



SHARED LEARNING FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAMS  
SPIRITUAL FORMATION ~ THEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT  
CONSULTATION ~ SHARED VISION ~ MENTORING  
PLANNING ~ LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
MINISTRY TO THE MINISTERS

*A Partnership Initiative of Loyola University Chicago and the Archdiocese of Chicago*

### **History**

INSPIRE is part of *Sustaining Pastoral Excellence (SPE)*, a national program of the Lilly Endowment. Loyola University and the Archdiocese of Chicago join over sixty religious institutions and programs in grant-supported efforts to support pastoral ministers and nurture pastoral imagination. INSPIRE is an acronym for “Identify, Nurture, and Sustain Pastoral Imagination through Resources for Excellence.”

### **Participating Catholic Organizations**

The Archdiocese of Chicago and Loyola University Chicago join several Catholic organizations receiving Lilly Endowment *SPE* grants including: the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB); the National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM); University of Notre Dame Institute for Church Life; Dominican House of Studies with the Archdiocese of Washington, DC and the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA); Seattle University; St. Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore.

### **Services and Resources**

INSPIRE builds collaborative learning resources for Pastoral Leadership Teams. Resources for learning and planning are organized according to four interrelated areas: 1) Human/Personal Integration; 2) Spiritual Life and Formation; 3) Intellectual/Theological Integration; 4) Skills for Ministry.

### **Process**

Application: Through 2007, Pastoral Leadership Teams apply directly throughout the year. Application includes submission of a parish and staff profile, a self-assessment of readiness to participate in the initiative, and proposal of learning activities and resources identified by the team.

**Participation:** Thirty-five Pastoral Leadership Teams representing forty-six parishes will participate.

- Each receives financial assistance to develop and implement personal and team learning plans. Learning plans are designed to support capacities for collaborative pastoral leadership.
- Teams also participate in general seminars and other forms of training. These provide orientation to faith-based learning community practices and to best practices of INSPIRE participants.
- Professional organizational consultants with church leadership experience provide assistance in building collaborative pastoral practice. The consultants help persons and teams address particular learning needs in each of the four principal learning areas.
- Participants are invited to special sessions that offer skills and training in communication, spiritual formation, collaborative planning, and building strong connections across ministries.

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## **INSPIRE**

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