

For Whom is the Program Designed?

Religious and Laity who will be engaged in the ministry of formation for their prospective communities will find that this program provides them with the skills necessary for accompanying new members.

General Principles

The program is designed around general principles which we believe are essential to the process of training personnel for the ministry of formation.

1. Emphasis on the central goal of supporting the growth of participants towards personal and spiritual integration.
2. Emphasis on the physical, emotional and mental well-being of participants as well as on their spiritual and professional growth throughout their lives but particularly while engaged in the challenging ministry of formation.
3. Awareness of the need for opportunities for developing improved communication and professional skills, especially in the art of accompaniment.

"Journeying with New Members" 2018

The Content of the Program Principal Areas

Personal Development

- Encouraging the Formators to develop their awareness of their own personal story with a view to their guiding those in formation to reflect on their own personal story.
- Personality:
 - a) Accepting and growing through one's own personality;
 - b) Appreciating the gifts of diverse personalities;
 - c) Accompaniment that respects personality differences;
- Considering Family of Origin and issues relating to co-dependence, dysfunction, childhood memories.
- Encouraging the practice of Journaling as a significant tool in working with formative influences.
- Learning from Life's Transitions and Crises.

- Dealing with issues relating to Psycho-sexual maturity.
- Leadership, Community and Giftedness

Spirituality

- Biblical Studies
- Prayer
- Religious Life as Discipleship
- Contemporary Understanding of the Vows
- Challenges of Contemporary Vocation Ministry

Updating in Theology

- Current insights and teaching on Christology and Ecclesiology

Mission and Ministry

- The Theology of Mission
- The charism of Congregations in relation to mission and ministry
- Theological Reflection Process
- Inter-religious and Cross Cultural Dialogue

Spiritual Direction and Accompaniment Skills

Workshops:

- Sessions devoted to the understanding of the role of formators as spiritual directors and accompaniers, learning and practising skills in this area.
Practical experience and Supervision is provided by experienced spiritual directors.
- Input from specialists and experienced practitioners in certain areas, for example:
 - ◆ Communication Skills
 - ◆ Conflict Resolution
 - ◆ Journaling
 - ◆ Justice Issues
 - ◆ Canon Law applicable to Religious Life

Weekly Interactive Groups:

- These groups combine the processing of learnings from the previous week with the practice of various skills in spiritual accompaniment and communication etc.

Logo "Journeying with New Members"

We are indebted to Sr Judith Souter sgs whose artistic talent provided us with our logo which depicts the Journey that is undertaken by New Members with the person chosen to be their companion.



Fees \$12,500.00 Australian Dollars

Fees cover Tuition, Accommodation, Board, Retreat, Spiritual Direction, group excursions and course-related photocopied materials.

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A Course for the Formation of Formators

"Journeying with New Members"



Marymount Mercy Centre
Castle Hill NSW
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2018

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