

Echo Professional-Ministerial Formation

The Mentor Relationship

An essential part of an apprentice's Echo experience is the relationship he/she enjoys with his/her mentor. Echo mentors are **seasoned parish ministers** who work on-site with apprentices to help them develop the skills and capacities for ministry, the professional skills needed to be an effective leader, and the ability to effectively and compassionately form others in faith.

Mentors are brought to the Notre Dame's campus each summer for a **mentor weekend**, composed of workshops, constructive conversations, and personal reflection in an atmosphere of prayer and community. Apprentices and mentors work together during this time to prepare for the year ahead and, in the second summer, reflect on the year that was.

Apprentices and mentors will create a **learning covenant** that formalizes their relationship. This covenant will detail the goals, expectations, and responsibilities pertaining to their relationship. The apprentice and mentor will meet regularly, collaborate on projects, and continually assess the apprentice's growth in the parish setting. The mentor guides the apprentice over the two years in Echo into positions of greater authority and leadership as a professional minister.

Echo staff members support this relationship throughout the two years through parish visits, regular telephone and email contact, and evaluation of learning covenants.