

Developmental Initiatives and the Certificate

One of the requirements for receiving a certificate is to complete a developmental initiative (DI) in your second year. See the website page on certificates for more information.

<https://shapingtheparish.com/certificate/>

This document provides you with information the possible developmental initiatives (DI). Each DI is connected with a chapter in *Nothing so Contagious as Holiness: Developmental Initiatives for Increased Parish Vitality Grounded in Spiritual Practice*, Michelle Heyne & Robert Gallagher, Ascension Press, 2023. In some cases the DI is simply doing what is in that chapter. In other cases it is related to the chapter.

Completing the assigned Developmental Initiative means:

1. Identifying a group – You need to have a group of people willing to complete the program you offer. It may be a group within the parish or just a few friends. It may be a formal part of the parish’s programming or something less formal.
2. Drafting the educational design – In some cases you can use what is provided in the book making revisions as necessary. A simple approach to educational design is to work with a chart that includes these columns: 1) Action, 2) Time needed, 3) Resources needed for that action 4) Who will facilitate this section?
3. Action Planning In order to get the developmental and strategic matters correct, you *may* decide to use the Developmental Initiative Worksheet from “Chapter 1: Readiness and Intervention Theory.”
4. Implementing the DI – and receiving feedback from participants. We’ll provide you with a feedback form to use. You will collate the results and send that to the training staff.
5. Evaluating the DI – You will use the evaluation form from Chapter 12 “Evaluating Your Initiative.” You complete the form and return it to the training staff. A special meeting on Zoom then takes place to discuss what you’ve learned. That meeting is likely to be with a group of other participants.

Here are the possible developmental initiatives

In Your Holy Spirit: Five session spiritual assessment

Make use of Chapter 4. You would revise the design as needed and implement it with a group of people.

This is a five session adult formation offering to help a group apply the practices in *In Your Holy Spirit: Traditional Spiritual Practices in Today’s Christian Life*, Michelle Heyne, Ascension Press.

- Session 1: Overview & Eucharist: Weekly Practice
- Session 2: The Daily Prayers of the Church
- Session 3: Reflection

Session 4: Community
Session 5: Service

You would design, implement, receive participant feedback, and do your evaluation.

Sanctification of all

Making use of Chapter 5. You would carry out the program, with needed revisions, as presented in Chapter 5. There are two segments to this material. First is a program, “Parish Education Design,” to guide people in an assessment of their spiritual life. The program can be used with a group using a workbook. But because it is done with a group it may also help nurture the parish’s apostolic core and climate.

The second is a workbook, “Taking Responsibility for Your Spiritual Life,” that a person can use as they reflect on their spiritual life. This includes a process of assessment and reflection leading to the development of a rule of life that fits an individual’s personality, gifts, and circumstances, and hopefully be grounded in our tradition’s way of being a Christian.

You would design, implement, receive participant feedback, and do your evaluation.

Public Daily office

Making use of Chapter 6. Establishing a public daily office is a vehicle for the expression of apostolic faith and practice. It makes it easier for people to engage in the practice. You would establish the public saying of the office in your parish that would take place on at least 4 weekdays, at the same time, for at least 10 months of the year. with the same customary. It might be in-person in a chapel or space arranged for saying the office or it could be done on Zoom or livestreamed. The DI would see this in place and functioning for at least 4 weeks before requesting participant feedback and doing your evaluation.

Creating an Adult Foundations Course

Making use of Chapter 7. An adult foundations course will increase the Christian proficiency of participants. They will gain the knowledge and skills needed by adults for living the Christian life. The DI in this case would be to design, implement, receive feedback on, and evaluate a first module of 3 – 5 sessions.

You would design, implement, receive participant feedback, and do your evaluation.

Apostolic Practices Coaching

Making use of chapter 8. This initiative is about as direct as you can be. “Want to move toward living an apostolic faith? Allow us to coach you.” A parish might offer this coaching process every year. Some years no one will sign up. Other times you may have between one person

or a small group. It's a bit more of a jump-start than what's provided in the In Your Holy Spirit initiative. For example, you're doing the Office over a longer period of time. That may make it easier to stay with the practice once the coaching process ends. We're using the

You would design, implement, receive participant feedback, and do your evaluation.

Parish Organization Development Process

Making use of Chapter 11 as background. You would engage in a survey-feedback process in the parish. It might be:

- A broad assessment of the parish as a system, or it's spiritual life and practice.
- A more focused assessment involving some issue or segment of parish life, e.g., the relationship between (rector and vestry, choir and congregation), the functioning of coffee hour or new member incorporation, etc.

You would design, implement, receive participant feedback, and do your evaluation.