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# **FORMATION and AUTHORIZATION of LEM**

# 'SOMEBODY'S CALLING'

*Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name*

*Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name*

*Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name*

*Oh, My Lord,*

*Oh, My Lord,*

*What Shall I Do?*

# CO-WORKERS

## FORMATION

- *Lay persons who devote themselves permanently or temporarily to some special service of the Church are obliged to acquire the appropriate formation which is required to fulfill their function properly.*

■ Code of Canon Law 231 (33)

## AUTHORIZATION

- *Authorization is the process by which properly prepared lay men and women are given responsibilities for ecclesial ministry by competent Church authorities*

# GOOD NEWS



# GOOD NEWS (13, 23, 24)

- Over 22,000 LEMs in formation programs.
  - Majority in certificate programs.
  - Certificates in Ministry for laity have increased.
- Meet growing need – online programs in ministry, 11 programs taught in Spanish.
- Formation programs in dioceses – partnerships with schools of theology, seminaries, universities
- Increase in candidates from underrepresented communities in formation programs

# GOOD NEWS

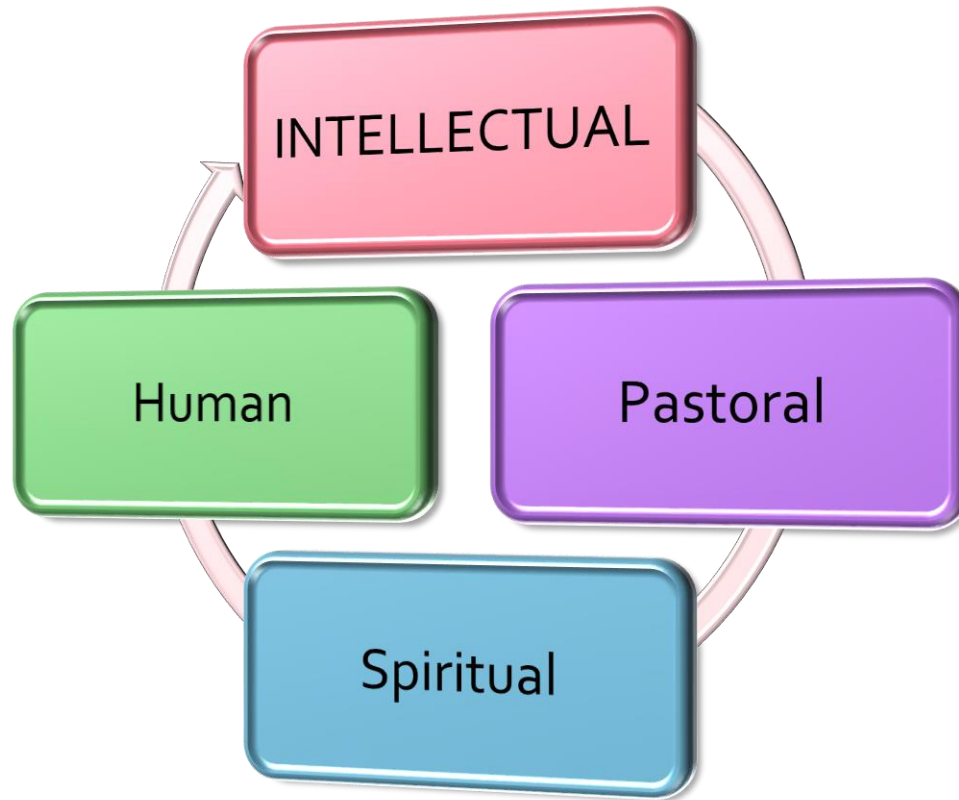
- According CARA study 75% of respondents stated that authorization is important aspect of LEM process
- In some dioceses – Bishop meets annually with LEMs.
- Public acknowledgement of LEMs in many diocesan newspapers
- Many dioceses now have offices that guide LEM candidate through process – formation to authorization.

