

**National  
Association of  
Catholic Family  
Life Ministers**

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***Institute for  
Family Life***

***MINISTRY WITH FAMILIES***  
**Education and Formation Course Series**  
***FOR ALL WHOSE MINISTRY EFFORTS IMPACT  
FAMILIES***

**Background:** The National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers has directed significant efforts towards fostering professional development through leadership formation and training opportunities. Through the *Institute for Family Life*, NACFLM offers the education and formation course series, *MINISTRY WITH FAMILIES*. The series includes: ***Ministry With Families 101***, designed as an introductory course to address the needs of participants new to ministry with a family perspective or to those seeking review and renewal; ***Ministry With Families 201***, intended for those who have completed the introductory course or have been exposed to the elements of a family perspective in ministry; and ***Ministry With Families 301***, designed as a continuing education process for more specific groups such as clergy, religious, seminarians, universities and lay ecclesial ministers. The courses are available to local sites and can be presented in varied formats to accommodate local needs. **Spanish language:** *MWF 101* is currently provided in Spanish. *MWF 201* will be available in Spanish in the future.

***MINISTRY WITH FAMILIES 101***

**Scope of Program:**

*MINISTRY WITH FAMILIES 101* is an experiential learning process that is ideal for participants of all ministry backgrounds. It is designed to assist the individual to incorporate his/her learning on a personal as well as on a ministerial and professional level. Throughout the process, ministering with a family perspective is a central theme. A main focus of the process is to increase the individual's capacity to be a self-differentiated leader. It examines three distinct family systems: the person who is ministered to and his/her family, the parish or diocesan family, and the participant's own family. Participants gain knowledge and insights regarding the *domestic church* and increase their capacity for ministry with and among families.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Further the participant's transformation process in how they view the relationship between family and ministry.
- Deepen one's understanding of the impact of ministry on the *church of the home*.
- Provide insight and skills for participants to live out more intentionally a vision of a ministry with families in both their personal lives and ministerial efforts.
- Increase understanding of the dynamics of the family and the larger Church community as growing, changing systems.

**Content:** The formation process includes the following session topics:

- Christian Vision of Family Life
- A Family Perspective in Ministry
- The Change Process in Systems
- Family Spirituality
- Family Systems
- The Parish as a System
- Partnership with Families Across the Life Cycle
- Partnership between the Family and the Parish
- Questions for Partnership