

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation



The Diocese of New Ulm Partners with the University of Dayton for Online Learning

Imagine talking an adult faith formation course without ever leaving your door...no travel time...no extra gas cost...just a home computer and internet access. Imagine learning more about your faith on your time schedule...early in the morning before work...at night after the kids are in bed...or anytime in between. It is now possible here in the Diocese of New Ulm!

Since 1995, the University of Dayton developed a vision to have user-friendly adult faith formation available on the internet. Since 1999, when the first dioceses began collaborating with the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation, popularly known as VLCFF, 38 dioceses and 6 other organizations are partners with the University of Dayton. Among the newest partners is our very own diocese, the Diocese of New Ulm.

What does that mean for you? Any adult parishioner within the Diocese of New Ulm can learn more about their faith at discounted rates. Normally a 5-week course would cost \$90, would now cost only \$40. Normally a 3-week seminar would cost \$70, would now cost just \$30. Some parishes and schools may consider further discounts for their catechists, youth ministry helpers, and school staff.

By no means is this the only avenue to form your faith. The Diocese of New Ulm will continue to offer formation and parishes will continue to offer formation, but it will greatly help the formation and training efforts of our people.

What are the benefits in becoming a partner with the University of Dayton's VLCFF? For catechists, there is a new certificate for catechists. For Catholic schoolteachers and principals, there are CEUs that you can earn. For those involved with charity and justice, there is a social justice certificate. For those who prefer to learn in their own language, there are courses in Spanish. For Diocesan committees and councils, the University of Dayton can arrange a closed course for your group. For those in parish leadership, there are opportunities for continuing education. Lastly, for all adults in our parishes, there are opportunities for your faith formation.

Now is the time to discover or rediscover your faith. For further information, go to <http://vlc.udayton.edu/>. Click "Become a New Student" at the bottom of the home page and follow the directions. Check out the website for class offerings and future course cycles (click on the calendar tab and then the appropriate cycle). Registration for the next cycle is now open and closes February 25 with the course start date of March 1. This opportunity is open to any adult interested.