



To: Bishop Erik Gronberg, and the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Council

From: Jeanne Heggen and Pr Jesus Escamilla PLMA Deans

SUBJECT: Report of the Parish Lay Ministry Academy, April 2025

We are grateful to Madeline Richard for her work as Dean of the Parish Lay Academy. Upon her move out of state, Jeanne Heggen accepted the position of Dean of the English-speaking module. Pr Jesus Escamilla continues his tenure as the Dean of the Spanish-speaking module.

During the Covid pandemic, we began PLMA classes taught via Zoom. The English track continues this practice as it enables students from conferences outside of the metroplex join in. A blessing in disguise! The Spanish track continues to meet in person as this better suits their needs.

An exciting thing happened last spring when Jeanne received a call from a Wartburg seminarian who was part of a collaborative team of three Wisconsin and Iowa Synods. They wanted to develop a Lay Program of their own, and after investigating several other synod academies', they decided ours was the model they liked best. They asked if they could add 3-5 students to our (English track) classes to get them started in developing a program of their own. We agreed and it's working out marvelously!

Our Fall 2024 class was a total of 20 students: 12 from the NTNL and 3 from the synods up north in the English module, and five in the Spanish module. Thanks to Pastors Kendra Mohn, Paul Mussachio, Kathryn Saunders-Allen, Jesus Escamilla, Irma Banales, and Moises Carrasquillo for their teaching talents.

On February 1st, at the synod's home base, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Irving, we graduated nine students: six from the English module and three from the Latinx module. These students brought all their mentors, family and friends, and it was a full house! Congratulations go to the following:

Christopher McCaslin, Redeemer, Greenville
Donelle Barnes, Adviento, Arlington
Elizabeth Arriaga, Santa Maria, Irving
Lisa Knox, Four Mile, Mabank
Luz Maria Cornejo, San Miguel, Alvarado
Martin Trejo, Santa Maria, Irving
Pamela Steenblock, Grace, Abilene
Tricia Huston, Calvary, Richland Hills
Vivian McElligot, First, Longview

Our Spring 2025 class includes 20 students: 9 from the NTNL and 6 from Iowa, along with five in the Spanish module. Thanks to Pastors Kyle Rouze, Kendra Mohn, Paul Mussachio, Jesus Escamilla, Irma Banales, and Moises Carrasquillo for teaching.

Between the larger class size of the English tracks and the financial commitment of the Hispanic Coalition, we are operating comfortably in the black.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Heggen and Pr Jesus Escamilla