

DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD
MINISTRY FORMATION PROGRAM
COMMUNICATION SKILLS
COURSE OUTLINE

SESSIONS:

1. Communication Theory – Preview Sheet

From the beginning of time, God has been present to humanity and has invited us to enter into a caring relationship with one another. Communication is the vehicle through which these relationships are fostered.

In preparation for the first session, reflect on three different communication experiences between yourself and another that occurred over the past week. Be prepared to assess how effective they were or were not, and why.

2. Group Dynamics & Conflict Resolution – Preview Sheet

Understanding group behavior requires having some knowledge of the importance of groups in social development, and awareness of the personality traits that individuals bring with them into a group setting. At times, conflict can arise causing one to take account of the motivation, perception, or belief system of the people they encounter.

In preparation for the second session, reflect on the past several weeks and identify three specific conflicts that you were aware of, or involved in. Be prepared to identify the motivation, perception, or belief that contributed to the conflict.

3. Interpersonal Relationships in Ministry – Preview Sheet

Interpersonal relationships are part of life. They are connections, associations, and involvements we have with people every day that can be either positive or negative. To better understand relationships in ministry, one must understand the motivation of needs.

In preparation for the third session, identify a significant relationship in your life and be prepared to discuss the mutuality of meeting one another's needs.

ASSIGNMENT:

Upon completion of these three classes, write a three-page reflection paper that expresses your understanding of effective communication in the context of ministry. Include an assessment of your communication efforts by addressing what you do well and what you could improve on.

The reflection paper is to be double spaced, one-inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman font. Include class site and your name.

Email the reflection paper to mdowling@rockforddiocese.org