

SNAP-SHOT

Through the Annual Pastoral Appeal (APA), the People of God in the Diocese of St. Petersburg support over 50 ministries, programs and services to thousands across our 5 county area. Our appeal is truly an opportunity for each and every Catholic household to help further the mission of the Church, to become a part of the everyday miracles we experience through sharing our gifts as good stewards.

The mission of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute (LPMI) is to provide an integrated lay ecclesial ministry formation program that will prepare laity to offer their unique gifts in service to the local church. In accordance with the teachings and tenets of the Roman Catholic Church, they serve as agents of evangelization and transformation in the society in which they live, as members of the Body of Christ. **Let's take a closer look at what LPMI has meant to those who have been commissioned...**

Maria – When I first started working in ministry it was great, but I felt something was lacking. Then someone recommended to me the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute, so I decided to try it. It was wonderful. **LPMI gave me the confidence and the tools I needed to work at the pastoral level.** Now, whether it is a couple coming in for marriage preparation, or someone inquiring about coming into full communion with the Catholic Church, I can understand where they are in their faith journey and work with them from there.



Luis – Through LPMI I have learned so much more about my Catholic faith. **I hope to teach others about what I have learned and encourage them to learn more about their faith.** I think it's important, because when you know more through history, scripture and tradition, this is when you realize the beauty of your own faith.



Steve – Our faith is a lifestyle, a living faith. I'm trying to set myself up as an example in my parish community. Now a commissioned lay minister, I am here to serve the people of my parish. **My hope is that they know and feel I am doing God's work and am an extension of the Gospel.** I want to be that for them, and they need to be able to see that in me. I want to share with them what I have, and my hope is that they say, "I want what he has."



Class of 2016 – LPMI has given us confidence in this faith we love, the confidence to believe and act from Jesus' word. Just as Jesus instructed his disciples, in times of trial and persecution, "For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." **Going through this preparation and formation, we have come to be what we believe.** We've discussed how different we all are, coming from different paradigms, different backgrounds, yet here we are, all together, all pushing in the same direction. Many parts, one body. It makes you proud to be Catholic.



This ministry that forms lay men and women spiritually, intellectually and pastorally is offered by the Diocese of St. Petersburg and supported in part by the Annual Pastoral Appeal. For more information on the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute, please visit: <http://www.dosp.org/lpmi/>.



Inspire hope-make your gift today!

This information has been provided by the Diocesan Office of Stewardship & Development. To learn more about ministries, services and programs funded by the Annual Pastoral Appeal, visit www.dosp.org.

