

**Saint Cecilia
Catholic Church**
5020 7th Avenue
Regina, SK
S4T 0S1
306-545-4051
www.stcecregina.com

Mass Schedule
Tuesday, 7 pm
Wednesday – Friday, 8:30 am
Saturday, 7 pm
Sunday, 10 am



June 2013

Saint Cecilia Catholic Church

Richard Mantyak

What really motivated me to participate in the LMFP was an invitation from a parishioner who was an alumnus and who lay dying from lung cancer. On the day she died, she managed to ask me one last time – “are you going to take the ministry program?” I completed the Program in 1994.

One aspect of the Program I really found beneficial was working in teams and the “living in” concept. I’m not a natural born leader and working in a team helped me gain self confidence as we planned prayer services and liturgies. Much sharing of personal stories took place among the groups. Group assembly was very important to me in that I came to realize this was ministry and we are the church! Just as we were serving each other, we would offer ourselves to serve in our parishes.

I was serving in parish ministries before I entered the Program. What changed is how I approach the ministries. I’m more open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and I approach each ministry with more conviction and enthusiasm. I was particularly drawn to homiletics – preaching and did so often when Liturgies of the Word were offered within our parish. The ministry I find very fulfilling - the one people say I’m good at – is presiding at Wakes. This ministry wasn’t covered in the Program. It is something I developed a penchant for and learned on my own. I became comfortable with Holy Scripture within the LMFP offerings, which has helped me tremendously with the ministries I perform.

After the LMFP, I found I tried to live and lead more by example – more even-tempered. I will never regret giving up 30 weekends of my life over 3 years to experience the Lay Ministry Formation Program. It has served me well as I hope I have served our parish well. I used the LMFP as a prerequisite to enrol in the Pastoral Studies certificate program through Campion College for which I received my certificate in 2004.

Don McGuire

The Program was a wonderful experience. Besides teaching the many ways to pray, it also helped get over any fears we might have about proclaiming the Word or even leading a lay service by letting us do so in a safe environment. There are many sessions on church history and the Bible, two areas most Catholics know little about. I would recommend it to everyone.

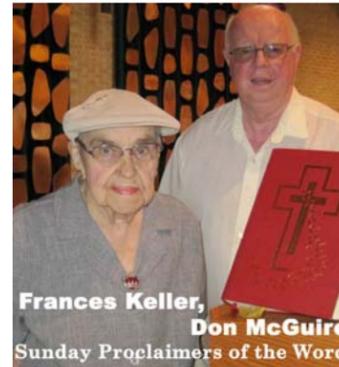
Frances Keller

I was fortunate to be in the first year the LMFP began in 1980. I was also the first candidate from Sacred Heart Parish. I appreciated the chance to enhance my previous learning about our Catholic Faith in this new program.

Taking advantage of praying the Divine Office was something I particularly appreciated. The fascinating way in which the Psalms, Old Testament and New Testament readings and prayers and intercessions were organised was remarkable. Our teachers loved us candidates; and out of this came a strong sense of being church.

Eventually I was involved as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist taking communion to people who were housebound. I also presided at Wake Services at various funeral homes.

Having been a private duty nurse for many years, I found the Program to be something that helped me build upon my experience and knowledge. It gave me the opportunity to learn more about women in the scriptures and in the life of the church. Weekly involvement in composing the Prayers of Petition along with a few others was an honour. Upon graduating I felt like I was something of a pioneer.



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Newsletter brought to you
by your Stewardship Team,
Heather and Ray Deis
Chaircouple

Enriching Your Faith A Message from Father John



Father John with LMFP alumni
Richard Mantyak and Lucille Harrick

Recently, the Lay Ministry Formation Program (LMFP) of the Archdiocese celebrated its 30th anniversary in conjunction with the commissioning of its most recent graduates. The Program was formed in response to Vatican II’s call for a greater role of the laity in the priestly, prophetic and royal office of Christ in bringing the Church’s message of the gospel to the world. Our diocese was among

the first in Canada to design and implement a process where Christians could be helped to be more rooted in their baptismal call and recognize the mission entrusted to them.

The Program calls for a commitment of one weekend a month [October through June] over 3 years. The costs are shared among the diocese, the parish and the individual candidate. If a candidate has a financial difficulty, grants and scholarships are available.

The aims of the Program are to:

1. Help develop the candidate’s spiritual life and commitment to Christ.
2. Deepen an understanding of the Church.
3. Strengthen the ability to understand one’s own gifts and how to use them in the service of the people of God.
4. Help develop these skills and apply them to a particular area of ministry.

Participants stay at St. Michael’s Retreat House, Lumsden during the weekend to build a sense of family and community.

Over the years, 23 people from St. Cecilia and Sacred Heart Parishes graduated from the Program. They have further enriched the life of our faith community. Some of their stories are shared in the following pages. (Editor’s Note: they have been edited for space; entire stories are at www.stcecregina.com).