**FORMATION**





# What is appropriate formation?





# CULTURE/CONTEXT

- **What is your context? What are the needs of your local context? What type of minister do you need to best respond to your context?**
- **What are resources for formation attentive to context?**
  - Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS), Mexican American Catholic College (MACC), Hispanic Summer Institute, Black Catholic Theological Symposium, (BCTS) Association of Catholic Hispanic Theologians (ACHTUS)

# FINANCIAL BURDEN



# EVALUATION

- Who is best suited for Lay Ecclesial Ministry?
- How to evaluate formators in these programs?
- Not all who are in formation programs are called to Lay Ecclesial ministry as candidates, teachers, mentors or formators.

# AUTHORIZATION

# 3 STEPS in PROCESS

- 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
- 2. APPOINTMENT
- 3. ANNOUNCEMENT

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- 1. CERTIFICATES – DEGREES
- 2. CERTIFICATION **not accreditation**
  - **Certify – persons**
  - **Accredit – programs**
- 3. **The Roles and Persons involved?**
  - THE BISHOP
  - THE ORDAINED
  - DIRECTORS/STAFF of DIOCESAN ECCLESIAL OFFICES
- 4. RITUAL & COMMISSIONING



# APPOINTMENT

- Who appoints? - BISHOP
- Who affirms? - BISHOP and COMMUNITY
- HOW IS THIS DONE?

# ANNOUNCEMENT

- About affirmation and communication
- What is best way to announce, affirm and share this good news?

- ITS ALL ABOUT THE

**RELATIONSHIP!!**

# CHALLENGES

Language -  
Nomenclature

Consistency of  
Formation Training  
and Evaluation

Authorization

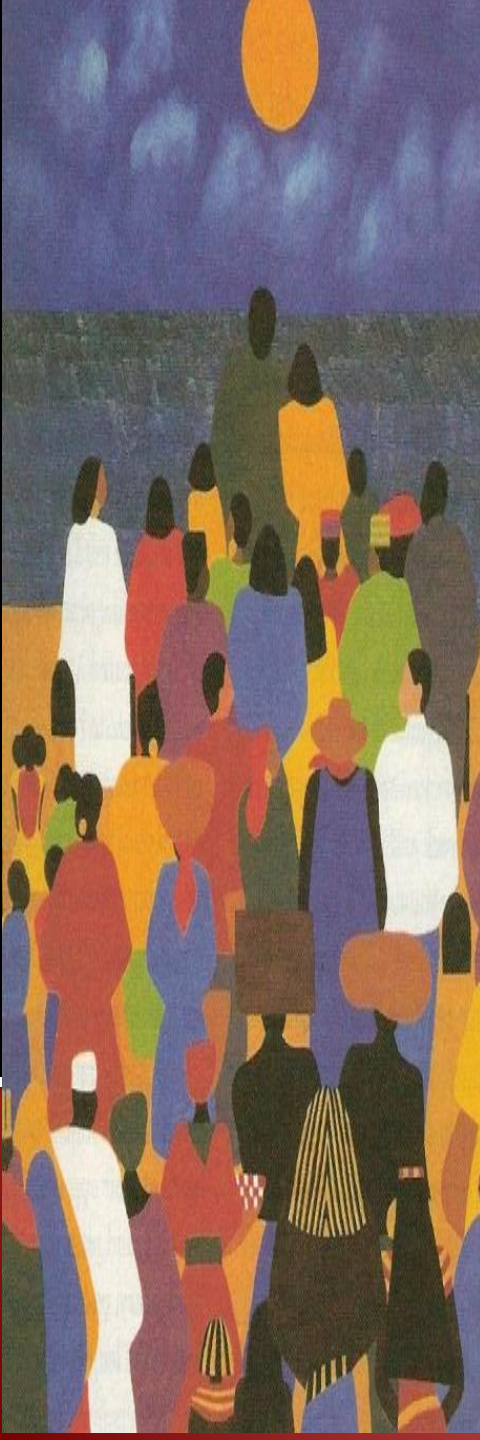


Length of Process

Financial

Communication

Acceptance &  
Support



Do not quench

the **SPIRIT**

1 Thessalonians 5:19

