



# NATHANAEL 2020-2023

## Lay Faith Formation, to form missionary disciples

Updated January 27, 2020

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### A. PARTICIPANTS IN FORMATION

- 1. Baptized Lay Adults.** The candidates are baptized lay adults affiliated with a Christian community (parish or mission) within the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface.
- 2. Degree of Commitment.** The candidate, who is actively involved at the parish level or elsewhere, must determine, in consultation with those affected, the degree of commitment that he will be able to maintain in such activities during the Nathanael 3-year program. Each candidate must also balance the obligations and demands of family life and the Nathanael Program.
- 3. Support from Parish.** From start to finish, it is important that the candidate maintains ties with his parish in order that he may receive the necessary support throughout the Nathanael journey. The Pastors and Parish Life Directors need to be well informed about the role of Nathanael in the diocesan mission with regard to the formation of their parishioners, as well as the goals and objectives of the program.
- 4. Role of Parishioners.** Parishioners are encouraged to accompany the candidate, and wherever possible, to respond to their needs, thereby contributing to an enriching experience.
- 5. Discerning Eventual Path to Serve.** Parishes can also support the candidate and guide them in discerning their eventual path to serve the mission of the Church. It is understood that the candidate's personal calling may be in the community, in the workplace, or in the parish. During his formation, the candidate will have discerned how best to serve with their gifts and charisms.

#### B. PROCESS OF FORMATION

- 1. Personal Discipline.** Personal and spiritual growth requires personal discipline. Each candidate is asked to take the necessary steps in his formation as recommended by the team.

2. **Share Personal Reflections.** Throughout the formation process and the discernment lived out in Nathanael, the candidate is invited to share personal reflections.
3. **Bear Witness.** The candidate will be provided, within the Nathanael community, with the means and opportunities to bear witness to their faith and of the work of the Holy Spirit in his life.
4. **Community Will Become a Reality.** Nathanael is not an individualistic journey. The candidate will live an experience of communion within the Church. It is to the extent to which the candidate will accept to open themselves to others, in confidence, that community will become a reality.
5. **A Number of Ways.** Although each candidate is responsible for their own formation, Nathanael offers a number of ways that this may be achieved. Members of the formation team and weekend presenters offer their competencies in different disciplines as well as during each formation weekend.

#### 6. The Different Paths of Formation

- teachings
- prayer
- liturgical celebrations
- annual retreats
- participation in community or humanitarian service
- sharing in small and large groups
- breaks and relaxation
- sharing of responsibilities
- personal work between formation weekends
- ministry of presence
- evaluation
- etc.

7. **Adult Education Approach.** Nathanael takes into account that growth in adults is continuous and that each candidate, inspired by the Holy Spirit, is an agent of change in his own formation.

This approach:

- is one of co-responsibility in their formation, where participation and feedback contribute to their formation;
- works at integrating the different elements of formation;
- encourages interaction among candidates;
- includes carrying out concrete individual and community projects; and
- creates an environment that fosters the spiritual and intellectual growth of each candidate.

- 8. To Be Formed.** Supported by the formation team, the candidate, open to the action of the Holy Spirit, allow themselves to be formed:
- by the Word of God and Church Tradition, through prayer, community life, and through life's events;
  - in the light of theological content;
  - by remaining true to one's own charisms.

The candidate moves toward a closer relationship with God, deepening their sense of vocation and their ability to respond to their unique call.

## C. PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

1. The **Formation Team** will consist of 2 or 3 people, one of whom will be the Coordinator. Its members will be the "guardians of the vision". This Team will be responsible for the planning and development of the program from month to month as well as for the ongoing evaluation of the program and candidates.
2. **Presenters** for each discipline will come from the wider community. During the year, these will vary according to the needs of the curriculum and skills required at that moment in time.
3. **Formation sessions** are held one weekend a month (except July and August) over a 3-year period.
4. **Shared cost of the formation per year:**

Archdiocese:	\$2,000 per candidate
Parish*:	\$500 per candidate
Candidate*:	\$500 per candidate

\*Bursaries are available.

8. All **applications** will be processed through the parish, whether through the Pastor, Parish Pastoral Council or other designated personnel. *Open Doors* sessions will also be held.

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