

2020 - 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

A Year of Accomplishments

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Office of Spirituality & Formation for Ministry

OFFICE OF SPIRITUALITY AND FORMATION MINISTRY

Mission Statement

To engage all parish staff, diocesan personnel, and spiritual directors in the New Evangelization through education in faith, worship, and witness.

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Present State

This report exemplifies how my in-person ministry to schools and parishes was limited due to the Covid virus. From March, 2020 to June, 2020 and when we were sequestered to work from home, I began writing the curriculum for Year Six of our diocesan lay formation program: Formation for Mission and Ministry. I also prepared for its publication by working with a new graphics designer and printer. Also during the spring and summer, I met with spiritual directees over Zoom and Facetime. The number of directees which I accompany did decrease during this pandemic year.

During the summer of 2020, I worked very hard with my part-time assistant to learn how to utilize Zoom so that the formation seminar could continue online instead of in-person. I did go to three deaneries to give the program including Beaufort, Greenville, and Rock Hill. We followed all CDC guidelines with face masks and social distancing.

I also collaborated with another department of the chancery, Office of Multimedia. This department asked me if I would consider doing a weekly 4-minute YouTube video on the topic of spirituality to be posted on the diocesan Facebook, Instagram and Twitter platforms. These videos are also posted on the Office of Spirituality and Formation for Mission webpage and emailed to my distribution list. To date, I have done over 40 of these “Spirituality Spots,” which have been met with very positive feedback. The total number of people in the Diocese of Charleston that receive weekly “Spirituality Spots”: **404**.

By Deanery: 250

Aiken — 20

Beaufort — 32

Charleston — 39

Columbia — 42

Greenville — 57

Myrtle Beach — 34

Rock Hill — 26

Other Groups: 154

Campus Ministers — 11

Spiritual Directors — 25

Friends of Office — 23

Hispanic Staff — 3

Healing Our Church Participants — 31

Principals — 30

Spiritual Directees — 14

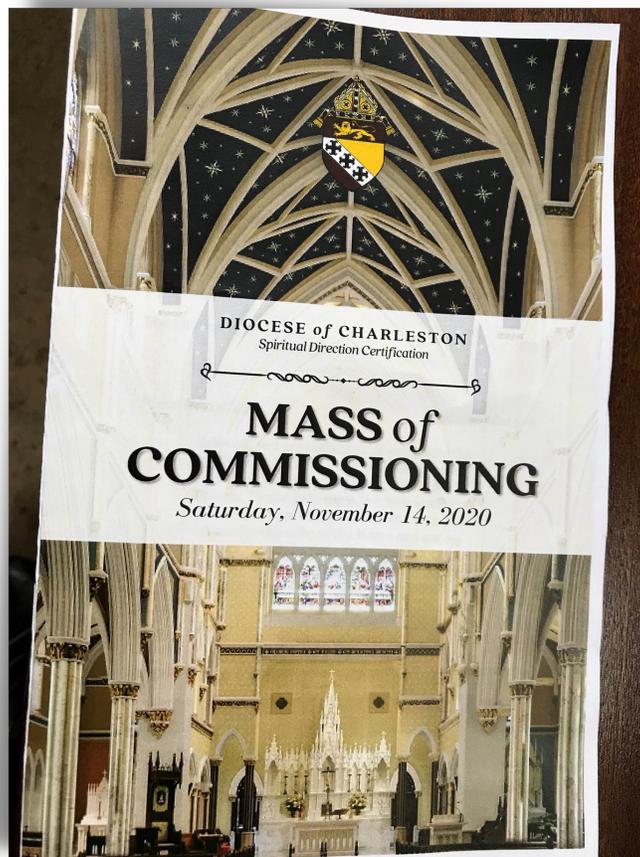
Catholic School Teachers — 17

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New Partnership Developed: Spring Hill College

During the past year, I formed two new partnerships with Spring Hill College and the University of Dayton. Formerly, the Office of the Permanent Diaconate had worked with Spring Hill College in the formation and training of new spiritual directors. In November of 2020, the diocese celebrated the completion of our first class of nine Certified Catholic Spiritual Directors. Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone presided at the liturgy and a luncheon at the assembly hall was enjoyed by everyone. Since this office works already with spiritual directors in our state, it was decided that new trainees would be under the auspices of this office. Primarily, I help the deacons in the program with their budget responsibilities.

