

Diocesan Certification Administrators

Certification Consultant
Alma Richard
605-635-6322
507-450-8835 (cell)
arichard50@gmail.com

Archdiocese of
Saint Paul/Minneapolis
Contact: Eric Pederson
651-291-4495
pedersone@archspm.org

Diocese of Crookston
Deacon Dan Hannig
218-281-4533
dhanning@crookston.org

Diocese of Duluth
Brian Pizzalato
218-724-9111
bpizzalato@
dioceseduluth.org

Diocese of New Ulm
Karla Cross
507-359-2966
kcross@dnu.org

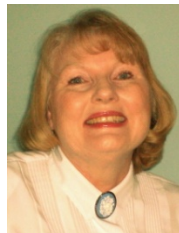
Diocese of St. Cloud
Brenda Kresky
320-251-0111
bkresky@gw.stcdio.org

Diocese of Winona
Mark Nuehring
507-454-4643 x 223
mnuehring@dow.org

MCEA Leadership Forum Certification Newsletter

Certification Grows in Minnesota

Like other good and healthy Minnesota crops, the crop of certified lay ecclesial ministers continues to grow all over the state. Nearly every diocese in the state has approved ministers who are now working on portfolios. Each time the MCEA's Certification State Review Board meets, under the direction of review board chairperson, JoAnn Borchert, new certified ministers are added to the harvest, and passed on to their respective bishop for final certification.



Alma Richard

New Consultant is Hired

The MCEA Leadership Forum's Certification Committee, along with Executive Director, Peter Noll, last fall hired Alma Richard, recently of the Diocese of Winona, as Minnesota's Certification Consultant. Mrs. Richard began her duties in mid September, visiting 5 of the 6 dioceses prior to the end of 2008. When visiting dioceses, Alma is prepared to offer a number of helpful services, depending on the needs of the local diocesan church. Training the already certified ministers to serve as mentors or on diocesan review boards is a top priority for 2009. Certified lay ministers who are willing to assist their dioceses with these important duties are encouraged to contact their Diocesan Certification Administrators, listed in this newsletter.

Certified LEM Association

As highlighted in the fall newsletter, a project to connect CLEMs is underway. The first connection will be electronically. If you are willing to be connected electronically, send a short summary of your ministry involvements, along with an electronic photo to: arichard50@gmail.com. The first step will be an electronic directory of our Minnesota Certified Lay Ecclesial Ministers. This directory will be e-mailed to all participating members and also placed on our part of the updated MCEA website. We believe the certified people are the most valuable asset we have in sustaining and growing the certification process. Be part of the important interactions that will be taking place in coming months. Meet new people who are involved in the same ministries.

"Continually, the Spirit calls forth new ministries and new ministers to serve evolving needs, as the history of the Church shows."

From Co-workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: a Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry, USCCB, 2005, p. 17.

"Servitium" is the newsletter for Certified Lay Ecclesial Ministers in the State of Minnesota. According to Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord, servitium means ministry. We all feel called to ministry and are living out this calling in a special way by being certified as Lay Ecclesial Ministers specializing as parish catechetical or youth ministry leaders. This newsletter will hopefully support and enhance this special call you feel to ministry. Please read on. If you would ever like to submit an article for this newsletter, please e-mail Peter Noll at pnoll@mnc.org.

Four Important Conferences

Plan to meet the other CLEMs at one or more of these upcoming conferences to be held in Minnesota. They are scheduled for three different fiscal and academic years to help with your budgets and taxes!

- ◆ NALM Conference (National Association of Lay Minister), May 27-30, 2009, at the Riverfront Crown Plaza in St. Paul. www.nalm.org
- ◆ NCEA Convention, April 6-8, 2010, Minneapolis Convention Center. www.ncea.org
- ◆ MCEA Convention, August 23-24, 2010, Duluth, MN. www.mncatholic.org
- ◆ NACFLM Conference (National Association for Catholic Family Life Ministry), June 25-28, 2009, at St. Thomas University, St. Paul, MN. www.nacflm.org

Certification Renewal

In 2010, the ministers certified with the group at Convention 2005, will be up for renewal. As you know, 100 hours of continuing education, addressing at least 3 competencies must be documented for renewing your certificate. Many of you have already filled out an initial form, and more information will be coming to you to make sure no certified minister is left out of the renewal process. If you have questions about renewal, contact your Diocesan Certification Administrator. The administrators will have the most updated and streamlined information.

