The landscape of parishes in the United States has changed dramatically in the post-Vatican II era. Our bishops tell us we are in a “new ecclesial season.” In the post-Vatican II era, lay ecclesial ministry emerged amid population shifts, closing parishes, recurring sexual abuse scandals, dwindling vocations to the priesthood, an influx of diverse Catholic populations and a generation that views organized religion as “irrelevant.” Our parishes look and feel very different. How have these changes impacted the face of parish pastoral ministry? Join us as we explore the road we have traveled in ministry and look to see what lies ahead for our Church, our parishes and our ministries.
2019 ANNUAL NALM CONFERENCE

Lay Ecclesial Ministers: Agenda for a Step Forward
Zeni Fox, Ph.D.
Professor Emerita, Pastoral Theology at Seton Hall University, South Orange NJ

Since the 1960’s when lay ecclesial ministry (not yet so named) emerged in the life of the Church, individuals and groups (including the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) have done much to foster its flourishing. A brief overview of key developments over the years, and an exploration of what we can do today to augment its flourishing, especially in light of a changed ecclesial landscape.

What is Pastoral Ministry?
Alliance and Certification Update
(Two presentations)
Carol Walters
Director Office of Lay Ecclesial Ministry, Archdiocese of Chicago

These days, it seems that everyone is a minister. But are they? How do we define what is and isn’t pastoral ministry? We’ll look to Jesus for some guidance—and perhaps a little clarity. We will discuss the updating and renewal of national certification standards and competencies recently approved by the USCCB as well as changes made to the certification process as a result of consultations with various constituencies, including NALM. We will also take a look forward to see what’s in store for the Alliance.

For a full conference schedule, CLICK HERE.

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