

Diocese of Western Michigan

Spiritual Discernment Program

Fr. John Crean, Director

P.O. Box 215
Ada, MI 49301
616-682-7810

Application for Admission

Fall 2006

Dear Applicant:

Please fill out this form and return it to me at the above address as soon as possible, but no later than May 15, 2006 with the endorsement of your rector, vicar or senior warden. That person will also be asked to write a separate detailed letter later.

Detailed brochures describing the *Spiritual Discernment Program* will soon be available at your parish office, but the program essentials are outlined on the next page. By signing this application, you acknowledge that you have read and are prepared to abide by the program essentials. The Bishop requires all aspirants, whether for diaconate or for priesthood, to have successfully completed the *Spiritual Discernment Program* before he will consider endorsing applications either to the *David Pendleton Oakerhater School for Deacons* or to an accredited seminary.

Please call me if you have any questions about the program or the application. God bless you on your search! Fr.

John+

Basic data (Please print)

Date of Application _____
Name _____
Street Address _____
City, State & ZIP _____
Phone (home) _____
E-mail address _____
Place of employment _____
Phone (work) _____
Parish name & city _____
Parish priest's name _____

Background info

I have been an Episcopalian since _____ (year)

I was raised in _____ (original denomination)

I have lived in this diocese since _____ (year)

I hope to discern a call to *diaconate* *priesthood* *not sure* (circle one)

I am currently under formal spiritual direction *yes* *no* (circle one)

I have read the program essentials and am prepared to abide by the requirements.

(applicant's signature)

(priest's or senior warden's signature)

(printed)

(printed)

Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan
Spiritual Discernment Program (SDP)
Program Essentials

The Basics

Discernment for ministry begins in the parish. Clergy and/or discernment teams work with parishioners feeling a call, whether to enhanced baptismal (lay) ministry or to ordained (clergy) service in the Church. The **SDP** is designed to serve as the next step in that discernment process.

The **SDP** is a freestanding, preliminary course of study required either for admission to the *David Pendleton Oakerhater School for Deacons* or to an accredited theological seminary. **SDP** focuses on open discernment, seeking the Spirit's direction as to one's current call.

Married persons or those living in committed relationships will be expected to participate in the SDP together with their spouse or significant other.

The Diocesan Discernment Director will coordinate this intensive one semester program designed around multiple topics of spiritual development and discernment. In all activities, participants will be asking: *How does God want me to live out my life and what does God want me to be doing with it?*

The Director will also ascertain that applicants are participating in personal as well as group spiritual direction. The Bishop requires those in formation as well as the newly ordained to retain a spiritual director. **SDP** participants will be assisted in selecting a qualified director, if they do not already have one.

Both Bishop and SDP faculty want to emphasize at the outset that a rigorous spiritual life, including discernment, formation and direction, is foundational to the exercise of all ministries, lay or ordained. But for those aspiring to ordained leadership roles in this diocese, a disciplined spiritual life is indispensable.

The Timetable

Participants in the **SDP** commit to meeting a total of eight sessions. Each weekend will consist of an overnight from Friday evening through Saturday afternoon at Kettunen Conference Center in Tustin, MI. The eighth weekend concludes the **SDP** with a closed, traditional silent retreat all day Saturday. Activities during sessions 2-7 will include group spiritual direction, opportunities for private as well as corporate prayer, instruction on the spiritual life, and communal celebrations of BCP offices and Eucharist.

August 25-26	Session #1 (Orientation)
September 8-9	Session #2
September 22-23	Session #3
October 6-7	Session #4
October 27-28	Session #5
November 3-4	Session #6
November 17-18	Session #7
December 1-2	Session #8 (Advent Retreat)

The Finances

The diocese expects that **SDP** tuition will be shared reasonably between the sponsoring parish and applicant. Comprehensive tuition, including fees, textbooks, lodging and meals for the 2006 semester:

Single Participant	\$1,500
Participating Couple	\$2,000

The diocese expects that full payment be made **before** or **during** the first session in August. Other payment plans must be individually negotiated by special arrangement.