

Anne Grycz and the Institute for Leadership in Ministry

“I have the best job in the diocese.”

Parishioner Anne Grycz is referring to her position as Director of the Institute for Leadership in Ministry (ILM), Diocese of San José. Since the Institute’s inception in 1998, Anne has directed the three-year program designed to provide ministerial leaders to the diocese. Twelve parishioners from St. Thomas Aquinas are ILM students or graduates. Currently, the Institute’s students range in age from 19-61 years.

“When it comes to gender, we buck the national trend,” says Anne. “Nationally, similar programs are composed of 77% females. Here, we are 55% female, 45% male.”

Ethnically, the student body is 27% Asian, 30% European American, and 43% Latino. The program is presented in English and Spanish, in which Anne is fluent.

Students spend the first two years studying Scripture, theology, the Church, sacraments, morality, and Catholic social justice. Classes are held at St. Lawrence Academy in Santa Clara on Wednesday evenings, beginning in September. In addition, students spend one Saturday per month in class studying topics such as communication skills, prayer, and conflict resolution. The third year is devoted to specific ministry areas such as catechetics, liturgy, and stewardship. Most third-year courses are open to non-Institute parishioners with the recommendation of their pastor.

“It’s a joy to watch the students grow,” says Anne. “It is wonderful and humbling to see.”

Regarding the ILM faculty, Anne states, “We are resource-rich. We have teachers from, among other places, Stanford, USF, Santa Clara University, St. Patrick’s Seminary, and the Graduate Theological Union.



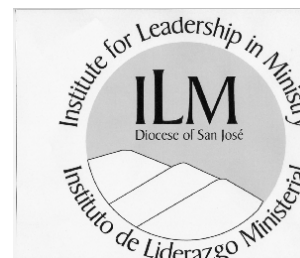
Anne knows what it’s like to be a faculty member, as both of her first jobs after graduating from the University of San Francisco were teaching Spanish and history at high schools in her hometown of San Francisco. From 1968 to 1971, Anne served as the Director of Religious Education at St. Albert the Great, then worked as a Master Catechist for the Archdiocese of San Francisco before joining the corporate world. In 1990, Anne accepted a position as Associate for Liturgy in the Office of Pastoral Ministry, Diocese of San Jose, and eight years later became ILM’s first director.

Anne also is an Episcopal Master of Ceremonies who accompanies Bishop McGrath to diocesan functions three to four times each month. It took some trail-blazing, however, for Anne to serve in this role.

She says, “In the 90’s, I approached Bishop DuMaine with the concept of training women for the traditional men’s role of Master of Ceremonies. He was very receptive, and I trained with two other women, five laymen and two priests.” Other dioceses around the country subsequently admitted women to the ranks of Master of Ceremonies.

In addition to her diocesan work, Anne serves on several national organizations and is a lector at St. Albert the Great. She is a history buff and an avid 49ers fan who, for the past 24 years, has joined with several friends to watch on TV each and every one of the local team’s games. Both of Anne’s children, Michal and Anastasia, live in the Bay Area.

Anne invites parishioners interested in learning more about ILM to call (408) 983-0111, the number of the woman who believes she has the best job in the diocese.



Institute students and graduates from STA include: Pedro Carbajal, Nolvia Chacon, Dave Fencl, Jaime Garcia, Maria Gutierrez, Tony Gutierrez, Irene Holowchak, Elizabeth Lopez, Guadalupe Loyola, Myriam Melendez, Norma Ramos and José Luis Valdez.