



CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY

Saint Clare Center for Catholic Life

Workshop Session Title: *A Parish Perspective: Laity at Work in the Pastoral Care of the Sick and the Dying*

Presenter: Jean Marie Weber, PhD 8:30-10:00a.m., 6-3-19

Workshop Description: This workshop will share the implications of a 2017 research study conducted by the presenter, which showed that a significant percentage of Lay Ministers indicated responsibility for the pastoral care of the sick, the dying and the hosting of funerals in their parish communities. Participants will be solicited for their experiences and views about the study results, with discussion on how to help Lay Ministers be better prepared for pastoral care for the sick and dying.

Workshop Learning Objectives... Participants will be invited to:

1. ...become aware of lay ministers from a parish functioning as pastoral care ministers with little or no formation.
2. ...discuss the implications of these research findings.
3. ...explore network possibilities with pastoral care providers in parishes along with others in health care and correctional settings;
4. ...be inspired, supported and helped by those who are ministering to the sick and the dying.

Background Research Study:

#1: The study was designed to contribute key findings supporting the need for properly formed lay ecclesial ministers in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and in the U.S. Catholic Church. The Center for Applied Research (CARA, 2016) report estimates that over 40,000 Lay Ecclesial Ministers currently serve the Catholic Church in the United States.

#2: The study provided a best practice model of formation for lay ecclesial ministers designed and implemented through the Saint Clare Center for Catholic Life at Cardinal Stritch University and based on *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord, A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministers* promulgated by the Catholic Bishops of the United States in 2005.

#3: The study answered the primary research question: What is the perceived impact of a Certificate in Lay Ministry from Cardinal Stritch University on the current pastoral ministries of alumni from the program - 2009-2015?

Research Method: An impact program evaluation utilizing quantitative and qualitative data.

Conclusions: Major findings report phenomenal numbers of pastoral ministries, parish leadership and outreach networks engaged in by alumni, 2009-2015 who are primarily ministerial part-time volunteers; that the Certificate for Lay Ministry serves as a best practice model for the formation of Lay Ecclesial Ministers with all four pillars of formation, human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral incorporated into the program and successfully demonstrated by alumni, 2009-2015; that the need for funding of Lay Ecclesial Ministers, higher education and a recognition of a new form of religious life lived by *Laity at Work in the Pastoral Care of the Sick and the Dying*.