At present we have three deacons of the 17 being trained in the program. I also serve as Spiritual Director for three of the trainees. It has been a joy to work with the Permanent Diaconate Office and Fr. Christopher Viscardi, SJ, of Spring Hill College to begin our second cohort of trainees to the diocese.

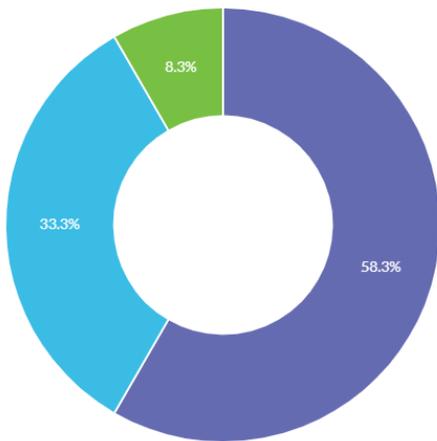


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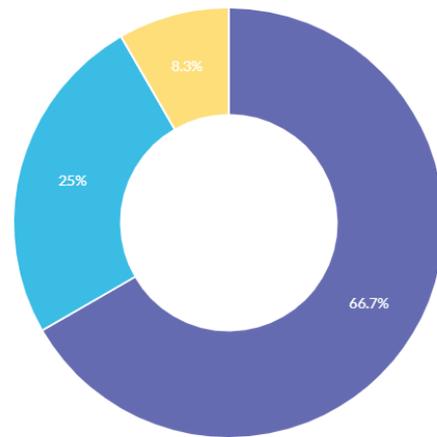
New Partnership Developed: University of Dayton

Second, I applied for a grant from the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community of Faith Formation and was awarded this grant. The value of the grant totaled \$3,000. From the generosity of a family foundation and a donation from a parish staff member, I was able to offer parish staff tuition assistance from a restricted fund to individuals wishing to take faith formation courses through University of Dayton. In 2021, I was able to extend this offer to key volunteers in parish ministry.

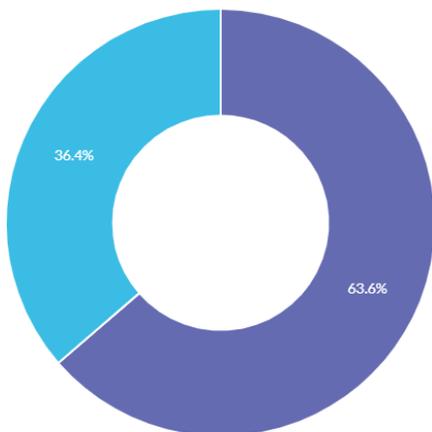
The number of individuals taking advantage of this opportunity thus far is 46. Participant feedback yielded the results below:



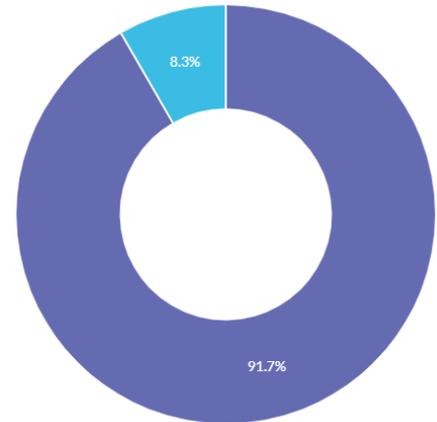
Content & Methodology



Organization of Instructor



Grading Practices



Interested in Future Classes

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Formation for Mission and Ministry Seminar Year VI: Human Formation

GOALS

1. To review the four pillars of formation and key points from Year I through Year V of Formation for Mission and Ministry.
2. To explain the purpose of learning one's Emotional Intelligence or Quotient and how the same relates to faith.
3. To define key terms such as IQ (Intelligence Quotient), EQ (Emotional Quotient), and LQ (Love Quotient) and compare Jesus' intelligence regarding these paradigms.
4. To explain how contemporary research and institutions of higher learning are using these intelligence models to help students mature in their leadership, as well as communication, skills.
5. To evaluate one's emotional intelligence by administering a quiz to help one learn their emotional skills.
6. To identify five key areas of emotional intelligence.

