

14 May 2015

My Testimonial for the Ministry Formation Program

For anyone contemplating entering the Ministry Formation Program I would say: Know your reason for entering and keep your goal in mind. You, too, will then end your two years with the joy of Jesus emanating from you, with an enhanced knowledge of our faith, with the understanding it is your duty to be a witness of our faith every moment of your life, and you will learn who you are as a Catholic Christian. There is a veritable treasure trove within the Ministry Formation Program for those who desire and will put forth the effort by taking the initiative as learners, as leaders, and as witnesses. John McGrath is the key person who unlocks our potential by selecting our instructors and by providing instruction for each of us to become more deeply knowledgeable Christian leaders and true witnesses of our Catholic faith.

I began Ministry Formation with a personal goal: to learn more about my Catholic faith, to actually know what I professed. I would put forth my best effort. I would listen, read, study, share, grow. As a life-time learner and with that understanding I looked forward to each class. I reached my goal and have been gifted by so much more. Throughout these past two years of Ministry Formation I have discovered an unknown portion of myself. By studying such a diverse group of classes concerned with our Catholic religion I have become a more well-rounded disciple of Christ. Each topic stretched me in some manner; some more and some less but each contributed to the growth of who I am now. For myself I would state: if I only acquired the skill of listening with an understanding heart the whole Ministry Formation Program would be a success. Such a skill enables me, in any situation, to really make a difference in the lives of all people who hold a conversation with me because they will know I had heard what they had said: I had listened. With these classes has come the knowledge that no one can just name themselves as a Catholic and do nothing. Each of us must be true leaders and true witnesses who never cease learning about our faith and putting into practice that which we learn and know. By witnessing to the truth while living the truth I am able to build compassion and respect in everyone. My transformation throughout these two years has added to my journey of faith. What I believed I lacked at the beginning is now overflowing from me. My foundation of faith has grown more firm. I am more knowledgeable of our Catholic religion and have realized I love being a Catholic. I now have the confidence to share our Catholic religion with anyone. Often I am addressing the knowledge, joy, love, and camaraderie which exist in this program because I am sharing the advantages of fully participating in the Ministry Formation Program. With thanks to God and each instructor within the Ministry Formation Program plus its director, John McGrath, I can now say with faith and truth: I am proud to be a Catholic. I am a true Christian leader and a true witness. I am Francys Johnson, one of those people of the Class of 2013 - 2015, Group #16.