



EPISCOPAL ONGOING FORMATION AND SUPPORT



A Bishop's Role in an Apostolic Age: Fostering Presbyteral Zeal and Shaping Diocesan Priorities

February 2-5, 2026 | Ponte Vedra Lodge and Club | Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

THIS YEAR'S TOPIC

A Bishop's Role in an *Apostolic Age: Fostering Presbyteral Zeal and Shaping Diocesan Priorities* speaks directly to the heart of your "yes" to episcopal leadership in the Church.

We know that you balance multiple responsibilities that are vital part of your call to be a Shepherd of your flock and that some of the duties and tasks can become a gravitational pull that leaves little room for the deeper work of inspiring zeal, forming priests, and setting a clear vision for your diocese. This session is a chance to step back, refocus, and reclaim the fullness of your episcopal role in a rapidly changing societal climate.

We are no longer living in a Christendom age of the Church. As Msgr. James Shea, President of the University of Mary, observed: "The days of social support for the faith are over... Bishops must now lead with apostolic courage, raising up priests who are not merely administrators but joyful witnesses who know they were made for such a time as this."

In this session, you will be led through expert facilitation of this topic, discuss this and other pressing needs of your episcopacy, pray together, and enjoy time in restful fraternity. This is your moment, not only in the way you lead the Church, but in the ways you cultivate your growth and life with the Lord. Pope Leo XIV recently shared in his message to bishops that before you are a shepherd, you are a sheep in God's own flock,

"If we are to lead the Churches entrusted to our care, we must let ourselves be profoundly renewed by Jesus, the Good Shepherd..."

Your role is critical to the Church's vitality in this new apostolic era. Come and see how this session can strengthen and renew your commitment as Shepherd of the Church.

PURPOSE OF THIS SESSION

Since 2009, Catholic Leadership Institute has had the privilege of providing Episcopal Ongoing Formation and Support opportunities to you, our bishops, who lead our Church and draw us closer to Jesus Christ. These opportunities respect and honor your Episcopal Office and are offered in thanksgiving for your shepherding ministry and are supported and endorsed by our Episcopal Advisory Board and more than 160 bishops who have participated in past sessions.



YOU ARE INVITED

Please join us at Catholic Leadership Institute for our annual Episcopal Ongoing Formation & Support Session where you and your brother bishops will receive accompaniment on this important topic – the fruit of your own recommendations. This session will bring clarity and focus to the responsibility before us to reach, engage, and cultivate the next generation in the Apostolic Age of our Church today.

GENERAL SCHEDULE

MONDAY

Arrive in the afternoon or evening with optional golf.

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

Morning prayer, Episcopal Sessions, and Mass. Each day will conclude with cocktails and dinner.

THURSDAY

Mass and final sessions concluding at noon.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

This three-day session is offered as a means of renewal for your valued role. All bishops are welcome. These days are made possible through the philanthropic support of individual donors and foundations who deeply value your Episcopal ministry and shepherding; there is no cost to you. Please return the RSVP card included in the envelope to confirm your attendance.

Please join us for the 2026 Episcopal Ongoing Formation and Support Session—a moment of fraternity, vision, and renewal as we seek to lead the Church into a bold new chapter of missionary discipleship.



ABOUT THE LOCATION

Located midway between Jacksonville and St. Augustine, Florida, The Lodge & Club is situated in the lovely seaside setting of Ponte Vedra Beach. Framed by graceful palms and rolling dunes, the boutique hotel features panoramic vistas of the Atlantic Ocean. Activities include shelling along the beach, swimming, surfing, cycling, and sampling the Lodge's inventive cuisine. Nearby, guests have access to the beach and privileges that include oceanfront golf, world-class tennis, and other amenities.

REGISTER TODAY

RSVP CARD ENCLOSED

Please kindly fill out the card enclosed and place in the provided return envelope by October 1, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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Catholic Leadership Institute provides bishops, priests, deacons, and lay persons in the Roman Catholic Church with world-class, pastoral leadership formation and consulting services that strengthen their confidence and competence in ministry, enabling them to articulate a vision for their local church, to call forth the gifts of those they lead, and to create more vibrant faith communities rooted in Jesus Christ.