OBJECTIVES

1. Participants will be able to review key points from Years I through V of Formation for Mission and Ministry.
2. Participants will be able to explain the purpose of learning about intelligence paradigms being discussed today in business and institutions of higher learning.
3. Participants will be able to explain what Jesus' intellectual, emotional, and love quotient may have been by exploring the sacred scriptures and outside sources.
4. Participants will be able to identify their emotional intelligence or quotient and how it relates to faith formation.
5. Participants will be able to differentiate between the meanings of certain words.

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2020-2021 Final Report of Attendance *Formation for Mission and Ministry Year VI*

| | |
|------------|---|
| 96 | Diocesan Office Staff, including Campus Ministers |
| 217 | Total number parish staff attending Year Six FFMM |
| 303 | Total number of personnel attending Year Six FFMM |
| 114 | Total parishes and missions within the diocese |
| 19 | Parishes under 500 families |
| 3 | Missions attending |
| 17 | Missions not attending |
| 61 | Parishes attending |
| 14 | Major Parishes not attending |

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Evaluation Responses

Formation for Mission and Ministry Year VI

Evaluations this year were done online via the free survey site SurveyPlanet.com. The graph below illustrates the total number of responses and their ratings of the Year VI Formation for Ministry seminar. Participants were asked to rate the program on a scale of 1-5 based on the following questions:

Question 1: *To what extent did the day engage you intellectually and stimulate your thinking process?*

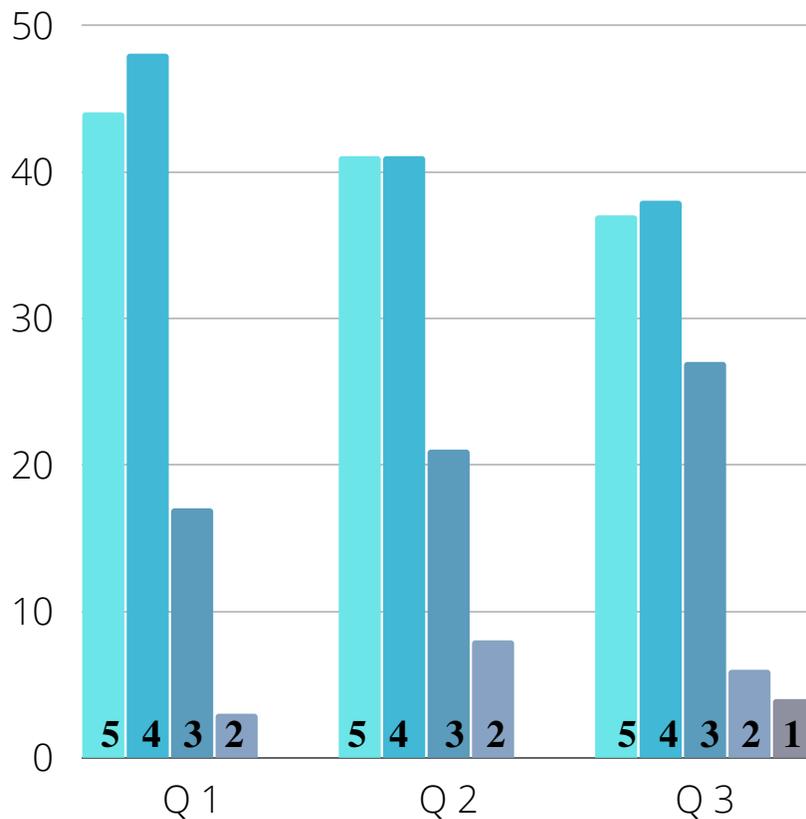
Total of 112 responses: 5 - 44 4 - 48 3 - 17 2 - 3 1 - 0

Question 2: *To what extent did the morning extend your understanding of yourself and others?*

Total of 111 responses: 5 - 41 4 - 41 3 - 21 2 - 8 1 - 0

Question 3: *To what extent did the morning assist you in wanting to make plans for the practical implementation of emotional intelligence quotients?*

Total of 112 responses: 5 - 37 4 - 38 3 - 27 2 - 6 1 - 4



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Top Positive Comments Regard the Year VI Program

