



Diocese of La Crosse

New “Leader of Prayer” Class Begins in July 2021

July 23-24, St. Anthony Spirituality Center, Marathon
August 13-14, St. Anthony Spirituality Center, Marathon
August 27-28, Holy Cross Diocesan Center, La Crosse

Applications are now open for a new class of men and women who wish to serve as Leaders of Prayer for the Diocese of La Crosse. This is a three-part course of study (meeting Friday evening-Saturday evening each time) by which lay persons are prepared and commissioned to serve their parishes by bringing Holy Communion to the sick; conducting a Liturgy of the Word, possibly with distribution of Communion, on weekdays when a priest is unavailable (or on Sunday in an emergency); and by leading parishioners in prayer at times of illness or death. In nursing homes or healthcare facilities, when no priest is available, they may also conduct a *Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest*.

Completion of the Lay Formation Institute is a prerequisite for acceptance into the Leader of Prayer program. In addition, candidates must be sponsored by their pastors. The fee is \$550, which includes overnight accommodations, meals and books. Since over \$100 of that amount goes to purchase the ritual books, the cost will be discounted proportionately if these are otherwise available to the applicant (from the parish or another Leader of Prayer). For more information, contact Christopher Ruff, S.T.L., Director of the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at (608) 791-0161, or cruff@diolc.org.