

Graced Companionship

Continuing Education *eCourse* for Vocation & Formation Ministers

September – December 2024

Mary Pat Garvin, RSM, Ph.D.

We have all known the value of *graced companions*, those individuals whose singlemindedness and contagious spirit sparked our own longings to follow Jesus in the tradition of our founders and foundresses. This year's *eCourse* will explore topics pertinent to vocation and formation ministers as they gracefully (and insightfully!) companion those discerning religious life.



In 2023 vocation and formation ministers who registered for *Words of Wisdom*, *Words of Grace* numbered 104, hailing from 17 countries and 5 continents. Thus, the content explored provided participants with a truly intercultural perspective so vital to vocation and formation ministry today. We look forward to having a similar representation of cultures in 2024!

Sessions will be held on ZOOM and will include input, conversation, and small group discussion. Each session will provide materials (videos, podcasts, websites, books, etc.) for additional exploration by individual participants or by vocation and formation teams.

Topics

Graced Companionship: A Near Occasion of Grace

- ❖ Graced companionship, a way of accompanying those discerning religious life, is strongly relational. It offers to those we accompany support, encouragement, as well as courage as they discern their readiness and capacity for religious life. This session will explore the qualities and skills of vocation and formation ministers capable of providing such graced companionship, as well as the qualities and skills needed to benefit from this type of accompaniment throughout the formative process.

Navigating Individual and Communal Grief with New Members

- ❖ Image yourself entering religious life today! Your desire and enthusiasm would soon be tested as you engaged in community discussions regarding the closure of ministries, withdrawing from parishes, and who will attend funeral services for yet another beloved member of the congregation. This session will explore the importance of including the topic of grief (individual and communal) within the formative process. Materials will be provided to assist vocation and formation ministers in navigating this delicate topic with new members.

Exploring Personality Styles and Disorders and the Formative Process

- ❖ Personalities, we all have one! This session will explore an understanding of personality – those enduring characteristics and behaviors, developed over a lifetime, which influence how a person navigates daily life. This session will explore various personality styles and disorders which are encountered in those discerning religious life. This session's focus will be the influence of personality on the development of a prayer life, community living, and ministerial service to God's people.

Well-Being: Gift to Self and Others

- ❖ Practicing healthy self-care is essential for well-being, that is, the ability to live joyfully and with enthusiasm as a religious in the 21st century. Vocation and formation ministers who struggle to maintain healthy self-care practices frequently experience a lessening of the creativity and energy needed to accompany, to be a graced companion, to those discerning religious life. This session will explore self-care practices designed to support a healthy (*and holy!*) sense of well-being.

Dates: September 12¹, September 16, October 14, November 18, December 9

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM (Eastern Time)

Platform: ZOOM

Donation: \$150 US Dollars per person

-make check out to **SISTERS OF MERCY**

-electronic transfer of funds (for international participants) please request needed information

Registration by August 20, 2024

email – vocation.formation2020@gmail.com

or

post – Mary Pat Garvin, RSM

Sisters of Mercy

204 B Elmwood Ave.

Narberth, PA 19072 USA

Facilitator: Since 1994 Mary Pat Garvin, RSM, Ph.D. has ministered both nationally and internationally in vocation and formation ministry, explicitly focusing on the education and training of vocation and formation ministers. Mary Pat has published numerous articles on vocation discernment and the formative process in *Horizon: Journal of the National Religious Vocation Conference* (NRVC), *In-Formation Magazine* published by the Religious Formation Conference (RFC), *Human Development*, as well international journals dedicated to vocation and formation ministry. In 2017 Mary Pat received the “Penet Award” from the Religious Formation Conference for her contribution to formation ministry both nationally and internationally. Having served on her congregation’s general leadership team, she currently works with congregations worldwide and serves on the boards of the Religious Formation Conference (RFC) and the Intercongregational Collaborative Novitiate (ICCN).



Please fill out a separate registration form for *each* participant.

-if you are unable to fill out this form, simply email information to vocation.formation2020@gmail.com

Name _____

Congregation _____

Country _____

Email Address _____

WhatsApp _____
(international participants only)

Phone _____

Circle all that apply: Vocation Minister Formation Minister Leadership Other _____

¹ The September 12th session is **optional**. While all participants are welcomed, this session is provided for those who have never previously participated in any *eCourses* with Mary Pat Garvin, RSM. This session we will explore the foundational concepts underlying the material we will cover in the course *Graced Companionship*.