

## **APPENDIX D:**

# **NATIONAL CERTIFICATION STANDARDS FOR LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTERS**

These standards were developed by the NALM, NCCL, and NFCYM and approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Commission on Certification and Accreditation in April 2003.

The entire document is available in a bi-lingual edition from any of these groups. The ISBN is 0-9712975-6-8.

### **STANDARD ONE - PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY**

A lay ecclesial minister demonstrates personal and spiritual maturity in ministry with the people of God.

Vision Statement: A lay ecclesial minister exhibits personal maturity through a balanced lifestyle, a positive self-image, and appropriate relationships. The minister develops a spiritual maturity formed in theological reflection, based on Gospel values, and nurtured in private, communal and liturgical prayer. The minister views God, church, and the world in a holistic manner and engages in communal worship and social justice.

### **STANDARD TWO – LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY IDENTITY**

A lay ecclesial minister identifies the call to formal and public ministry as a vocation rooted in baptism.

Vision Statement: A lay ecclesial minister accepts ministerial vocation as a baptismal call from Christ mediated through the people of God. The minister acknowledges this call as affirmed, recognized and nurtured by the church and the local community, as well as in ministerial and personal relationships.

### **STANDARD THREE – CATHOLIC THEOLOGY**

A lay ecclesial minister integrates knowledge of Catholic faith within ministry.

Vision Statement: A lay ecclesial minister's faith is formed in the Catholic theological tradition. Theological formation includes ongoing foundational education in revelation and sacred Scripture, Christology, Christian anthropology, sacramental theology, ecclesiology, pastoral theology and inculturation, moral theology, Catholic social teaching, spirituality, ecumenism, liturgy and worship. A minister articulates and interprets a Catholic understanding of Scripture, tradition, and doctrine, and uses this knowledge to form a community of disciples engaged in the mission of the church.

### **STANDARD FOUR – PASTORAL PRAXIS**

A lay ecclesial minister engages in pastoral activity that promotes evangelization, faith formation, community, and pastoral care with sensitivity to diverse situations.

Vision Statement: A lay ecclesial minister applies the process of pastoral praxis in building community of disciples engaged in the transformation of society. The minister incorporates the dimensions of evangelization, faith formation, worship, inculturation, community, justice and service within pastoral activities. The minister is an effective listener who fosters respect and compassionate care within diverse family, community and cultural settings in the spirit of Gospel values.

## **STANDARD FIVE – PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

A lay ecclesial minister provides effective leadership, administration and service, in the spirit of collaboration.

Vision Statement: A lay ecclesial minister understands leadership theory and applies it in a ministerial setting. The minister demonstrates a knowledge of and ability to work with pariah and (arch) diocesan systems and structures. The minister recognizes the importance of administration of parish programs and uses appropriate resources. The minister lives by the code of ethics applicable to ministry and abides by civil and church law.