

Ministry Formation

Unfolding charism.

Expanding Understanding.

Deepening unity.

The Ministry Formation Program (MFP)

is designed to educate, form and support lay leaders partnering in mission and ministry with the School Sisters of Notre Dame of the Atlantic-Midwest Province.

Participants will engage SSND's history and heritage as they apply to our times. They will explore SSND's mission, educational vision and unfolding charism in the context of SSND's Directional Statement and Laudato Si'. There is emphasis on the integration of content and processes into the leader's ministry today. Gathering from across the entire province allows for supportive networking among leaders.

The Program Serves:

- Board chairs, chief administrators, and other selected leaders of SSND sponsored and co-sponsored ministries;
- Province department directors and selected others.

Duration:

The MFP extends approximately over a two-year time frame – four ministry formation sessions are offered in March and October over this span of time. The Mentoring component consists of approx. 12 topics to be covered in monthly, 1 hr. meetings.

Components of the Program:

One-on-One Mentoring

Leaders are able to meet one-on-one with a member of the Ministry Services team to explore the SSND context as experienced in their values, charism, mission and educational vision and how they form the backdrop and apply in their places of ministry.

Components of the Program – Cont'd

Ministry Formation Sessions

Together with others in key leadership positions, participants learn more about SSND charism and culture; Catholic social teaching; justice, peace and the integrity of creation; and spirituality and prayer. The formation in the SSND context seeks to enrich one's sense of mission, approach to ministry and deepening of one's call to serve in SSND ministry.

"Claiming the Fire Within" Retreat

The *Claiming the Fire Within* retreat is a four-day overnight retreat offered usually in June at a retreat house. This time is dedicated to building community in SSND ministry by exploring SSND themes, sharing in communal prayer and small-group conversations. The retreat also offers time for personal reflection and prayer to gain perspective and meaning in ministry and life, perhaps even to find in oneself the charism of 'making one'.

Visiting of Ministries and Heritage Sites

As opportunities arise (and as current travel guidelines allow), participants may be invited to participate in visits to SSND sponsored and co-sponsored ministries and specific heritage sites, to deepen awareness of SSND's response to the signs of the times and the implementation of mission & ministry from the past to today.

Logistics – The location and delivery of the various components is either in-person or virtual, to be determined. To maintain the integrity of the program and in support of other participating leaders, participants are asked to engage in the program in its entirety.

The MFP

is generously sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame of the Atlantic-Midwest Province at no cost to ministries and participants.

Upcoming Sessions (Format for Sessions: In-Person)

Oct 17-18 **OR** Nov 14-15, 2025 (TBC)
Session III

March 6-7, 2026
Session IV

Nov TBD, 2026
Session I

March TBD, 2027
Session II

Upcoming Retreat:

Claiming the Fire Within, June 23-26, 2025 | Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA

Contact Mission Formation:

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