

Personal Reference

Recommendation Guidelines



To the Applicant:

Please complete the following information and give this document along with a stamped envelope to the person from whom you are seeking a recommendation. This recommendation should be submitted to “Echo, 330 Geddes Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556”.

Please check one:

- Applying for consideration in Early Application Process: Due October 28, 2009
- Applying for consideration in Regular Application Process: Due January 20, 2010

Name of Applicant

Name of Recommender

Relationship to Applicant

Your signature below waives your right to review this recommendation. The signing of this waiver is optional and the decision to sign or not sign this waiver will not be considered by the Selection Committee or in any other way prejudice the outcome of your application.

Signature of Applicant

Date

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To the Recommender:

The person named above is applying to *Echo: Faith Formation Leadership Program*, which is described briefly on the reverse of this page.

You have been asked to provide a recommendation for this applicant. Please prepare a letter that assesses the applicant’s capacities for leadership, ministry, spiritual enrichment, and communal living. The selection committee hopes that your evaluation of this applicant will help to illustrate this applicant’s character, especially relative to his/her integrity, professional promise, spiritual richness, and ability to genuinely share oneself with others. How mature and responsible is this person, and how open is he/she to a wide array of formation experiences?

Please submit this form and the accompanying letter in a sealed envelope, signed and dated on the back of the envelope. Thank you!

Program Information

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 in 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.

For more information about the program, please contact Dr. Gerard F. Baumbach, Director of the Center for Catechetical Initiatives (baumbach.2@nd.edu, tel. 574 631-2894) or Mr. Leonard DeLorenzo, Coordinator for Recruitment (email: delorenzo.2@nd.edu, tel. 574 631-2915).