Change of Status

Have you earned a degree or an advanced degree in recent years? If you were certified in the practitioner category, but have earned a BA or BS in a ministry related field, you may want to apply for a change in status. Ministers who have earned undergraduate degrees or master's degrees in the intervening time need only provide official transcripts to receive a new certificate for the new category. If the minister is also up for renewal, an advanced degree with transcripts will be the paperwork that accompanies the renewal application.



Connections across the state...

Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis

Mr. Eric Pederson has been named as the Archdiocese's representative on the MCEA Certification Committee. His contact information is: Eric Pederson, 328 West Kellogg Boulevard, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102, pedersone@archspm.org, Phone: 651-291-4495.

Diocese of Crookston

Certification Administrator Deacon Dan Hannig

The Diocese of Crookston is just finishing Year One of our five-year cycle in our Pastoral Leadership Program. The candidates for diocesan certification have the potential of becoming candidates for statewide certification in the future. Crookston also has two Masters candidates completing programs at St. John's University.

Diocese of Duluth

Certification Administrator Brian Pizzalato

Sandi and Bob Arola were recently certified by the MCEA and their certificates sent to Duluth. Fr. James B. Bissonette has signed them and they have been presented to Bob and Sandi. Brian reported that Duluth has four more approved candidates: Rita Sherepa, Kathy Burke, Ellen Thomas, Elizabeth Biley, and Julie Barta.

Diocese of New Ulm

Certification Administrator Karla Cross

Alma Richard visited with Bishop LeVoir and Karla Cross, Diocesan Certification Administrator, in November. Alma also attended a diocesan lay ministry formation program held on

November 15 in Redwood Falls. Attendees at the program were given a brief overview of the certification process and were encouraged to contact Alma or Karla for further information. Information regarding registration for next year's lay ministry program (Foundations) was sent out to parishes of the diocese in early April.

Diocese of St. Cloud

Certification Administrator Brenda Kresky

Two new candidates have been approved, including one who works with Stevens Ministries (befrienders). In September Brenda met with three candidates and three certified people to work on portfolios. One candidate serves as a youth minister/faith formation leader. Brenda has proposed a June 16 workshop for those working on portfolios (3 who will have fall submissions), another who may take longer.

Diocese of Winona

Certification Administrator Mark Nuehring

Certification Consultant Alma Richard visited Winona's Institute of Lay Ministry in January during the regularly scheduled weekend at the Gainey Center in Owatonna. Alma was on hand to share certification details with eleven people who are taking the Institute for college credit through Saint Mary's University. These students are also completing a practicum. These Institute participants will earn a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry. These eleven people plus several others who are not earning college credit represent potential certification candidates. Three approved candidates are currently working on their portfolios in the Diocese of Winona: Keri Flahive of Austin, Pamela Konz of Adrian and Julie Walch of Winona.



Colleagues in Ministry and Certification

Pictured here in front of Austin's SPAM Museum are Austin Tri-parish faith formation and youth ministry leaders Keri Flahive and Alice Duffy-Meyer. Alice was certified with the first group in August of 2005, at the MCEA Convention in St. Cloud. Keri is working on her portfolio this spring, with hopes of being certified next year. In November, Keri was awarded the *Companions on the Journey* recognition by Bishop Harrington. This national award is sponsored by the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry.

"As in the national realm, those serving as lay ecclesial ministers in the six dioceses of Minnesota serve in diverse capacities and have diverse levels of formation. The variety of roles in which they serve ranges from volunteers to paid professionals. The parish settings served by lay ecclesial ministers range from small, rural parishes in northern, central and southern Minnesota, to large, urban parishes in the twin cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis. They also have diverse amounts and levels of theological education and ministerial formation, ranging from having no formal education or formation to having graduate degrees in theology or pastoral ministry."

From *MCEA Certification Candidate Handbook*, December 6, 2006, p. 8.