INSTITUTE FOR PASTORAL INITIATIVES

The Institute for Pastoral Initiatives mobilizes the resources of the University of Dayton for partnerships with the church that create and implement innovative pastoral initiatives designed to meet the needs of the church and to articulate faith within the context of contemporary culture.

The Institute co-directs the unique Forum for Young Catechetical Leaders for students. The Forum prepares students to be certified to become catechists in the Catholic Church. Students are introduced to outstanding catechetical leaders from around the country. Each semester students gather one Saturday a month for a full day of catechetical formation. This is the only such program in the U.S. in a Catholic University.

The Virtual Learning for Faith Formation (online courses) is coordinated by the Institute. Courses are offered for CEUs to support Catechist, Youth Ministry and Lay Ecclesial Leadership Formation.

The Institute's overall mission is to reflect the Catholic Marianist identity of the University through education, consultative services, networking, applied pastoral research and multimedia catechetical productions and publications.

The Institute is currently focusing on research and teaching in the following areas:

- Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities within the Church
- Forum for Young Catechetical Leaders
- Lay Ecclesial Leadership Formation
- New Paradigms for Adult Faith Formation
- Pastoral Communications and Ministry
- Religion, Spirituality and Film
- Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (Internet)