

WORKING IN THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD

A NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY
JULY 31 TO AUGUST 3, 2007
COLLEGEVILLE, MINNESOTA



Saint John's
SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY-SEMINARY

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with the
USCCB Secretariat
for Family, Laity,
Women, and Youth
and the Committee on
Hispanic Affairs

Report to USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth Symposium Organization Commitment Progress

Jeffrey Kaster, Symposium Chair, Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary
February 25, 2008

Background

- From July 31-August 3, 2007 *Working in the Vineyard of the Lord: A National Symposium on Lay Ecclesial Ministry* was held in Collegeville, Minnesota. An Executive Summary is enclosed.
- On September 9, 2007 the USCCB Committee on the Laity Consultation on Lay Ecclesial Ministry asked Jeff Kaster, Symposium Chair, to provide a report by March 2008 on progress made on organizational commitments at the symposium to advance lay ecclesial ministry.
- In January 2008 the symposium planning committee contacted the twenty-two organizations that made commitments to advance lay ecclesial ministry at the symposium. Seventeen organizations responded. We believe the progress reported here demonstrates a significant amount of energy and enthusiasm towards advancing lay ecclesial ministry in the United States.

Seventeen of Twenty-two Organizations Provided Progress Reports

1. AGPIM: Association of Graduate Programs in Ministry
2. FIP: *Federación de Institutos Pastorales*
3. FDLIC: Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions
4. Institute in Pastoral Ministries: Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
5. MCEA: Minnesota Catholic Education Association
6. NABCA: National Association of Black Catholic Administrators
7. NACFLM: National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers
8. NPM: National Association of Pastoral Musicians
9. NCADDHM: Nat. Cath. Assoc. of Diocesan Directors for Hispanic Ministry
10. NCCHM: National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry
11. NCEA: National Catholic Educational Association
12. NFPC: National Federation of Priests' Councils
13. NFCYM: National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry
14. National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management
15. Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary
16. USCCB-CCA: USCCB Commission on Certification and Accreditation
17. WTU: Washington Theological Union

Highlights

1. Commitments to discuss, study, promote, or integrate *Co-Workers* within their organizations.

- NFPC's Board of Directors discussed the lack of awareness among the clergy of *Co-Workers* and *Called and Gifted*. Ed Hahnenberg has been invited to speak on lay ecclesial ministry at NFPC's 2009 Convention.
- NCCHM, Boston College, and Barry University are planning to hold a symposium in Spanish on *Co-Workers* June 8-10, 2009 in Boston.
- NCEA planned Chief Administrators of Catholic Education Conversations topic coverage on lay ecclesial ministry for the 2009 session at their national convention in Anaheim.
- NCADDHM meeting in February 2008 included a focus on lay ministry.
- The NABCA has begun to survey its members to gather their understanding of lay ecclesial ministry and how NABCA can assist in developing that understanding.
- Spanish copies of *Co-Workers* were distributed to FIP members.

2. Commitments to address inclusion and cross cultural ministry competence.

- FIP confirmed its commitment and eagerness to continue participating in the dialogue, planning, and discussion of *Co-Workers*.
- Cecil Motus, USCCB Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees came to WTU to speak with lay students in formation about this issue.

3. Commitments to advance lay ecclesial ministry standards, competencies, or certification, including a significant commitment toward national certification.

- The USCCB Commission on Certification and Accreditation is redrafting certification standards and simplifying certification processes, with a new handbook by 2011.
- The Alliance (NFCYM, NCCL, NPM, and NALM) has established inter-organizational committees to revise the National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers and to explore offering national certification; additionally, the Alliance has extended an invitation to NACFLM and FDLC to participate in a shared revision of the competency based standards and in the development of a national certification process.
- FIP will continue working and refining the accreditation process for Institutes in Hispanic Ministry Formation.
- NPM certified three people through a USCCB-CCA approved process and has incorporated the structure of *Co-Workers* into its process.
- The MCEA Leadership Forum has determined that Catholic School Leaders will be the next group of ministers for whom a certification process will be designed. In-service workshops for principals will begin in November 2008 to ensure that Catholic school leaders are equipped with the skills to enhance the Catholic identity of their school programs.

4. Commitments to publicize and engage the work of the Symposium.

- NACFLM's board is developing a strategic plan and budget to meet its Symposium commitments.

- Saint Mary's University of Minnesota faculty will deliberate on the recommendations of the Symposium in order to enhance their curricula that credential and certify students for Roman Catholic ministries.
- Saint John's is sponsoring a breakfast meeting at the Ministry Summit (April 20-23, 2008), to gather interested organizational stakeholders to continue the conversation.
- The Leadership Roundtable is using National Association of Church Personnel Administrators/NALM HR and Lay Ministry Review in dioceses to promote clear recommendations for improving workplace policies and procedures for lay ministers.
- Websites at Saint John's (www.lemssymposium.org) and The Leadership Roundtable (www.nlrcm.org/Newsroom/2007/LayMinistry/NatSymLEM.html) promote the work of the Symposium.
- NPM published an article on the symposium in its *Clergy Update* and its journal *Pastoral Music*.
- The NFCYM January 2008 membership meeting focused on Symposium results.

5. Commitments to advance the theology of vocation and authorization.

- The Association of Graduate Programs in Ministry's 2008 meeting focused on lay ministry as a vocation.
- The FDLC is collecting samples of rites used by local bishops for authorization of Lay Ecclesial Ministers. Of those collected, the intent and structure of the rites varies greatly.
- Saint Mary's University of Minnesota will conduct case studies on canon 517.2 within the curriculum leading to the Graduate Certificate in Canon Law.
- Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary is seeking funding for a Collegeville Ministry Seminar II, gathering theologians for work on a theology of vocation and authorization.