



Forming Leaders | Serving the Church

Center for Catechetical Initiatives
Institute for Church Life
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Notre Dame, IN 46556
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2009-10 APPLICATION PROSPECTUS

The Echo Faith Formation Leadership Program is a dynamic two-year service program that focuses on forming leaders and serving the Catholic Church through partnerships between the University of Notre Dame and Dioceses of the United States.

Echo prepares tomorrow's leaders in faith formation. As such, Echo is committed to "handing on the faith." The term commonly associated with this mission is "catechesis." This term is our pathway to the Echo program. The word catechesis finds its roots in a Greek word meaning "to echo" or "to resound." Echo listens to the needs of the Church and embraces with joy the mission to hand on the faith.

Participants of Echo engage in ongoing academic, professional-ministerial, communal, and spiritual formation while serving at a parish in one of our partner dioceses around the United States. This ongoing formation and hands-on experience enable them to develop the skills, insights, and capacities for ministry.

Echo seeks to:

- A. *Provide* opportunities for participants to experience parish community life and service as they implement the Church's catechetical mission as *apprentice catechetical leaders* in partner dioceses.
- B. *Engage* partner dioceses and parishes in the formation of program participants through mentoring and other local ministry formation opportunities.
- C. *Enable* program participants to pursue an M.A. degree in Theology (with summer study and online courses during the academic year) from within Notre Dame's Department of Theology while serving in partner dioceses during the remainder of the year.
- D. *Foster* participants' understanding and application of the Church's catechetical heritage through the experience of parish life and ministry.
- E. *Nurture* the professional ministerial development and faith formation of participants as they engage in professional mentoring relationships and as they live in intentional faith communities.



2009-10 Application Instructions

The Echo Faith Formation Leadership Program is a service program of the Center for Catechetical Initiatives, a component of the Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame.

The application process for Echo is a two-step process. The first step is to apply for admission to the program. Accepted applicants who accept the offer of admission to the Echo program complete the second step by applying to the Graduate School for formal admission into the M.A. in Theology program of Notre Dame's Department of Theology.

Requirements:

- A. Applicants must have received, or expect to receive, a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education by the summer following the date of their application, with a minimum of 6 credit hours in Theology or Religious Studies.¹
- B. Selected applicants must be interviewed prior to an offer of admission to the program.
- C. Applicants must demonstrate the maturity necessary for leadership formation in parish ministry.
- D. Applicants must express willingness to promote the teaching of the Church as an essential aspect of parish catechetical leadership.
- E. Applicants must be willing to serve in a partner diocese that is host to a small group of other apprentice catechetical leaders.
- F. Applicants must commit to two years of service under the direction of an experienced, diocesan-approved parish or diocesan catechetical leader or similarly qualified person (i.e., "mentor").

Instructions:

The body of the 2009-10 Echo application is completed online through a portal on the Echo website (the same page where this document was accessed). In addition to the online application, an updated resume and a recent photograph of the applicant must be emailed to delorenzo.2@nd.edu. Letters of recommendation and official transcripts should be sent to

Echo
University of Notre Dame
330 Geddes Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Deadlines:

Early Application Process: Wednesday, October 28, 2009
Regular Application Process: Wednesday, January 20, 2010

¹ Applicants need to meet the usual admission requirements of the M.A. Theology degree program of the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. Special circumstances should be discussed with Echo staff and/or administrators in the Department of Theology.

Early vs. Regular Applications:

Applications for admission to “Echo 7,” the class that begins in June 2010, will be accepted in two phases. Applicants who submit their applications by October 28, 2009 may choose to be considered for early admission, while all other applicants who submit their applications by January 20, 2010 will be considered for regular admission. Information on early and regular applications is detailed below:

Early Applications

- *Admission notification by beginning of December 2009*
- *Applicants offered admission must decide on offer no later than December 18, 2009.*

Applicants who submit their Echo applications no later than October 28, 2009 have the option of being considered for admission to the program on an early basis. The advantage of applying early is that admission decisions will be rendered by the beginning of December 2009. Based on the initial review of the Echo applications, some applicants will be invited to interview on campus for the program. Admissions decisions will be based on the written application and in-person interview. Early applicants will receive one of three responses from Echo relative to their admission status:

