

Ministry Reflection I

The Institute for Christian Studies
The School of Diaconal Training
The Diocese of Central Florida
1017 East Robinson Street
Orlando, FL 32801

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To reflect on ministry encounters within the context of a group of peers;
- 2) To make connections between work in the classroom and ministry in the world.
- 3) To provide the opportunity for group members to learn more about themselves and the way in which ministry encounters are informed by their own story.
- 4) To identify and evaluate various dynamics, pitfalls, and successes in their ministry;
- 5) To provide a safe environment in which to learn new skills and approaches to ministry.

GENERAL OUTLINE

Meetings for the purpose of ministry reflection take place during the First Year of the School for Diaconal Training. At these meetings students will meet with a facilitator who will guide the group through the reflective experience.

Students will bring to a *written verbatim* (instructions will follow), and will be prepared to present this verbatim to the rest of the group. Ministry events will be chosen by the students, and will be based upon their desire for group input. This is an opportunity to learn new ways of approaching the situations; therefore students are encouraged bring encounters from which they desire to learn, encounters which they may not necessarily feel were “successful”.

Students will be graded (pass/fail) on the following criteria:

- 1) Students will come to class with the required written verbatim and prepared to present this to the rest of the group. **The student will bring enough copies for other members of the group and the facilitator.**
- 2) The group will reflect with their fellow student on the ministry encounter.
- 3) Students will be active participants in the group process.
- 4) **After class the students will write a one page paper on** 1. What pastoral issue came to the fore during the group discussion? 2. In what way did the discussion highlight a personal issue and the way that impacts your ministry? 3. What was most helpful during discussion? What was least helpful?

THE VERBATIM

The verbatim will deal with a recent encounter in ministry and may involve ministry in the world or in the church. Preferably the event will be one about which the student feels some ambivalence, one which the student may feel “could have gone better” or one about which he/she feels the need to learn more.

The verbatim will be type written, double spaced, and will include the following components:

BACKGROUND: What information did you know prior to your encounter? What was the purpose of the encounter? What information do you know that will enable your fellow students to enter into and to understand more about the situation?

DESCRIPTION: Describe where you were and what was going on around you when the incident took place. (i.e. Were you in a waiting room, the parish hall, at a bedside?) What was happening at the time of your visit? (i.e. Was the individual very ill, facing surgery, concerned about a loved one or themselves?). Also describe any observations you made about the person

THE ENCOUNTER: The verbatim will include statements made by those that were present. The statements will be numbered so fellow students can quickly locate them. The patient or parishioner **will not be identified by name**; initials or “patient/parishioner/client” will be used to protect the identity of the individuals other than the student. Put non verbal communication in parenthesis eg posture, eye contact, sadness, crying, laughter, pauses.
Try to capture the significant content of the visit in this script-like account.

For example:

D1 – Hello Mrs P . I came by to visit today to see how you are doing

P1- Hello (smiling) things are much better than yesterday

D2-

P2 -

D3 -

P3-

Where D is the pastoral caregiver and P is the parishioner/patient/client etc

Add extra letters for others involved in the encounter eg H for husband etc

EVALUATION: Describe how you feel the conversation/situation went. What thoughts did you leave the encounter with? Did you notice any emotional responses of your own either during the visit or after?
What feedback did you receive from the individual(s) involved or from your rector/vicar?

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Describe where you see God in this situation; try to identify major theological issues in the event, as you perceive them (i.e. the providence of God, the love of God, loneliness, abandonment, faith, doubt, fear, joy). What Biblical story/character connects with this encounter? How did this visit connect with any theological themes from your own life?

GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES:

What might be your growing edges? What strengths and limitations do you see in the encounter? What did you learn that will impact your future pastoral care? What would you like group input on?

PRESENTATION OF THE VERBATIM:

On the day of class, the student will present the verbatim, after providing fellow students and the facilitator with a copy.

- 1) The student will read the ***Background*** and the ***Description***
- 2) The presenter will read the part of the parishoner/patient/client and will select other students to take the parts of the various individuals involved (including the parenthesis), and read through the ***Encounter*** (like a script)
- 3) Then the presenter will read the ***Evaluation, Theological Reflection and Growth Opportunities.***
- 4) The group members will then be free to ask questions and provide feedback to the presenter and the presenter will be free to respond accordingly.
- 5) Copies of the verbatim will be returned to the presenter for disposal.

NOTE WELL:

Confidentiality

Trust and confidentiality is essential if openness to learning from one's encounters in ministry is to take place.

Any and all conversation/information discussed in the meeting will be held in strict confidence, and will not be shared with anyone outside the group.

Rev Amanda Wilson, Vicar of Corpus Christi, Okahumpka and Oncology Outpatient
Chaplain MD Anderson, Orlando

contact info;-

30203 Harris Drive,

Leesburg, FL 34748

352 408 5900 (cell)

e mail amandajwilson61@gmail.com