We certainly encourage others in our parish to consider presenting themselves as future candidates, either by contacting me or talking with those who have taken the Program. It could be a life-changing experience.

Fr. John Weckend



Carol and Bruce Sheldon

The Program helped us deepen our understanding of church. Earlier in life we thought of church as a place or building, but later on we learned the church is the people of God gathered together. The LMFP gave us an example of an ideal church community because everyone gathered wanted to be there and had the desire to grow in faith. Topics like scripture, church history, ministries within the church and community, forms of prayer, and personality type indicators helped us understand ourselves and others.

We assembled in small groups to prepare morning and evening prayer and creative prayer. These small groups changed each year, so we had the opportunity to work with different personalities and see the gifts and talents of each individual.

We were sometimes out of our comfort zones, but support and encouragement from the group, and acceptance of mistakes, gave us the courage to try. We have tried to take these same attitudes into our parish, community, home and workplace lives. We also had an opportunity to faith share with an assigned prayer companion. We would share where we have known and felt God's presence or absence, and as trust developed, we shared other concerns and challenges in life.

We have been given the courage to open ourselves to God's call. Sometimes that took us to places we never expected to go. We recognize God's goodness at work each day, and we give God praise, glory, and thanksgiving for allowing us to share in His plan. Sometimes this means a door seems to close, but we have come to expect another one to open soon after. We have come to know we are all on this journey together, and we are all called to encourage each other and tell our own stories. When we do this, God uses us in remarkable ways.

Anyone who desires to deepen their faith, move out of their comfort zone, and take a servant/leadership role with the nonjudgmental love of Christ, should consider the Lay Ministry journey.

Roseann Schafer

Lay Ministry was a call to learn and experience more of my faith. As a cradle Catholic I had many questions for which I wanted answers. I learned more about my faith with people who were also there to learn and share. We came together as a faith community and returned to our parishes to share and walk with others. Lasting friendships were formed. This indeed has deepened my commitment to my church and faith.

Lucille Harrick

About four years ago, I heard a "whisper" to register for the LMFP. I had a feeling someONE above was clearing my calendar so I could participate.

As a cradle Catholic, I had a desire to learn more about our Church. The LMFP focused on learning about the Church, Bible, Sacraments, Eucharistic Liturgies, History, Social Justice, the Rosary, etc. It was also a time to spend with Our Loving Lord through prayer, quiet time, meditations and reflections. I loved listening to and sharing faith stories with others. I found a new excitement about being Catholic. We listened to inspirational speakers.

We had great conversations while enjoying home-cooked meals, and going for walks on the nature trails. We gathered around the fireplace in the evenings for games, more stories, music, songs and lots of laughter.

After I completed the LMFP, someone asked me, "Now what? Are you a 'minister' yet?" I smiled and answered, "Yes, a 'minister' like you." We are all called to minister; wherever God calls us; we do our best to 'Go In Peace to Love and Serve the Lord'. Hopefully, I can listen to His Call with an open heart, a deeper awareness, a prayerful attitude and a more generous spirit in my home, parish and community.

Linda Cinq-Mars

My Lay Ministry journey continues to impact my faith life. Every Catholic could benefit from the experience.

I was amazed how people trusted God and moved into areas I dared not go! Those memories keep me trusting (and challenged) and watching for chances to share with others. It took me a couple of years to recognize I too had grown over the three years.

I gained a confidence in my faith life to rise to the occasion and say 'yes' where I wouldn't have before.

The day I was commissioned, as the Bishop held his hands over me and spoke, I had what felt like an electric shock go from the back of my neck, right to my toes! It was so real, I wondered if anyone in the church could see it!

Paula and Bill Nistor

We completed the LMFP about 20 years ago. It was a very good experience. Our spiritual life, especially our prayer life was enhanced. We learned the different forms of prayer and the best form for us. We were fortunate to attend the weekends together as we were able to go home and discuss our experiences. Listening and learning about our church from gifted presenters was an experience we treasure. This journey strengthened our faith and instilled in us a confidence to share our gifts and talents.



Maryanne Schmeiser

I was profoundly nurtured spiritually, engagingly challenged to serve with humility and charity, and intellectually encouraged to grow in my understanding of our church, its mission and our call as people of faith. I came to love the retreat into sacred space blessed by prayer, song, learning, laughter and nourishment for body and soul. Where else as a working parent and wife could I go to have so many of my inner spiritual desires and needs met? Where else could I be socially engaged with Life and Light-loving people with varied skills and interests? Where else could I learn skills that would help me serve with an open heart and with charity both at home and in the places outside of home?

The weekends became an oasis from a world of frenzy, consumerism, and lack of focus on the sacred in life. I could surrender to places of solitude or ignite my understanding and experience of the meaning of church and being a child of God. Best of all, Lay Ministry gave me a chance to live, laugh, share and grow in faith and service with others who were authentic about their love of God. I made enduring friendships through being part of the Program. I would do it again in a heart beat!