



# EPISCOPAL ONGOING FORMATION & SUPPORT

February 20-22, 2024

Tapatio Springs Hill Country Resort  
Boerne, TX

## Leading the Presbyterate to Accompany the Church in a Polarized Society: Apostolic Strategies for Our Time

### What should I expect?

By providing three-day sessions of fraternity, prayer, leadership skill-building, and ongoing formation, we pray you will be nourished in the company of one another, your own experiences, and through the ministry of this apostolate.

- Monday: arrive in afternoon/evening. Golf is optional.
- Tuesday - Wednesday: morning prayer, sessions, and Mass, followed by cocktails and dinner.
- Thursday: Mass with final session ending at noon.

### How do I participate?

This three-day session is being offered as a means of renewal for your valued role; all bishops are welcome. These days are offered to you through the philanthropic stewardship of individual donors and foundations who appreciate your Episcopal leadership and shepherding; there is no cost to you. Please return the RSVP card included in the envelope to confirm your attendance.



Catholic Leadership  
INSTITUTE

In your tremendous responsibilities as a bishop to teach, govern, and sanctify, we realize that you are tasked with shepherding in an incredibly tumultuous time. The current Apostolic Age of the Church is centered within one of the most polarized societies in human history. Our world becomes increasingly polarized in nearly every way: social, political, familial, economic, technological, etc. Your priests experience this reality with you. In their day-to-day responsibilities they, like you, encounter an age of the Church that is most likely very different from when they were ordained. They need your trust, support, and accompaniment just as you need them to thrive in their priestly ministry.

Catholic Leadership Institute's 2024 Episcopal Ongoing Formation & Support Session will address this important topic. We pray this session - provided at no cost to you - will bring clarity and focus to the opportunity before us to help lead the presbyterate to accompany the Church in a polarized society today and for years to come.

### Why this topic?

This topic was the result of a recent poll we sent to you and your brother bishops, asking for your input on what is of most need and interest to you in your episcopal ministry. The Church has encountered innumerable challenges, adversity, and strife over the course of Her nearly 2000-year history. Today, the Church faces numerous societal dynamics which are both newfound and archaic. We live in an age of our world which does not resemble that of Christendom. Pope St. John Paul II

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said over 20 years ago in *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, “*Even in countries evangelized many centuries ago, the reality of a 'Christian society' which, amid all the frailties which have always marked human life, measured itself explicitly on Gospel values, is now gone.*” Since the time this was written, we have come to realize more deeply the reality of the Apostolic Age of the Church.

In this great challenge of our time, there is also tremendous hope. Pope St. John Paul II goes on to say in *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, “*Let us go forward in hope! A new millennium is opening before the Church like a vast ocean upon which we shall venture, relying on the help of Christ. The Son of God, who became incarnate two thousand years ago out of love for humanity, is at work even today: we need discerning eyes to see this and, above all, a generous heart to become the instruments of his work.*”

### What is the purpose of this session?

Since 2009, Catholic Leadership Institute has had the privilege to provide ongoing formation and support to you, our bishops, who govern and guide us - lead and love us - in the Church and for Jesus Christ. These annual sessions respect and honor the Episcopal Office of governance and diocesan leadership. We offer Episcopal Ongoing Formation & Support opportunities in thanksgiving for your shepherding ministry. These opportunities are supported and endorsed by Catholic Leadership Institute’s Episcopal Advisory Board, its Episcopal Moderator, Bishop Robert Gruss, and more than 160 bishops who have participated in past sessions.



### About the Location

Tapatio Springs Hill Country Resort sits on hundreds of acres in the Hill Country of Boerne, Texas. Just 20 minutes from San Antonio, Tapatio Springs places you in the landscape that inspired George Strait’s ode to prairie sky, bright stars, and blooming sage. Tapatio Springs is an exquisite resort nestled in the Texas Hill Country, creating a perfect setting for enjoyable learning and fraternity. The spacious guestrooms provide plenty of room for comfort, and all rooms feature a private patio/balcony with everything you need to relax while enjoying a Hill Country escape. Savor locally and seasonally inspired dishes and creative cocktails.



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### About Catholic Leadership Institute

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.

[catholicleaders.org](http://catholicleaders.org)

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