1. I think one of the best/most helpful parts was the little section/video on sympathy vs. empathy. I am sorry that this comes so late in the program when some folks are, perhaps, a bit tired from being in a seminar for 2 hours at that point. I wish it could have been presented a bit earlier and/or had a bit more time devoted to it. I think this is especially helpful for guys (sorry to be sexist!) who tend to be more "fixers" as opposed to listeners. It helps us to see that "doing nothing" is in fact doing something and a very important something.
2. I always look forward to listening to Sr. Kathy during these formation meetings in which I slow down to focus on myself and how I can be a better servant to my church and others. I appreciate her ministry, her personal sharing, and her honesty. A little self-analysis never hurts and actually serves to help energize me — and who doesn't need that! Bless you, Sr. Kathy. Stay well and persevere until we meet again!
3. Thank you so much. I found the topic very interesting and am grateful for the opportunity for self-reflection on each of the components. There was new information and also review in several areas. May God continue to bless you as you serve God's people, especially those of us who work in the Diocese.
4. Sister Kathy's seminars are always informative, thought provoking, and enjoyable.

Top Comments Reflecting Opportunities for Improvement

1. I do think it's worth considering, for the sake of improvements to future presentations on that particular subject, so I'll paste it here. Thanks for considering it...Here's a thought I'd like to throw out there: I disagree with the characterization of empathy versus sympathy, especially when a leading point is that empathy means "feeling someone else's feelings." That strikes me as bogus. We can't feel other people's feelings (at least, I can't!). Sympathy, these days, gets a bad rap, but genuine sympathy means going out of yourself and attempting to comfort someone, using your own negative experiences as a reference so you can understand them better. That's a very helpful, good thing. The criticism of sympathy given in the video as callous, "at least..." response is just that: callous, and unsympathetic, and not true sympathy at all. There's my two cents worth!
2. The Zoom session was too long perhaps could have taken 2 hrs to complete. Zoom not a good format. There was some good material there but not time to actually process what we were hearing. It would have been nice to have time to reflect as staff on this. There was no time to do this.
3. I felt this would be better in person, doing the group activities via Zoom was not effective. Especially when someone in the group did not participate at all. Too many blank screens that were muted. As someone that enjoys these every year, I was sad that we could not meet. The Sisters with me enjoyed it and we were able to have some conversation, though in my very broken Spanish and their broken English.

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General Comments Categorized by Four Major Themes from Evaluations

1. Year Six of the lay formation and the seminar of Formation for Mission and Ministry addressed the topic of human formation. We evaluated the intelligence paradigms being discussed today in business and institutions of higher learning such as the University of Dayton. I shared that the course "Emotional Intelligence" was offered the summer of 2020 on their Virtual Adult Faith Formation platform.
2. With the possibility of not having in-person formation this year due to the pandemic, most participants seemed appreciative that our office was willing to offer the program virtually. We did discover, though, that many parish office staff did not have a camera on their monitors thereby limiting their participation. In planning for the future, I would hope that parishes put this in their budget plans.
3. Many staff seem to have acclimated to the Formation Program and look forward to their coming together even if it is only once per year. I built many relationships with staff and have been invited back to parishes to offer retreats and seminars.
4. Many participants seemed to appreciate knowing that there is a diocesan-wide list of spiritual directors on the Formation for Ministry web page.



FFMM Year VI
Beaufort Deanery

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Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry Monthly Newsletter



Our readership has remained steady and currently numbers 1088. This monthly newsletter is an effective way for our office to update parish staff and parishioners with global, national, and local news of the Church. Many have shared that information from the newsletter has been included in their parish bulletins as a result.

<https://charlestdiocese.org/formation-for-ministry/monthly-pastoral-formation-monthly-update>

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Spiritual Direction

Presently, we have 30 Certified Catholic Spiritual Directors ministering in our large diocese. I contacted directors and took an informal survey of how many individuals are being served with spiritual direction. Mepkin Abbey and the Poor Clares of Traveler's Rest see 55 individuals, while the other directors who responded to my survey see 71 individuals, for a total of 126 directees. I am sure more are being served but some directors did not respond to me. I am happy to report that we have talked to our priests in some of the deaneries about spiritual direction and we hope to continue to do so. We have periodically placed notices in parish bulletins educating parishioners about spiritual direction.

It will be noted that some deaneries have more directors than other deaneries. We are hoping to address this issue with our second cohort which will graduate from Spring Hill College in one year. At present, we have 17 individuals studying to be directors, including a young priest completing his studies in Rome. In the new cohort, we have three deacons and 14 lay people.

During the fall of 2021, Spring Hill College will offer a second program for our directors. This program will teach spiritual directors how to offer a Jesuit Annotated Retreat. Prerequisites are required to participate in this program. It is our desire to be able to financially help those spiritual directors who may need assistance in learning how to offer this retreat in their parishes. The program cost is \$1,000.

