

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

Office of Diocesan Consultation & Leadership Development

MEMO

To: Pastors, Associate Pastors, Sacramental Ministers, Parish Life Coordinators, and Parish Director

From: Chris Newkirk, *Director of Ecclesial Ministries & Diocesan Consultation*

Date: March 2, 2026

Re: *School of Servant Leadership*

It is with great pleasure that the *Office of Ecclesial Ministries & Diocesan Consultation* in collaboration with *Viterbo University*, will once again be offering the *School of Servant Leadership* beginning early this fall. This opportunity is made possible through the generous funding of the *Catholic Home Missions Grant* that our diocese receives. Even in a time of economic deficiency this type of quality education can be affordable. Because of the partnership with *Viterbo University* and the *Catholic Home Missions Grant*, we are able to offer this cohort learning at a significantly discounted rate.

This is a wonderful opportunity to build leadership skills at all levels of leadership in the Church. **I am excited to announce that in the spirit of “recalibrating” that Bishop Powers has called us to, the October Class is now directly connected to our overall mission of evangelization and missionary discipleship.**

We all know that since we are at a unique time in our local Church with the current shortage of priests, we need to consider additional ways to provide pastoral care, effective leadership and foster a sense of mission; one that leads to greater collaboration, stewardship of resources, attention to the common good and decisions that have the potential to transform the lives of all the faithful. This too calls for additional educations and visioning for a healthy future.

I invite you to personally consider joining this cohort and to encourage any key people on your parish leadership teams to participate as well. These courses can also help catechetical leaders (in schools and all other parish-based catechetical programs) to fulfill their continuation requirements for catechetical certification. If possible, I further ask that the parish consider paying a portion of the registration for any person from your parish that participates as a means of demonstrating the value and importance of continuing education. If that is not possible, please give your blessing on the time needed to anyone who wants to pay for it personally. In addition, a reminder that this is a prerequisite for any men discerning the permanent diaconate, so please share this information with those men or have them contact me directly.

In addition, please know that this endeavor, *the School of Servant Leadership*, has the endorsement and support of Bishop James Powers.

Enclosed with this memo is a brochure and registration form with specific details for participation. If you are in need of additional information please contact me at your earliest convenience.