

Saint Paul University in partnership with Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation

Catholic Women’s Leadership Program

Theme: Transformative Catholic Women Leaders in a Synodal Church

Overview:

Being in a Synodal Church calls us to be transformative leaders who can make faith sense of our lives as we seek to navigate these times. A synodal church is grounded in a vision of "culture of encounter," first promoted by Pope Francis and sustained by Pope Leo. A “culture of encounter” is a way of life centered on intentional, respectful and open-hearted engagement with others that builds community. It rejects indifference and transactional relationships in favor of personal connection, listening, and dialogue that sees the "good" in others and recognizes their inherent dignity. In this program, we will explore perspectives and skills that foster a “culture of encounter” and empower transformative Catholic Women Leadership. These include reflective practice, inclusion, emotional intelligence, and generative dialogue. The program provides a transformative learning opportunity to acquire deeper self-awareness, knowledge and skills that will foster your agency as mature Christian disciples in and for the world.

Format: Saint Paul University proposes a series of four modules within eight weeks for this first iteration of the shared delivery of the Catholic Women Leadership Program. It also includes an orientation and a closing session. Participants will receive a Certificate of Completion at the end of the program.

Structure:

Each module is 2 weeks beginning May 4th and ending June 26th

2 hours participatory webinar on Zoom every week

Mondays (except for May long weekend) and Thursdays 7 to 9 p.m. Eastern Time beginning Monday, May 4th

Orientation Session Friday May 1st 7-8 pm Eastern Time

Closing Session Monday June 29th 7-8 pm Eastern Time

Each module will be structured in the following manner and will consist of 4 hours of live sessions and 4 hours of independent learning based on shared resources.

Week 1: Monday 7-9	Week 2: Thursday 7-9
Attend live webinar Reading articles and view videos on Sutra learning platform Personal reflection	Interactive reflections through discussion forum on Sutra Attend live webinar Post a final reflection

Module 1 Making Faith Sense of our Lives (Carol Kuzmochka and Lorraine Ste-Marie)

Reflective Practice provides a space for deeper ways of knowing, doing and being. It calls us to know ourselves and attend to our current reality as we walk together in faith. Being in a synodal church grounded in a culture of encounter, requires human and faith maturity and our growing capacities to read the signs of the times. This module is designed to expand and deepen our capacity to make faith sense of our lives through the lenses of a Catholic worldview and the principle of sacramentality. For this, we will explore multiple perspectives and practices, including the NAME process of theological reflection.

Participatory webinar on Zoom – Monday, May 4th from 7 to 9 p.m. Eastern Time

Participatory webinar on Zoom –Thursday, May 14th from 7 to 9 p.m. Eastern Time

Module 2 Women’s Transformative Leadership as a Way of Life (Janet Bentham)

This module explores the work of Carolyn Shields on Transformative Leadership as a framework for Catholic Women leaders. Leadership is a moral pursuit that can lead to personal, interpersonal, and social change. This approach to leadership aligns with a Catholic worldview in its inclusivity and focus on the common good.

Participatory webinar on Zoom – Tuesday, May 19th from 7 to 9 p.m. Eastern Time

Participatory webinar on Zoom - Thursday, May 28th from 7 to 9 p.m. Eastern Time

Module 3 Emotional and Spiritual Intelligence: Essential capacities for Transformative Catholic Women Leaders (Bianca Briciu)

This module explores theories and practices for the development of emotional and spiritual intelligence as two essential traits of transformative leadership. At the end of this module, you will have greater self-awareness and mind/body/soul integration that will provide a clearer vision of your life meaning, vocation, and positive social contribution. Emotional and spiritual intelligence are deeply personal and relational qualities that support a culture of encounter.

Participatory webinar on Zoom – Monday, June 1st from 7 to 9 p.m. Eastern Time

Participatory webinar on Zoom – Thursday, June 11th from 7 to 9 p.m. Eastern Time

Module 4 Generative Dialogue and the Art of Accompaniment (Carol Kuzmochka and Lorraine Ste-Marie)

Listening is a foundational practice of Catholic women’s transformative leadership and an essential capacity for engaging in a "culture of encounter:" This module delves deeper into various aspects of reflective practice and the art of accompaniment. We will explore the qualities of deep listening and generative dialogue that open a space for ideas to flow and relationships to grow. The intention

is to grow our capacity to listen in all domains – to ourselves and others, to our communities and to the cultural and social contexts within which we live.

Participatory webinar on Zoom – Monday, June 15th from 7 to 9 p.m. Eastern Time

Participatory webinar on Zoom – Thursday, June 25th from 7 to 9 p.m. Eastern Time