As diocesan liaison for Spiritual Direction, I began to have bi-annual Zoom meetings with the directors to facilitate continual education and formation and to address any concerns of our directors. I hope in the future to hold an annual day in the Columbia area as a business meeting and continuing education for the directors.

During this past year, I have met with 14 directees via both Zoom and Facetime. I have also noticed that I have received more calls from parishioners needing to speak to someone on issues of spirituality.



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“Write the vision, and make it plain upon tablets, that he who runs past it can read it. For the vision is yet for the appointed time, and it hastens toward the end, and shall not die: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not delay.”

Habakkuk 2:2-3

Content of Lay Formation

Vision of the Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry

The Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry serves the People of God in our diocese through education and formation opportunities to chancery, parish staffs, parishioners, and school personnel.

Revenue Earned

for the Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Retreats, Missions, Seminars and Spiritual Direction | \$2,355.00 |
| Bikulege Family Foundation Grant | <u>\$5,000.00</u> |
| Total Earned Revenue for FY 2020/2021 | <u>\$7,355.00</u> |

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Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry Activities

2020-2021



Rite of Welcome for RCIA
St. Michael the Archangel
Garden City

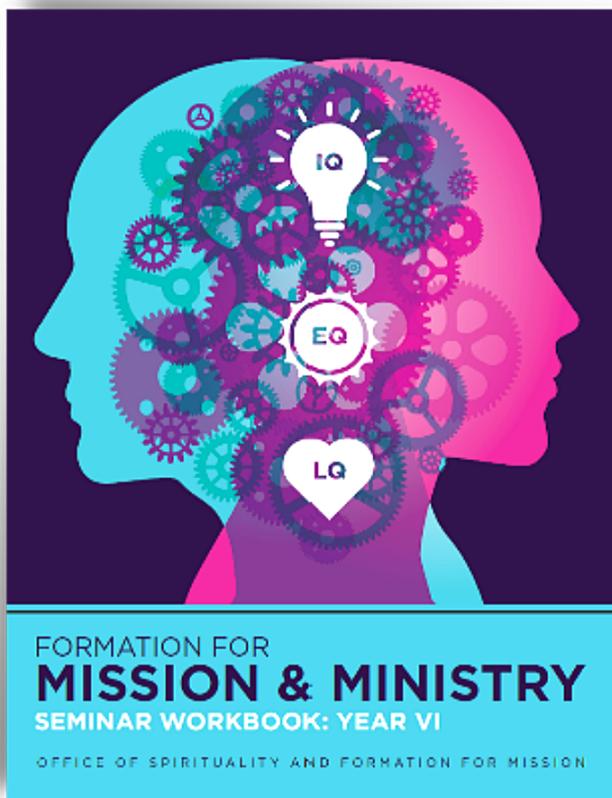


Lenten Faculty Retreat
St. Peter School
Beaufort, SC

**Formation for Mission
& Ministry Year VI Seminar**
Beaufort Deanery

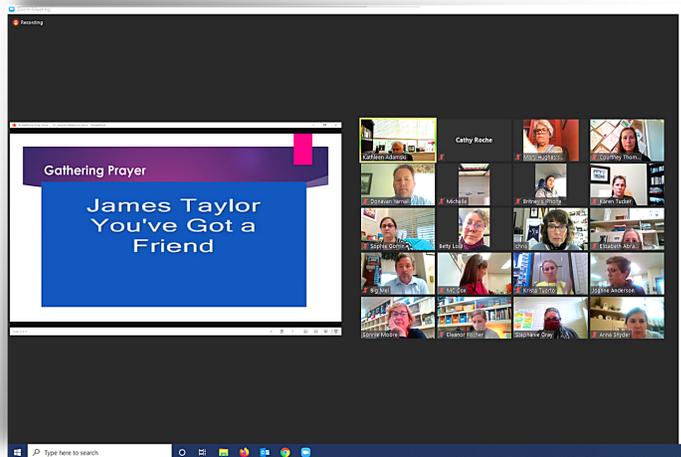


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Formation for Mission & Ministry Year VI Seminar
Program Workbook

Formation for Mission & Ministry Year VI Seminar
Rock Hill Deanery



Lenten Reflection
St. Joseph School
Columbia

