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FORMATION and AUTHORIZATION of LEM
Hush, Hush, Somebody’s Calling My Name
Hush, Hush, Somebody’s Calling My Name
Hush, Hush, Somebody’s Calling My Name
Oh, My Lord,
Oh, My Lord,
What Shall I Do?
CO-WORKERS

FORMATION

- Lay persons who devote themselves permanently or temporarily to some special service of the Church are obliged to acquire the appropriate formation which is required to fulfill their function properly.

  - Code of Canon Law 231 (33)

AUTHORIZATION

- Authorization is the process by which properly prepared lay men and women are given responsibilities for ecclesial ministry by competent Church authorities.

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GOOD NEWS
Over 22,000 LEMs in formation programs.
  ▪ Majority in certificate programs.
  ▪ Certificates in Ministry for laity have increased.
Meet growing need – online programs in ministry, 11 programs taught in Spanish.
Formation programs in dioceses – partnerships with schools of theology, seminaries, universities
Increase in candidates from underrepresented communities in formation programs
GOOD NEWS

- According CARA study 75% of respondents stated that authorization is important aspect of LEM process
- In some dioceses – Bishop meets annually with LEMs.
- Public acknowledgement of LEMs in many diocesan newspapers
- Many dioceses now have offices that guide LEM candidate through process – formation to authorization.
FORMATION
What is appropriate formation?

- Intellectual
- Human
- Pastoral
- Spiritual
CULTURE/CONTEXT

- What is your context? What are the needs of your local context? What type of minister do you need to best respond to your context?

- What are resources for formation attentive to context?
  - Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS), Mexican American Catholic College (MACC), Hispanic Summer Institute, Black Catholic Theological Symposium, (BCTS) Association of Catholic Hispanic Theologians (ACHTUS)
FINANCIAL BURDEN
Who is best suited for Lay Ecclesial Ministry?

How to evaluate formators in these programs?

Not all who are in formation programs are called to Lay Ecclesial ministry as candidates, teachers, mentors or formators.
AUTHORIZATION
3 STEPS in PROCESS

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
2. APPOINTMENT
3. ANNOUNCEMENT
1. CERTIFICATES – DEGREES

2. CERTIFICATION **not accreditation**
   - Certify – persons
   - Accredit – programs

3. The Roles and Persons involved?
   - THE BISHOP
   - THE ORDAINED
   - DIRECTORS/STAFF of DIOCESAN ECCLESIAL OFFICES

4. RITUAL & COMMISSIONING
Who appoints? - BISHOP

Who affirms? - BISHOP and COMMUNITY

HOW IS THIS DONE?
About affirmation and communication

What is best way to announce, affirm and share this good news?
ITS ALL ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP!!
CHALLENGES

Language - Nomenclature

Consistency of Formation Training and Evaluation

Authorization

Length of Process

Financial

Communication

Acceptance & Support
Do not quench the Spirit

1 Thessalonians 5:19