Over the past six years, St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Melrose has partnered with the School of Theology as a teaching parish for three graduate students seeking more formation and ministerial experience in liturgy and music. It has been an enriching experience to accompany students in their vocational journey as well as mentoring them through the necessary competencies for excellence in ministry. The parish is enriched, in turn, by the eagerness of the students. As the students increase their ability to build community and engage with us as lifelong learners in their ministry development, we have all experienced a relationship of mutuality.

Dawn Carrillo, D.Min.
Director of Faith Formation and Liturgy
Church of St. Mary’s, Melrose, MN
Ministerial Residency Program

Our church and world needs competent ministers going into the future. At Saint John’s School of Theology and Seminary, we prepare seminarians, deacons, and lay ecclesial ministers to serve in various ministry roles in the church and for the world. Our academic formation is complemented by our ministerial formation through opportunities such as this residency program. Our formation program helps students to:

- Discern ongoing vocational plans and ministerial interests
- Develop ministerial competencies
- Receive feedback from seasoned mentors and practitioners in the field
- Reflect theologically on the practices of ministry

However, we cannot do it alone. We need teaching parishes and partners. We are establishing the Ministerial Residency Program to expand our reach to support the formation of the ministers who will carry forward the mission of the church. We invite you to share in the formation of ministers by providing a place for our students to practice and sharpen their ministry skills while having space to reflect theologically on their practices and experiences.

The Partnership

We are looking for religious organizations, committed to pastoral excellence, to partner with us in meeting the needs of the church and the world.

Saint John’s School of Theology Provides:

- Intellectual, Spiritual, Pastoral, and Human Formation
- Theological reflection on the practice of ministry for students
- Observation of the students in practice of ministry
- Supervisor retreat, training, and support

Your Community Provides:

- 12-20 hours/week of meaningful ministerial experience
- Nurturing environment for student ministers to learn
- Supervision for student ministers
- Stipend for student ministers

Ministerial Residency Placements

Options for student placements include:

- Semester-long placements allow students to develop and implement a ministerial project that is important to the mission of the church or religious organization
- Long-term placements range from 1-3 years as a part-time lay ecclesial minister

Short-Term Student Project Examples

- RCIA catechist
- Develop and lead a confirmation retreat
- Developing a shared ministry program
- Special project coordination for social concerns organization

Long-Term Student Placement Examples

- Music ministry
- Youth ministry
- Campus ministry
- Religious education coordinator
- Pastoral care ministry
- Special diocesan project
- Intern in social service

Contact Us

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