Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate and the Catholic Theological Union
Survey of Lay Ecclesial Ministers

The purpose of this study is to inform the process of creating and improving support programs that aim to address your needs and the needs of other lay ecclesial ministers who are based in the Chicago area. Your responses are very important. Please respond by marking an “X” in the appropriate boxes. If you do not know how to respond to a question, or if it does not apply, please leave it blank. Be assured that your responses are confidential.

A. Please enter your ID included in the email or letter: __________________

B. Are you currently active in lay ecclesial ministry?
   □ 1. Yes
   □ 2. No

If the answer to the question above is “no,” please stop here and return the survey unfinished. If the answer is “yes” please continue on.

0. How long have you been serving as a lay ecclesial minister? ____________

1. What is your gender? (Select one)
   □ 1. Male
   □ 2. Female

2. Where do you carry out your ministry?
   □ 1. Archdiocese of Chicago
   □ 2. Diocese of Gary
   □ 3. Diocese of Joliet
   □ 4. Other

3. What is your marital/ecclesial status? (Select one)
   □ 1. Lay & Single
   □ 2. Lay & Married
   □ 3. Lay & Divorced
   □ 4. Lay & Widowed
   □ 5. Vowed religious
   □ 6. Other

4. What year were you born? ____________

5. What category best describes your primary racial or ethnic background? (Select one)
   □ 1. African American/Black/African
   □ 2. Asian/Pacific Islander
   □ 3. Caucasian/White/Anglo
   □ 4. Hispanic/Latino(a)
   □ 5. Native American/American Indian
   □ 6. Other

6. What year did you begin serving in your current ministry? ____________

7. What is your formal preparation for lay ecclesial ministry? (You can select more than one)
   □ 1. I do not have any formal preparation
   □ 2. I completed arch/diocesan training for lay ecclesial ministers
   □ 3. I obtained certification(s) in an area related to my ministry
   □ 4. I am in the process of obtaining a graduate theological or pastoral degree
   □ 5. I have a graduate theological or pastoral degree
   □ 6. Other, describe: ____________

If your answers to question #7 include response #1, skip to the line after question #9.

8. If you have formal preparation, what year did you begin initial formation for lay ecclesial ministry? ____________

9. If you have formal preparation, what year did you complete/expect to complete initial formation for lay ecclesial ministry? ____________

If your answers to question #7 do not include response #5, skip to question #15.

10. If you have a graduate degree referenced in question #7, did you pursue this degree to prepare for a particular lay ecclesial ministry?
   □ 1. Yes
   □ 2. No (skip to question #15)

11. If yes to question #10, after completing that degree did you work in the ministry you prepared for?
    □ 1. Yes, years worked in this ministry: ____________
    □ 2. No (skip to question #15)

12. If yes to question #11, are you still serving in this ministry you prepared for?
    □ 1. Yes (skip to question #15)
    □ 2. No
13. If no to question #12, what type of ministry did you later serve in? __________________

14. If no to question #12, have you received additional training to prepare you for the ministry referenced in question #13 above?
   □ 1. Yes
   □ 2. No

15. Which category or categories best describe your current ministry? (Select your primary ministry in column one. If you are also engaged in another ministry, select your secondary ministry in column two.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parish ministry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Pastoral Associate</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Parish Life Coordinator</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Parish Catechetical Leader (i.e., DRE, CRE, RCIA)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Youth Ministry Leader</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Pastoral musician, Music director, Cantor or Liturgy director</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Other parish ministry:</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-parish ministry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Diocesan administration</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Religious community administration</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Educational administration</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Campus ministry</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Hospital chaplaincy</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Healthcare administration</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Prison chaplaincy</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Social service / advocacy</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Counseling, spiritual direction, retreats</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Not assigned</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Other ministry:</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. What percentage of people whom you were serving in your ministry in the last month could be described as: (the total should add up to 100%)
   ___ 1. African American/Black/African?
   ___ 2. Asian/Pacific Islander?
   ___ 3. Caucasian/White/Anglo?
   ___ 4. Hispanic/Latino(a)?
   ___ 5. Native American/American Indian?
   ___ 6. Other?

17. How well prepared do you feel to carry out your current primary ministry...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. overall?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. based on your initial formal education and training?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. based on your more recent training opportunities?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18. In the last month, did you suffer from stress-related symptoms (e.g., anxiety, sleeplessness, depression, stomachache, headache, tiredness)?
   □ 1. Not at all
   □ 2. Only a little
   □ 3. Somewhat
   □ 4. Very much

19. How does your ministry work affect your stress level?
   □ 1. It reduces my stress level a lot
   □ 2. It reduces my stress level a little
   □ 3. It does not affect my stress level
   □ 4. It increases my stress level a little
   □ 5. It increases my stress level a lot

20. Are there any areas of your ministry you find stressful? Please describe the top three most stressful.

1. __________________________________________
2. __________________________________________
3. __________________________________________

21. What are the top three strategies that help you manage stress in the areas listed above?

1. __________________________________________
2. __________________________________________
3. __________________________________________
22. How would you characterize your satisfaction with your current ministry in the following areas?


