



# PFLM 2006-2008

## Program of formation for lay ministers

Level 1

St. Anthony church  
Missoula

### PURPOSE

The Program of Formation for Lay Ministers (PFLM) was established by the Diocese of Helena in 1982. It is designed to provide a formative foundation in contemporary Roman Catholic theology and pastoral practice for adults who seek to grow in their knowledge and understanding of the faith, and in their Christian witness. Many PFLM participants serve the Church as lay ecclesial ministers in a variety of roles as a result of their enrollment. By their participation in and commitment to the PFLM, they also help to advance the development of collaborative leadership among all people serving the mission of the Catholic Church in western Montana and beyond.

### PREREQUISITES

Applicants should be fully initiated Catholics with a sincere openness and willingness to explore and examine their faith and understanding of the Roman Catholic Church—its mission, teachings, history, and life—in the light of the Second Vatican Council. They should be of reasonably good health and at least average intelligence, and have an active love for and commitment to the Church.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their interest in the PFLM and its bearing on their involvement in parish life or other areas of ecclesial ministry with their pastor or pastoral administrator, whose written endorsement is required. In view of time and travel commitments entailed by enrollment in the PFLM, a written statement of support from one's spouse is also required.

The PFLM Director may choose to schedule a pre-enrollment interview with an applicant.

### FEES

The PFLM enrollment fee is \$300 per year, payable to the Diocese of Helena, and includes materials, refreshments, and Saturday meals for each monthly session. Participants are responsible for additional costs of travel, housing, or other needs.

In addition to the program fee, participants pursuing academic credit pay to Carroll College an initial one-time registration fee of \$35 and an additional academic fee of \$75 per year.

Participants are responsible for payment of program and credit fees as applicable. A fee payment schedule can be negotiated with the PFLM Director. Financial assistance may be available from the participant's parish or other sponsoring agency. All fees must be paid no later than June 30th of each current program year.

*"I now feel I can share my religion and faith with others, and am now more comfortable doing this."  
(Bigfork, MT)*

### ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at all scheduled sessions is an indication of commitment to the PFLM and its purpose. Absences should be communicated in advance to the PFLM Director. For non-credit participants, a maximum of four (4) absences over the two-year program cycle is allowed for recognition of PFLM participation.

### CONTENT

Highly qualified ministry professionals from the Diocese of Helena and Carroll College offer PFLM sessions under the supervision and coordination of the Catholic Formation Department. Sessions integrate lecture and small group discussion with outside reading and individual reflection. During the program enrollment, participants may be responsible for occasional reports and the application of their learning to practical ministry experience.

The basic program of instruction covers the following general topical areas within the theological tradition of the Roman Catholic Church:

- Ministry and Theological Reflection
- Revelation and Religious Imagination
- Christian Spirituality
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Christology
- Ecclesiology
- Church History
- Catechetics and Faith Formation
- Sacraments
- Liturgy and Worship
- Moral Theology
- Canon Law
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Catholic Identity
- Church and Ministry

*"In addition to the knowledge gained, I have been able to mix with a wonderful group of same-faith people that at times have very different points of view and interpretations of our faith." (Polson, MT)*

## LOCATION

For the 2006-2008 program, sessions will be held at **St. Anthony Church in Missoula**. On certain occasions during their enrollment, participants may be asked to convene in Helena for program sessions or activities

## HOUSING

Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from the program site as well as housing, which may be arranged with other host participants or local motels in the area.

## MEALS

Continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and snacks for Friday evening and Saturday refreshment breaks, are provided. Special dietary considerations can be honored as feasible.



## SCHEDULE

The PFLM is a two-year program (September through April) of sixteen (16) weekend sessions (Friday evening through late Saturday afternoon), each consisting of instructional contact time, meals, prayer, and community development. As schedules permit on Saturday evening, participants may join the local parish celebration of Sunday Eucharist to conclude the weekend gathering.

## ACADEMIC CREDIT

The PFLM is designed to accommodate the academic program and calendar of Carroll College, which will offer three (3) undergraduate credits in Pastoral Ministry per semester to participants who successfully meet the requirements for credit. A total of twelve (12) undergraduate credits can be obtained over the two-year program.

In addition to attendance at program sessions, participants seeking academic credit are required to write a brief reflection paper following each monthly session and a longer research paper for each semester. Some outside reading may be required. Alternative provisions comparable in both content and contact time are made for credit participants who are absent from any monthly session.

Participants pursuing the academic credit option register as non-degree students at Carroll, and are graded on a "Pass/Fail" basis. When necessary, an "Incomplete" semester grade can be entered until any outstanding requirements are completed in accordance with the Carroll College academic calendar.



*"How blessed and privileged I am to be exposed to the teachings of the Catholic Church for so much every month! This program has definitely encouraged me to become more active in my apostolic action!"*

(Whitefish, MT)

## CERTIFICATION

Participants who satisfactorily complete the PFLM receive a certificate attesting to their participation and achievement. All program fees must be paid before a certificate will be given.

The Diocese of Helena recognizes the PFLM instructional content as fulfilling basic theology requirements for subsequent or concurrent enrollment in other diocesan or local ministry formation programs.



## INFORMATION

PFLM applications and further information are available on request to:

Jim Tucker, PFLM Director  
Diocese of Helena  
P.O. Box 1729  
515 North Ewing  
Helena, MT 59624

1-800-584-8914 or 442-5820  
[jtucker@diocesehelena.org](mailto:jtucker@diocesehelena.org)

Completed applications for the 2006-2008 PFLM program cycle must be received at the above address **no later than August 15, 2006.**

## CALENDAR

The following dates are posted for the 2006-2008 program cycle :

September 8-9, 2006  
October 20-21, 2006  
November 17-18, 2006  
December 15-16, 2006  
January 19-20, 2007  
February 16-17, 2007  
March 23-24, 2007  
April 20-21, 2007

September 21-22, 2007  
October 19-20, 2007  
November 16-17, 2007  
December 14-15, 2007  
January 18-19, 2008  
February 15-16, 2008  
March 14-15, 2008  
April 18-19, 2008

