

Words of Wisdom, Words of Grace

Continuing Education *eCourse* for Vocation & Formation Ministers

September – December 2023

Mary Pat Garvin, RSM, Ph.D.

Words of Wisdom, Words of Grace -- our own experience attests to the power of words. Words of wisdom, words of grace spoken to us long ago may have lodged deep within, becoming a font of courage and inspiration in our own lives. In our current ministry as vocation and formation ministers, we desire that the words we speak offer wisdom and grace to those discerning a felt-call to religious life.

Words of Wisdom, Words of Grace is an opportunity to explore topics relevant to vocation and formation ministry alongside ministers from a variety of congregations and continents. Last year, vocation and formation ministers from 14 countries participated in this annual *eCourse*.

Sessions will be held on ZOOM and will include input, conversation, and small group discussion. Participation in this series includes **free access** to *SLIConnect: Resources for Healthy Life and Ministry* (<https://www.sliconnect.org/>), a service of Saint Luke Institute. *SLIConnect* is a rich resource of 100+ video courses designed to promote healthy life and ministry for members of religious congregations, ordained clergy, and all those ministering in the Church.



Topics

Home Is Where We Start From: Family Dynamics & the Formative Process

- ❖ Home is *truly* where we start from! This session will explore how family experience (e.g., parenting styles; rules, roles, and rituals; sibling relationships, etc.) shapes a person throughout their life. The more aware discerners and those in initial formation are of these early family experiences, the more readily they may notice their influence as they explore their felt-call to religious life.

Exploring Spiritual Practices of Gen X, Millennials, & Gen Z

- ❖ In every age specific spiritual practices (sometimes referred to as devotions) gain popularity and deeply influence large segments of a faith tradition. This session will explore some of the popular spiritual practices held dear by those who hail from Gen X, Millennials, & Gen Z. We will explore spiritual practices from both contemporary theology and the psychology of human development so to ascertain how these practices may influence the development of a healthy and holy 21st century adult faith.

Strengthening Skills for Accompaniment

- ❖ One-on-one accompaniment of those discerning religious life is essential. Strengthening skills for this type of work is ongoing. This session will explore skills valuable to vocation and formation ministers, such as identifying and using accurate empathy, recognizing signs of acculturation stress, and working with silence. Each of these skills sharpens the minister's capacity to better discern, along with the individual, their felt-call to religious life.

Professed Living in Formative Communities

- ❖ Professed members who live in formative communities play a vital role in the lives of those discerning religious life. This session will explore topics such as discernment/selection of professed; orientation to goals and objectives of initial formation; support and accompaniment of professed; and yearly evaluation of one's experience of living in a formative community.

Dates: September 8¹, September 11, October 23, November 20, December 11

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM (Eastern Time)

Platform: ZOOM

Donation: \$150 US Dollars per person
-make check out to SISTERS OF MERCY
-electronic transfer of funds (for international participants) please request needed information

Registration by August 1, 2023

email – vocation.formation2020@gmail.com

or

post – Mary Pat Garvin, RSM
Sisters of Mercy
204 B Elmwood Ave.
Narberth, PA 19072 USA

Facilitator: Since 1994 Mary Pat Garvin, RSM, Ph.D. has ministered both nationally and internationally in vocation and formation ministry, explicitly focusing on the education and training of vocation and formation Ministers. Mary Pat has published numerous articles on vocation discernment and the formative process in *Horizon: Journal of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC)*, *InFormation Magazine* published by the Religious Formation Conference (RFC), *Human Development*, as well international journals dedicated to vocation and formation ministry. In 2017 Mary Pat was the recipient of the *Religious Formation Conference's* “Penet Award” for her contribution to formation ministry both nationally and internationally. Having served on her congregation’s general leadership team, she currently is a fellow in Human Formation with Saint Luke Institute in Silver Spring, MD.



Please fill out a separate registration form for each participant.

-if you are unable to fill out this form, simple email this information to vocation.formation2020@gmail.com

Name _____

Congregation _____

Country _____

Email Address _____

WhatsApp _____
(international participants only)

Phone _____

Circle all that apply: Vocation Minister Formation Minister Leadership Other _____

¹ The September 8th session is **optional**. While all participants are welcomed, this session is provided for those who have never previously participated in *eCourses* with Mary Pat Garvin, RSM. This session we will explore the foundational concepts underlying the material we will cover in *Words of Wisdom, Words of Grace*