- i. Offered Admission²
 - a. These applicants are offered an invitation to join the Echo program.
 - b. Applicants offered admission have two options in response to their invitation:
 - Accept invitation to become part of Echo 7
 - Decline invitation to become part of Echo 7 (applicants may request that their applications be considered again during the regular application process)
- ii. Not Offered Admission
 - a. If an applicant is not offered admission, his/her application will not be considered again for admission in Echo 7, but the applicant may reapply next year (2010-11) for Echo 8.
- iii. Deferred to Regular Application Process
 - a. Deferred applications will be automatically entered into the regular application process.

Regular Applications

- *Admission notification by end of February 2010*
- *Applicants offered admission must decide on offer no later than March 5, 2010 (extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis)*

Applicants who submit their Echo applications between October 29, 2009 and January 20, 2010 will be considered for admission to the program during the regular application process. Regular applicants will receive one of three responses from Echo relative to their admission status:

- i. Offered Admission
 - a. These applicants are offered an invitation to join the Echo program.
 - b. Applicants offered admission have two options in response to their invitation:
 - Accept invitation to become part of Echo 7
 - Decline invitation to become part of Echo 7
- ii. Not Offered Admission
- iii. Wait Listed for Admission
 - a. Echo will create a small wait list of qualified applicants. If an admitted applicant declines his/her invitation, an applicant from the wait list may be offered admission.
 - b. Echo does not rank its wait list applicants; rather, decisions about whom to admit from the wait list are made after an offered applicant declines the admission invitation.

² Applicants who are offered admission during the early application process will be required to make a decision relative to their invitation to join Echo no later than Friday, December 18, 2009. If an applicant who is offered admission during the early application process does not wish to accept the admission offer by December 18, that applicant may request that his/her application be rolled over into the regular application process; however, admission will no longer be guaranteed.

All applications must include the following (feel free to use this as a checklist):

1. Complete Online

- 2009-10 Application Form
 - Essay either on a topic of your choice or on an experience you have had as a leader; 500 word maximum

2. Send to “Echo, 330 Geddes Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556”

- Four letters of recommendation from people familiar with your character, service and ministerial interests, potential for leadership, and/or academic ability. Letters of recommendation must be enclosed in an envelope with the recommender’s signature across the seal. Letters supplied should include:
 - Three letters from professors
 - One letter from someone who can speak directly to your capacities for leadership, ministry, spiritual enrichment, and communal living (ideal recommenders for this letter include previous employers, community service leaders/supervisors, dorm rectors/hall directors, and campus ministry leaders – no family members or peers)
- Official transcripts from each college or university attended

3. Email to delorenzo.2@nd.edu

- An updated resume
- A recent photograph
- Any additional information that might be of interest to the selection committee, especially with regard to the candidate’s capabilities and potential for ministerial leadership (this may also be submitted via mail to the Echo office)

DEADLINES:

Early Application Process: Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Regular Application Process: Wednesday, January 20, 2010

* If a deadline presents a problem for you, please contact Leonard DeLorenzo at 574-631-2915.

NOTE: The applicant is welcome to submit GRE scores with the Echo application.

Interviews for selected candidates will take place in November 2009 for the early application process and February 2010 for the regular application process. Each applicant will be informed of the status of her/his application by the end of November or beginning of December 2009 for the early application process, and the end of February 2010 for the regular application process.

Accepted applicants who choose to participate in Echo must complete all Graduate School admission requirements by April 17, 2009-10. The applicant’s file in the Graduate School must be complete by that date (e.g., file must include GRE scores).

The Echo program welcomes candidates from the Catholic Church and from the broad array of cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Admission to Echo is presently reserved for single lay persons committed to living in an intentional Echo faith community house with the other community members.³ All Echo participants should be willing to live in this type of community environment. Placement in a particular diocese is made by the Echo program in consultation with the partner diocese.

³ Married applicants may be considered on a case-by-case basis.