1. Overall

Fulfillment:
2. Sense of contribution to larger purpose
3. Sense of personal accomplishment
4. Sense of meeting the expectations of others
5. Utilization of gifts/talents/skills

Life balance:
6. Amount of work
7. Level of responsibility

Other:
8. Remuneration for ministry

23. In your ministry, how much support do you experience from each of the following? (select one response for each)

1. Not at all  2. Only a little  3. Some-what  4. Very much  5. n/a

1. Local bishop
2. Clergy and religious
3. Your spouse
4. Your children
5. Your extended family
6. People in your parish
7. Friends
8. People to whom you minister
9. People with whom you minister
10. Spiritual director
11. A support group

24. How interested would you be in the following forms of training / support program?


1. Mentoring program
2. Classroom program
3. Online only program
4. Only in-person meetings
5. Program based on academic-style curriculum
6. Informal, open discussion style
7. Field education
8. Program with both men and women participants
9. Program with both lay and religious participants
10. An enhanced program of formation already in existence
11. A stand-alone program that is separate from current formation programs
12. Book-based program involving a mentor and not involving other participants
13. Program taught in English
14. Program taught in Spanish
15. Program taught in another language:

25. What obstacles do you see to your participation in a training / support program for lay ecclesial ministers? (Select all that apply)

1. I would not be interested
2. I do not have time
3. My schedule is inconsistent/changing
4. I do not have computer access
5. I do not have access to transportation
6. My employer (if working outside the ministry) won’t be supportive
7. My ministry supervisor won’t be supportive
8. Other

26. How many hours could you commit to a training / support program on a weekly basis?
27. Please provide information regarding the following items. (if not applicable, leave blank)

24.1. How do you rate your competence in each of these?

   | Inadequate | Low | Sufficient | Excellent |
---|---|---|---|---|
1. Theology in general | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
2. Pastoral education in general | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
3. Preaching | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
4. Spiritual / retreat director | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
5. Interpersonal (e.g., conflict management, communications) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
6. Administration (e.g., budgeting, investing, and insurance) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
7. Personal skills (e.g., time management, stress management) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
8. Intercultural skills | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
9. Interreligious skills | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
10. Teaching/Catechetics | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
11. Counseling | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
12. Spirituality | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
13. Bible | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
14. Liturgy | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
15. Service skills (i.e., skills to enhance the well-being and satisfaction of those served in your ministry) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
16. English language | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
17. Spanish language | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
18. Other language(s) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
19. Science-related knowledge/understanding | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
20. Practical computer or technology-related skills | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
21. Speaking communication skills | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
22. Writing communication skills | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
23. AV and other tech communication skills | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
24. Social ethics | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
25. Medical ethics | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
26. Sexual ethics | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

24.2. How helpful would more training in each of these be to you?

   | Not at all | Only a little | Somewhat | Very much |
---|---|---|---|---|
1. Theology in general | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
2. Pastoral education in general | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
3. Preaching | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
4. Spiritual / retreat director | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
5. Interpersonal (e.g., conflict management, communications) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
6. Administration (e.g., budgeting, investing, and insurance) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
7. Personal skills (e.g., time management, stress management) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
8. Intercultural skills | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
9. Interreligious skills | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
10. Teaching/Catechetics | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
11. Counseling | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
12. Spirituality | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
13. Bible | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
14. Liturgy | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
15. Service skills (i.e., skills to enhance the well-being and satisfaction of those served in your ministry) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
16. English language | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
17. Spanish language | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
18. Other language(s) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
19. Science-related knowledge/understanding | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
20. Practical computer or technology-related skills | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
21. Speaking communication skills | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
22. Writing communication skills | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
23. AV and other tech communication skills | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
24. Social ethics | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
25. Medical ethics | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
26. Sexual ethics | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

28. What would you find most helpful in supporting you in your current ministry? (add more pages if needed)

29. If you would be interested in participating in a focus group to help the Catholic Theological Union design support programs for lay ecclesial ministers like yourself, please provide your contact information.

   1. Name ______________________
   2. Email address ______________________
   3. Postal address ______________________

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.
Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)
2300 Wisconsin Ave NW, Suite 400A, Washington, DC 20007
Phone: 202-687-8080 Fax: 202-687-8083
©2018, All Rights Reserved