agenda item for discussion, action and follow-up. *In order to facilitate this conversation, it would be very useful to have an executive summary of the work of the symposium as soon as possible.*
2. To utilize the various communication tools of NCEA (i.e. momentum, NPCD news, seminary journal) to expand members' awareness of the ongoing dialogue on lay ecclesial ministry and to encourage greater participation in the conversation.

Canon Law Society of America

1. We commit to disseminate to our membership what we have heard and learned here, via our newsletter. We further commit to make ourselves available to national organizations for consultation and collaboration. Formal contact will be made to Directors of National Organizations offering this service.
2. We will take to our October national convention, a resolution to survey diocese in the US to learn what is being done with regard to the practical implementation of Lay Ecclesial Ministry in the Diocese. Specifically the survey will study the relationship between the bishop and the lay ecclesial minister and how in practice the lay ecclesial minister is integrated within the parish and diocesan structures. The study will also explore other relevant canonical issues that emerge from the survey. This information will be published as a resource guide.

Region XI Hispanic Seminar, Directors of Formation Programs (Invited Guests)

1. Develop a report for the 'gatekeepers' of our diocesan and regional institutions such as: parish pastoral councils, diocesan staff, and the bishops of California and Nevada conferences to promote and advance excellence in Lay Ecclesial Ministry.
2. Create a national electronic network among all those involved in a multicultural leadership formation and implementation of national standards for LEM to enhance unity and creativity.

Minnesota Catholic Education Association

1. In response to the fruits and shared wisdom of this symposium, the Executive Director of MCEA will arrange a meeting with each local Minnesota bishop, along with his diocesan certification administrator, to revisit the certification for lay ecclesial ministry process.

Tekakwitha Conference

I want to first thank the people of the symposium for the invitation to come and dialogue with them. It is the first time that lay Catholics who are Native American have been invited to do so.

The Tekakwitha Conference, which works to affirm and empower Native American Catholics, wishes to continue to press for a native lay leader that will staff the USCCB office of cultural diversity. This person should be one who acts in the interest of the native lay community and works to empower and support more native people to take up lay ministry at the local level. For the participants who came today we wish to take back encouragement to the Tekakwitha Conference to work toward a process of education for lay ministry in the Catholic Church that works within our own cultural and spiritual understanding.

National Association of Pastoral Musicians

We commit ourselves to continue offering leadership and certification of lay ecclesial ministers in collaboration with other partner organizations of the alliance and in dialogue with organizations representing various cultural and ethnic groups, especially in exploring pathways and equivalencies.

We commit ourselves to continue intercultural dialogues, to learn, as a first step in discerning new ways of working together, addressing pastoral needs and expanding the circle of ministry.

We commit ourselves to devote an issue of Pastoral Music Magazine to issues raised in this symposium, including authorization, ritual celebrations and intercultural concerns.

We commit ourselves to seek funding and to pursue candidates for at least one annual scholarship for a Latino or Latina student pursuing a degree in liturgical music or a related field.

And finally, we commit ourselves to conduct a thorough best-practices review of the association.

Federacion de Institutos Pastorales (Federation for Hispanic Pastoral Institutes)

Our federation represents Hispanic pastoral formation institutes. Our reality and our interests at heart lie in and with the Hispanic Catholic community of lay ministers. We want to commit ourselves to several things, but publicly we're just stating two:

1. We will commit ourselves to advocate for and ensure that lay ministers with foreign education and formal education and/or life experience in the church obtain certification for lay ecclesial ministry. We are ready to offer our services and support, the alliance's, to pursue this endeavor.
2. We commit ourselves to publish and disseminate to all our members and interested organizations a bilingual that will offer guidance to all our membership institutes of Hispanic ministry to strengthen their organizations and their commitment to serve in the formation of Hispanics in the Church.

III. Dioceses

Diocese of Saint Cloud

1. We will take back to our beloved Bishop John Kinney and his immediate staff the recommendation to make formation and on-going formation available for parish leadership to the rural-most areas of our diocese.
2. We will take back to our beloved Bishop John Kinney and his immediate staff the recommendation to increase our existing scholarship monies by \$10,000 per year to accomplish the above.

Archdiocese of Chicago Lay Ministry Formation

We commit to exploring pathways to expand the roles that are considered lay ecclesial ministries.

And we commit to entering into conversation with Mundelein Seminary and Deacon Formation in order to develop a deeper understanding of each other's identity and roles within the church.

Diocese of Orange (Invited Guests)

1. Review our lay ministry formation programs to ensure they include the necessary competencies for lay ecclesial ministry with an emphasis on the diverse cultures in our diocese.
2. We will build relationships through a fall pilot forum called 'Who Do You Think You Are?' where lay and ordained ministers will listen to each other's call to vocation.

IV. USCCB Committees and Commissions

USCCB - Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church

1. As representatives of the USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church (present at the table discussion referring to the Symposium Recommendations) commit to bringing awareness of the richness of ministry that lay ecclesial ministers bring to the Church and to advocate towards identifying and supporting lay ecclesial ministers in our communities - African, African-American, Asian Pacific, English-speaking Caribbean and Circus and Travelling Shows. (As an example in the upcoming leadership Formation Regional Convocation for Asian Pacific communities a module on lay ecclesial ministry will be offered on the agenda in 2012.)

USCCB Commission on Certification and Accreditation

1. As chair of the board of USCCB/CCA, before our office closes in December 2011, I will commit to bringing the convergence points from the gathering to our September 30th final board meeting.
2. Our office further commits to support this work - ministry of LEMs until our final day and work toward transaction of the work to appropriate USCCB office in Washington.
3. I commitment as chair of the board of USCCB/CCA to further communicate the importance and meaning of national certification of LEMs and the values of programs of excellence in ministry formation to underrepresented communities in the United States.

(The staff of the) USCCB Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth

We commit ourselves to working to disseminate the information from this symposium. We will work in collaboration with our colleagues from cultural diversity, CCLV, canonical affairs, and the secretariat of education which is taking on the CCA duties, to make sure that we are speaking to our committees and

subcommittees with a common voice and a common message. Furthermore, after the last symposium, the bishops of the Committee for Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth were very much energized and interested in a consortium being formed that would continue the national conversation. That invitation is out there. The committee does not believe that it is their role to do that but they would welcome a consortium of national organizations being formed and coming to dialogue with the committee that would represent a larger voice than one organization. So the invitation is there to continue the conversation.