

# Catechesis and Diakonia

## TEACHING

"You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be



multiplied in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth." Deuteronomy 11:18-21

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the

word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Micah 4:2

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:16-17

## VARIETIES OF MINISTRIES

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apports to each one individually as he wills. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." 1 Corinthians 12:4-12

## THE DIACONATE IN CHRIST

"whoever would be great among you must be your servant (diakonos), and whoever would be first among you must be servant (diakonos) of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:43-45

"which is the greater, one who sits at table, or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves." Luke 22:27

"Deacons likewise must be serious, not double tongued, neither indulging in much wine nor greedy for money. They must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with clear conscience. Let them first be tested; if they prove themselves blameless, then let them serve as deacons." 1 Timothy 3:8ff.

*St. Macrina Orthodox Institute  
for the Renewal of Diakonia and Catechesis in the  
Midwest*

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*St. Macrina  
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the  
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CHURCH  
In  
America

## Growing Vocations through Continuing Education

The *St. Macrina Orthodox Institute* for Diakonia and Catechesis of the Diocese of the Midwest looks to help local parishes and Deaneries within the diocese to set up high quality, rigorous continuing education programs to train men and women to assist in parish and deanery ministries.

The Saint Macrina Institute continues and expands the old *Late Vocations* programs, through both the range of things taught and also by opening up opportunities for women and men not seeking ordination. A Catechist Certificate is awarded to all who successfully complete the program. Those who wish to follow a Diaconal track are well prepared to take the national Diaconal Vocations test. All applications for Diaconal Vocations are coordinated with the OCA Diaconal Vocations Office. All diaconal vocations work should be arranged through St. Macrina Orthodox Institute. The goal of the institute is to increase the scope of Church education and to support the reinvigoration of “diakonia,” both ordained and lay, through education and communities of learning.

The St. Macrina Orthodox Institute fulfills the dream of Archbishop Job of blessed memory, with the blessing of Bishop Matthias and the Diocesan Council, to expand Orthodox educational opportunities at home for those who, with good reason, cannot go off to seminary to seek an intensive vocational formation in the faith. We take very seriously the students’ connection with the local parish and the Diocese, and are happy to provide them education where they are.

The St. Macrina Orthodox Institute is both rigorous and sensitive to people’s needs on the ground. Unlike the seminaries or a correspondence program, we work to bring direct, ongoing instruction to the faithful on the local level. In dialogue with local

Deans and pastors, we arrange for academically qualified and experienced instructors, preferably drawn from local clergy and laity, to give classes which can suit a working person’s schedule. We hope to set up small “cohorts” of students that can share the educational experience together, and form communities of support for education and ministry within Midwestern deaneries and parishes.

If there are no local instructors immediately available, the Saint Macrina Institute is willing to provide ongoing education, support, and resources to clergy or lay instructors who interested in embarking on a process of continuing education in specific areas of theology and practice. The Institute can also on some occasions send instructors from other locations to teach classes. Instruction is arranged as a cooperative effort between the diocesan St. Macrina Institute and local instructors and cohorts of students. Each local program may have some different emphases and meet different needs, in coordination with the diocesan oversight and support of the St. Macrina Institute.

The Program consists of a cycle of, ideally 7 courses that can either be given as longer, or 8 or more session classes by local instructors, or classes broken up into 2-4 intensive sessions with instructors brought

Cycle of Courses

- Spirituality
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Church History & Patristics
- Dogmatic Theology
- Sacraments, Catechesis & Homiletics
- Ethics, Canons & Liturgical Practice

In addition, the Diocese partners with the national OCA Diaconal Practicum taking place each summer.

### Is This Right For You?

If you are considering a diaconal vocation or find yourself desiring a greater education in the Bible, Church Dogma, the Fathers, and more: get in touch with us! Theological education is for all in the Church. The Saint Macrina Orthodox Institute’s program is for anyone who wants to increase their knowledge and engage in greater, diakonia, service in the Church, both in the ordained diaconate and in other unordained ministries. Speak to your pastor and to your local Dean about getting involved in a local cycle of courses. Help to organize a local cycle. Join in a community of learning throughout the Diocese, and benefit from the instruction of people trained and specialized in each particular theological area and discipline.

*Please inquire about possible arrangements in your local area.*



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*for the Renewal of Diakonia and Catechesis  
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