



## ST. SABINA CATHOLIC CHURCH, BELTON

700 Trevis Avenue, Belton, MO 64012

816-331-4713

[www.stsabinaparish.org](http://www.stsabinaparish.org)

Dear Friend:

Thank you for your interest in Foundations for Living Stones, and welcome to the application process! We are excited that you are considering this ministry program.

Foundations for Living Stones is a nine-month formation program of weekly sessions – two and a half hours in length. It includes the most essential elements for ministry formation. This program begins with an opening session in late August. The Foundations for Living Stones curriculum includes courses on scripture, sacraments, church history, ministry, and communication skills.

This packet includes all forms necessary to apply for Foundations for Living Stones. Also included is a schedule of this year's important dates and times. You will notice the beginning and ending dates along with Saturday mornings set aside for possible snow day make ups.

Should you wish to obtain another application packet for yourself or another person, you may either call 816-331-4713 to have one mailed to you or print an e-copy of the application packet. This packet and other information can be found on the St. Sabina Parish website: [www.stsabinaparish.org](http://www.stsabinaparish.org).

We ask that you return the completed application form as soon as possible. Once we receive it we will set up an interview time. Either drop it off at the parish office or mail it back to Biagio Mazza at the St. Sabina Parish address listed above. If you have any questions or would like some additional information, please do not hesitate to contact one of us:

Biagio Mazza 816-979-3153; e-mail [biagio@stsabinaparish.org](mailto:biagio@stsabinaparish.org)

Kris Larkey 816-979-3151; e-mail [kris@stsabinaparish.org](mailto:kris@stsabinaparish.org)

May God continue to bless you in your ministry.

Sincerely,

Biagio Mazza

*The following items comprise the Application Packet for Foundations for Living Stones. Please read this information carefully before completing your materials.*

**APPLICATION FORM**

Please *print or type* your responses on the two-page application form.

**LETTER OF INTENT**

Compose a letter explaining your desire for formal ministry training.

**PERSONAL ESSAY**

Compose an essay with additional information about yourself. Possible topics for this essay are listed on the form.

**LEARNING AGREEMENT**

Review the information and policies regarding class attendance, preparation, and participation and write your responses to these policies.

**READINESS FOR MINISTRY INVENTORY**

*Do not submit this form with your application materials.* Complete the inventory for your personal reflection and assessment. The statements listed on this sheet will prepare you for the interview with a Living Stones program interviewer.

**INTERVIEW PROCEDURE**

When all of your application materials have been received, a Foundations for Living Stones staff member will contact you to schedule an interview. All applicants who meet basic program requirements will be interviewed before final acceptance into the program.

*All application materials are confidential. Access is limited to Foundations for Living Stones Staff.*

<b>Contact Information</b>		
Name (please print)		Date of Birth    /    /
Spouse's Name (optional)		Marital Status (optional)
Home Phone with area code	Work Phone with area code	Cell Phone with area code
Primary Email Address		How often do you check your email? <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Often
Mailing Address: Street		Apt. #
City	State	Zip
Name of Parish	City	Years in Parish

<b>Ministry Experience During the Last Five Years</b>			
Description of Ministry and Location	Hours per Month	Years Involved	Currently Involved?
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<b>Work History During the Last Five Years</b>		
Type of Work and Location	Full or Part-time	Currently Employed?
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<b>Education History (Post Elementary School)</b>			
School or Program and Location	Dates: Begin/End	Area(s) of Study	Degree or Certificate

<b>Describe any other regular time commitments, including the number of hours you invest on a weekly basis (e.g. Cursillo, scouts, softball league, civic organizations, committees)</b>			
Commitment	Hours per week	Commitment	Hours per week
1.		5.	
2.		6.	
3.		7.	
4.		8.	

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Compose a letter explaining your desire for formal ministry training at this time in your life. If additional space is needed, use the back of this form or a separate sheet.

Although no particular format is required, this letter should address the following questions:

- Why do you want to be a part of Foundations for Living Stones Ministry Formation Program?
- How do you understand your call to ministry?
- How do you see yourself engaged in ministry in the future?
- What are your expectations of the Foundations for Living Stones Ministry Formation Program?
- What do you hope to gain from this process?

Compose an essay with additional information about yourself, e.g. personal interests or hobbies, family history, issues and causes that are important to you, etc. If additional space is needed, use the back of this form or a separate sheet.

