

**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 201:

Building Partnership Between the Domestic and the Larger Church

Scope of Program:

MINISTRY WITH FAMILIES 201 continues the experiential learning process, incorporating learning on a personal, ministerial and professional level. Like the introductory course, a family perspective in ministry continues to be a central theme. A main focus of the process is taking a deeper look at marriage and family through the life cycle, concentrating on theological, spiritual, scriptural, and ministerial dimensions. Key themes of the church's teachings on marriage as sacrament are included. The course also examines blocks that bind us to "stuck" positions within ourselves, and in our collaborative ministry efforts. The process provides a forum for developing new insights into forming bridges between the ecclesial and domestic church. Family of origin and family systems dynamics permeate the learning process. Prayer and an emphasis on wholeness and holiness are threaded throughout the process.

Learning Objectives:

- Increase understanding of the theology of marriage and family life and how it is lived in everyday experiences.
- See the relationship between lived experience and the theology of the sacraments.
- Enhance ability to empower families to live their vocational call as domestic church.
- Deepen understanding of the impact of ministry on the church of the home.
- Increase awareness of the dynamics of the family and the parish as growing, changing systems.
- Provide insights and skills for the ministers' personal growth and to assist them in becoming more effective ministers.
- Understand how strengths and wounds from one's family of origin and other lived experiences impact one's ability to respond to grace.
- Look at the rich diversity that makes up all families while simultaneously looking at the elements that they all hold in common.
- Recognize diversity as an opportunity to renew the domestic and larger church.
- Continue to explore the connectedness between wholeness and holiness in our lives and ministries.

Content: The formation process includes the following session topics:

- Key Themes, Shared Wisdom & Creativity: Ministering With A Family Perspective

- Theology of Marriage and Family: Part I and Part II
 - Foundational Documents
 - Spiritual and Religious Tasks Throughout the Life Cycle
- Making Ecclesial/Domestic Church Connections
- Conversion: Moving from Sin to Grace
- The Ministering Person
- Understanding Church Through Diversity
- Deepening the Partnership
- Our Call to Partnership: Taking the Commitment Home

***MINISTRY WITH FAMILIES 301: Theology of Family in Ecclesial Life:
Implications for Pastoral Ministry***

Each *Ministry with Families 301* is designed as a continuing education process for more specific groups such as clergy, religious, seminarians, universities and lay ecclesial ministers. It is based on the content of *MWF 101* AND *MWF 201*, depending on the needs of the participants.

If interested in *MINISTRY WITH FAMILIES* contact:

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