

Summary of Qualities - Prepared by the Leadership Development Committee

What follows is the brief descriptor of each “standard” as presented in the National Certifications Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers and qualities* to look for when identifying persons who may be called to serve as lay ecclesial ministers. The following list of qualities is not exhaustive. It is meant to be a tool for pastors and other leaders as they identify and invite women and men to consider serving as lay ecclesial ministers in leadership roles i.e., parish life director, pastoral associate. **It is important to look for the integration of the four pillars (standards) described below: human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral qualities. They do not function in isolation; they are in relationship with each other.**

Standard One: Human

Lay ecclesial ministers demonstrate the qualities of human maturity needed for fruitful ministry with the people of God.

HUMAN --- A PERSON WHO ...

- + has a healthy, well-balanced personality/lifestyle**
- + respects the viewpoint of others**
- + has a positive attitude to carry on regardless of difficulty**
- + is a bridge not an obstacle**
- + has a capacity to deal with complexity, ambiguity and stress.**

Standard Two: Spiritual

Sharing in the common priesthood of all the baptized, a lay ecclesial minister demonstrates Christian spirituality as foundational to ministry, integrated in service with the people of God, and possessing a sacramental view of the world that recognizes the world can be a vessel of God’s presence and God’s transforming grace.

SPIRITUAL --- A PERSON WHO ...

- + is an active Roman Catholic in good standing**
- + demonstrates faith in action**
- + is a person of prayer who responds to the call to holiness**
- + has God and not self as the center of their life**
- + is at ease with inviting others into the spiritual life**

Standard Three: Intellectual

A lay ecclesial minister demonstrates understanding of the breadth of Catholic theological and pastoral studies as well as the intellectual skill to use that knowledge in ministry with God’s people from diverse populations and cultures.

INTELLECTUAL --- A PERSON WHO ...

- + is aware of and strives to integrate Catholic theological tradition and teaching**
- + has a Vatican II vision of ministry, mission and Church**
- + has professional competency in a specific area**
- + shows respect for the journey of others**
- + is open to further growth, ongoing formation and study**

Standard Four: Pastoral

A lay ecclesial minister demonstrates a range of leadership and pastoral skills needed for functioning effectively in ministry.

PASTORAL--- A PERSON WHO ...

- + is an effective listener**
- + is able to show compassion**
- + works effectively with others and is sensitive to the needs of others**
- + is able to see and bring out the gifts of others**
- + demonstrates a capacity for collaboration**
- + is accomplished enough to lead and humble enough to follow**

**The qualities flow from the vision statement for each of the four ministerial standards as found in the revised National Certifications Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers created by The Alliance for the Certification of Lay Ecclesial Ministers and approved by the USCCB Commission on Certification and Accreditation (November, 2011); were compiled by the Leadership Development Committee (June, 2015) and revised on December 15, 2015 based on input from November 2015 meetings with clergy and other pastoral leaders.*