<b>Attendance and Makeup Policy</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I will attend all sessions except for times of illness or emergency.</li> <li>• In case of absence, I will be responsible for contacting the Foundations for Living Stones staff to inform them, before the session if possible.</li> <li>• To make up a missed session, I will be responsible for working with another group member to discuss the material covered in the session.</li> <li>• If a pattern of more than one absence per course (six week sessions) develops, I agree to meet with the Program Director to discuss the issue of continuing in Foundations for Living Stones.</li> </ul>
<p><i>In two or three sentences, share your thoughts about this policy.</i></p>
<b>Session Preparation and Assignment Policy</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I will come to each session ready to discuss the assigned readings.</li> <li>• I agree to do homework assigned between sessions and complete course projects on time.</li> <li>• If a pattern of missing assignments or lack of preparation develops, I agree to meet with the Program Director to discuss the issue of continuing in Foundations for Living Stones.</li> </ul>
<p><i>In two or three sentences, share your thoughts about this policy.</i></p>
<b>Class Participation Policy</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I will try to develop a spirit of cooperation, openness, and mutual respect in my group.</li> <li>• I will try to maintain a high quality of participation in the group by: speaking for myself; initiating discussion, not always waiting for someone else to begin; and contributing to discussion without monopolizing.</li> <li>• I will keep confidentiality about personal information shared in the group.</li> </ul>
<p><i>In two or three sentences, share your thoughts about this policy.</i></p>

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the following inventory. While no one is expected to have all of these aspects fully developed in his or her life, these questions will assist you in identifying present strengths as well as areas for growth.

The inventory is also designed to help you assess several fundamental areas within ministry formation, such as:

- theological learning
- interpersonal skill development
- spiritual growth
- personal growth

This assessment is for your personal use. Therefore, *please do not submit this form with your application*. However, the personal interview phase of the application process will draw on these topics as a basis of conversation. You may want to use it as a reference for your personal interview.

Take time to think about each statement. Then indicate how well it describes you at this point in your life.

- KEY: (1) Does not describe me at all  
 (2) Does not describe me very well  
 (3) Describes me somewhat  
 (4) Describes me well  
 (5) Describes me extremely well

	Not at All	Not Well	Some-what	Well	Very Well
1. I have a good relationship with my family.	1	2	3	4	5
2. I have the support of my spouse and friends for growing in ministry.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I am aware of my personal family history and how it has shaped my present values, attitudes, and beliefs.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I am actively involved in parish life, e.g., liturgy, RCIA, community building activities, service organizations, etc.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I take time for regular personal reflection and prayer.	1	2	3	4	5
6. I am comfortable sharing my feelings with others.	1	2	3	4	5
7. I have good relationships with friends and co-workers.	1	2	3	4	5
8. I take time for recreation and rest.	1	2	3	4	5
9. I tend to be self-motivated and take the initiative in projects in which I am involved.	1	2	3	4	5
10. I take interest and am involved in social and political issues.	1	2	3	4	5



11.	People know me as someone who not only can begin a project but can also finish what I've started.	1	2	3	4	5
12.	I have good communication skills, e.g. the ability to listen and express myself in small and large groups.	1	2	3	4	5
13.	I can appreciate and respect points of view different from my own.	1	2	3	4	5
14.	I am comfortable and in touch with my emotions.	1	2	3	4	5
15.	I basically like myself and the direction my life has taken.	1	2	3	4	5
16.	I live my life in a way consistent with the values I hold.	1	2	3	4	5
17.	I am willing to take responsibility and leadership in groups as well as let others affect and direct me.	1	2	3	4	5
18.	I like to read and am interested in a variety of subjects.	1	2	3	4	5
19.	I am in good physical condition.	1	2	3	4	5
20.	I have a good sense of humor and can laugh at myself.	1	2	3	4	5
21.	I am aware of the issues and concerns of others and how they experience God in their lives.	1	2	3	4	5
22.	I am sensitive to the racial, ethnic, and cultural values of others.	1	2	3	4	5
23.	I have reflected on my own motivation for ministry, and my personal interests are secondary to the needs and interests of others.	1	2	3	4	5
24.	I am able to admit the mistakes that I make.	1	2	3	4	5
25.	I am ready and willing to make a commitment of my time and energy to this formation program.	1	2	3	4	5

# FOUNDATIONS FOR LIVING STONES FORMATION PROGRAM

## SEQUENCE OF COURSES

### Foundations for Living Stones Formation Sessions

Opening Session.....	1 session
Orientation.....	1 session
Human Development & Communication .....	5 sessions
Introduction to Theology.....	1 session
Theological Reflection 1.....	1 session
Hebrew Scriptures.....	6 sessions
Theological Reflection 2.....	1 session
Christian Scriptures.....	6 sessions
Theological Reflection 3.....	1 session
Church History .....	6 sessions
Theological Reflection 4.....	1 session
Sacraments and Prayer.....	6 sessions
Closing Session.....	1 session

### What is the Living Stones Formation Program?

- nine-month formation program for pastoral ministry
- basic adult learning program to develop ministry and leadership

### When does it begin?

- Opening session in September

### How long will it last?

- An Opening session in early September and a Closing session in early June
- 37 weekly sessions from September through early early June
- Day of the week is Tuesday Evenings from 7-9:30 pm.
- Cost is \$300 for the year, which includes tuition, handouts and books, except for the purchase of a study bible, if you choose to purchase one. (For those needing it, financial help is available.)

