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The University of Dayton

News Release

UD LAUNCHES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM TO TRAIN LAY MINISTERS

DAYTON, Ohio, March 2, 1989--The University of Dayton has launched a certification program designed to train students to work in ministry. The program, aimed at students who will be involved in professions other than religious education, is a response to the Catholic church's growing need for trained lay ministers.

"The program grew out of the conviction that the Church of the next decade will be relying more and more on lay ministers, and that these men and women will have to be properly trained," said the Rev. Chris Conlon, S.M., director of Campus Ministry.

The UD program exceeds the ministry training requirements of seven area dioceses, which generally offer 60 to 80 hours of classes over six months, Conlon noted. "Our students will be required to have many more hours of courses and training," he said.

During the first phase--the candidate level--freshmen and sophomores take core courses in Catholicism, the New Testament and communication, serve as lectors or ministers of Communion, participate in a service club and choose to take part in two other activities, such as planning retreats, working in music ministry, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program or the evangelization team.

Juniors and seniors accepted into the second phase of the program work toward receiving a Certificate of Lay Ministry at graduation. Core courses include "Ministry and Psychology," a psychology class that covers human personality, abnormal psyche, aging, bereavement, marriage and family, and women's issues. Workshops focus on leadership, peace and justice concerns, and liturgy planning. Throughout the program, candidates receive feedback from peers and from mentors--campus ministers and other professionals in ministry. "We see this program as important for the church beyond the University, especially for the church of the future," Conlon said.