

HOLY GROUND: A PROGRAM TO FORM SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS
Sponsored by the Consultation Center of the Roman Catholic Diocese
of Albany, New York

Holy Ground is a two year program for women and men who wish to respond to a call to offer spiritual direction (spiritual companionship, spiritual friendship; there are many titles).

Our program meets monthly, one evening each month, usually 6 pm until 9 pm. During the 2020-21 year we moved to zoom but our preference, when possible, is face-to-face gatherings. In the past these meetings have taken place on the second Tuesday of each month.

During year one participants focus on the basics of direction: prayer, attention to God's voice and the signs of the times, listening skills, discernment, and issues around resistance, consolation and desolation, transference and countertransference, and issues and questions raised by the directees. A variety of presenters address the topics, always with prayer, group work, dialogue, and pertinent questions.

During year two participants are expected to have two or three directees with whom they meet monthly. The monthly gatherings have two parts: continued attention to components of direction and supervision time in small groups. Participants usually meet with their supervisor in additional sessions.

Those who wish to apply to the program should be

- receiving spiritual direction themselves
- active in a faith community
- reasonably grounded (through course work, experience, or directed readings) in Scripture, prayer, and other background which will assist them
- open to learning and supervision

The application process includes:

- proof of VERTUS or other similar certification
- a brief essay describing the applicant's background and goals

- a recommendation from someone who can speak to the applicant's readiness to pursue these goals
- an application form and a non-refundable application fee of \$25 which is applied to the tuition
- an interview by phone or zoom

Tuition for the two year program is \$2000. Payment is ordinarily made in installments at individual convenience.

At present the core faculty area discerning whether to offer the program during 2021-2023. We will make that decision by April 15, 2021.

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