**Foundations for Living Stones Formation Program  
Dates and Sequence of Courses  
Tuesday Evenings 7-9:30 PM, 2017-2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Session</b>
<b>Sept 9 (Sat AM)</b>	<b>Opening Session (Saturday 9 AM-Noon)</b>	1
<b>September 12</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	2
September 19	Human Development/Communication 1	3
September 26	Human Development/Communication 2	4
October 3	Human Development/Communication 3	5
October 10	Human Development/Communication 4	6
October 17	Human Development/Communication 5	7
October 24	Introduction to Theology	8
<b>October 31</b>	<b>Theological Reflection 1</b>	9
November 7	Hebrew Scripture 1	10
November 14	Hebrew Scripture 2	11
<b>November 21</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break (No Class)</b>	
November 28	Hebrew Scripture 3	12
December 5	Hebrew Scripture 4	13
<b>Saturday AM Dec 9, 9-11:30</b>	<b>Snow Day Makeup if needed</b>	
December 12	Hebrew Scripture 5	14
December 19	Hebrew Scripture 6	15
<b>Dec 26 &amp; Jan 2</b>	<b>Christmas Break (No Class)</b>	
<b>January 9</b>	<b>Theological Reflection 2</b>	16
January 16	Christian Scripture 1	17
<b>Saturday AM Jan 20, 9-11:30</b>	<b>Snow Day Makeup if needed</b>	
January 23	Christian Scripture 2	18
January 30	Christian Scripture 3	19

February 6	Christian Scripture 4	20
<b>Saturday AM Feb 10, 9-11:30</b>	<b>Snow Day Makeup if needed</b>	
February 13	Christian Scripture 5	21
February 20	Christian Scripture 6	22
<b>February 27</b>	<b>Theological Reflection 3</b>	23
March 6	Church History 1	24
March 13	Church History 2	25
March 20	Church History 3	26
March 27	Church History 4	27
April 3	Church History 5	28
April 10	Church History 6	29
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Theological Reflection 4</b>	30
April 24	Sacraments and Prayer 1	31
May 1	Sacraments and Prayer 2	32
May 8	Sacraments and Prayer 3	33
May 15	Sacraments and Prayer 4	34
May 22	Sacraments and Prayer 5	35
May 29	Sacraments and Prayer 6	36
June 5	Closing Session	37

## Foundations for Living Stones -- List of Required Texts:

### Human Development/Communications 1

- READING LIST**
- “How God Invites Us to Grow”** (CU1087) – Rev. Richard J. Sweeney
  - “The ‘Peaceable Realm’ as a Vision of an Ideal Multicultural Community”**  
– Eric H.F. Law. Chapter 1 from *The Wolf Shall Dwell With the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community*, Chalice Press, 1993.
  - “Spiritual Consensus: A Way of Coming Together in Christ”** – Suzanne G. Farnham, Stephanie A. Hull and R. Taylor McLean. From *Grounded in God: Listening Hearts Discernment for Group Deliberations*, Morehouse Publishing, 1996.
  - “Stages of Community-Making”** – M. Scott Peck, M.D., P.C.  
Chapter V reprint from *The Different Drum*, Simon and Schuster, 1987.
  - “Ten Commandments for ‘Fighting Fair’ ”** (CU0188) – Lisa Engelhardt
  - “White Privilege – the Flip Side of Racial Equality”** – Robert Jensen  
From *Kansas City Hispanic News*, December 30, 1999.
  - “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”** – Peggy McIntosh  
Peggy McIntosh, Wellesley College Center for Research on Women, 1988.
- 

### Hebrew Scripture

- READING LIST**
- Reading the Old Testament*** Second Edition – Lawrence Boadt, New York: Paulist Press, 2012.
  - “Prophecy in the Feminine”** – Jean-Pierre Prévost. From *How to Read the Prophets*, Continuum Publishing Company, New York, 1997.
  - “A Comparison of Prophecy and Apocalyptic”** – a compilation of sources.
  - The Bible:** any translation of the Bible that you currently use and feel comfortable with, except the *Living Bible*, *The Way*, or *The Book*.
- 

### Christian Scriptures

- READING LIST**
- Reading the New Testament: An Introduction*** Third Edition – Pheme Perkins, New York: Paulist Press, 2012.
  - The Bible:** any translation of the Bible that you currently use and feel comfortable with, except the *Living Bible*, *The Way*, or *The Book*
-

## Church 1

- READING *Pilgrim Church* – William Bausch. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1989.
- LIST “Vatican II Reform – The Basic Principles” – Avery Dulles. From *Church Magazine*, National Pastoral Life Center, New York, 1985.
- “The Church as Community of Disciples: The Thesis” – Avery Dulles. From *A Church to Believe In*, Crossroad Publishing, New York, 1987.
- 

## Sacraments and Prayer

- READING *Sacraments: A NEW Understanding for a NEW Generation* (Book and CD)  
LIST by Ray R. Noll, Twenty-Third Publications, 1999
- Foundations in Faith: Handbook on Prayer* by Donna Steffen, RCL.
- “Grace: Our Love Relationship with God” – *Catholic Update*, CU0577.
- “Give Thanks and Praise: A Popular Explanation of the Mass”  
– ten bulletin inserts published by Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, 1987.