



Catholic Leadership  
INSTITUTE

**EMBRACING  
THIS MOMENT**



# EMBRACING THIS MOMENT

The Catholic Church in the United States stands at a defining moment of both profound hope and unprecedented change.

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As the landscape of our culture shifts and secularism deepens, the Church is called to navigate unfamiliar territory. The need for renewal is urgent.

Over the past 50 years, the number of priests in the U.S. has dropped by 40%, and projections estimate that the Church will lose 8.3 million people in the next 10 to 20 years. These numbers reflect a growing spiritual need among our children, families, and communities—a need for the life-giving presence of Christ and His Church.

Catholic Leadership Institute is stepping forward with hope and bold conviction, grounded in the truth that the Gospel Message is as powerful today as it was two thousand years ago.

**Embracing This Moment is our response to the needs of the Church.**

Our vision reaches beyond the comforts of the past and into a future where the next generations experience a thriving, vibrant Church and sacramental life. But this future depends on leadership.

The Church needs leaders — ordained and lay — who are confident, equipped, and ready to accompany others in this new apostolic age.



31%

of registered  
Catholics attend  
Mass weekly.

1/5

baptized children  
will not receive their  
First Holy  
Communion.

85%

of children who are  
confirmed stop  
practicing their faith  
by the age of 21.

# A VITAL FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

Catholic Leadership Institute believes the next five years will be pivotal for bold, transformative action, and will start with those at the helm.

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**Christ's call to mission is unmistakable.**

It is time to look back to the earliest days of the Church when Christ commanded the apostles to "go and make disciples." We are in a similar apostolic age, where all are summoned to be the hands and feet of Christ. There is no better time than now to go out and revitalize the Church for a joy-filled future rooted in the mission of Jesus Christ.

**Over 40% of Catholic dioceses in the United States will receive a new bishop in the next decade.**

This dramatic transition will affect most Catholic priests, deacons, religious, lay leaders, and parishioners throughout the country and will coincide with an ongoing evolution in the religious landscape in America. If this were happening in the secular world, corporations would have transition plans in place and would prepare their leadership to guide the change. Our Church requires the same due diligence.

Catholic Leadership Institute stands ready to guide the Church through these challenges, seizing the opportunity to lay a vital foundation for renewing priests and revitalizing parish communities.





# A BOLD FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Catholic Leadership Institute is committed to providing bold, innovative support for bishops, priests, and parishes.

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For over 30 years, Catholic Leadership Institute has taken its place alongside Church leaders in moments that matter most, responding to the needs of the times with relevant, effective, and data-driven solutions. Sustained by generous philanthropic support, our work continues to inspire confidence and drive renewal across the Church in a way that is unparalleled.

The bold vision of Embracing This Moment is grounded in three key pillars that shape the future of Catholic leadership, serving as both the guide and the destination of our mission:



**FORGE  
THE FUTURE**



**EMBOLDEN  
THE CLERGY**



**IGNITE  
THE PARISH**

Catholic Leadership Institute is not satisfied with the status quo. Each pillar responds to the call of this era, offering a roadmap for growth and transformation across dioceses, clergy, and parishes.





“The Church building, the sacred space, is not what makes a parish. The parish is the people – the community of faith. As the landscape changes, the sacred spaces of our hearts are what matters most. We are called to be like the original apostles – to be of one mind and one heart. It is the hearts of people we encounter one by one every day in our work, schools, parks, and doctor’s offices that we are called to transform.”

Dan Cellucci, President & CEO



# EMBRACING THIS MOMENT FORGE THE FUTURE

We see a Church that is led by men who take up the staff of the Good Shepherd and walk Her people through our modern times with boldness, confidence, and joy.

## The Mission Need: \$20,000,000

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Over the next five years, Catholic Leadership Institute aims to accompany 50-60 bishops annually, equipping them with the tools necessary to confidently face the challenges of the apostolic age.

With decades of proven success in equipping Church leaders, Catholic Leadership Institute is exceptionally qualified to support bishops in this transformative mission.

When Bishop Lou Tylka from the Diocese of Peoria began attending the Bishops Session in 2022, he not only invested in his own personal growth as a bishop, but he also spoke to his brother bishops about what a planning process might look like in his diocese. He later shared, "It was such a great experience being with other bishops, especially in a smaller environment where I could have meaningful conversations and get to know brother bishops on a personal level..."

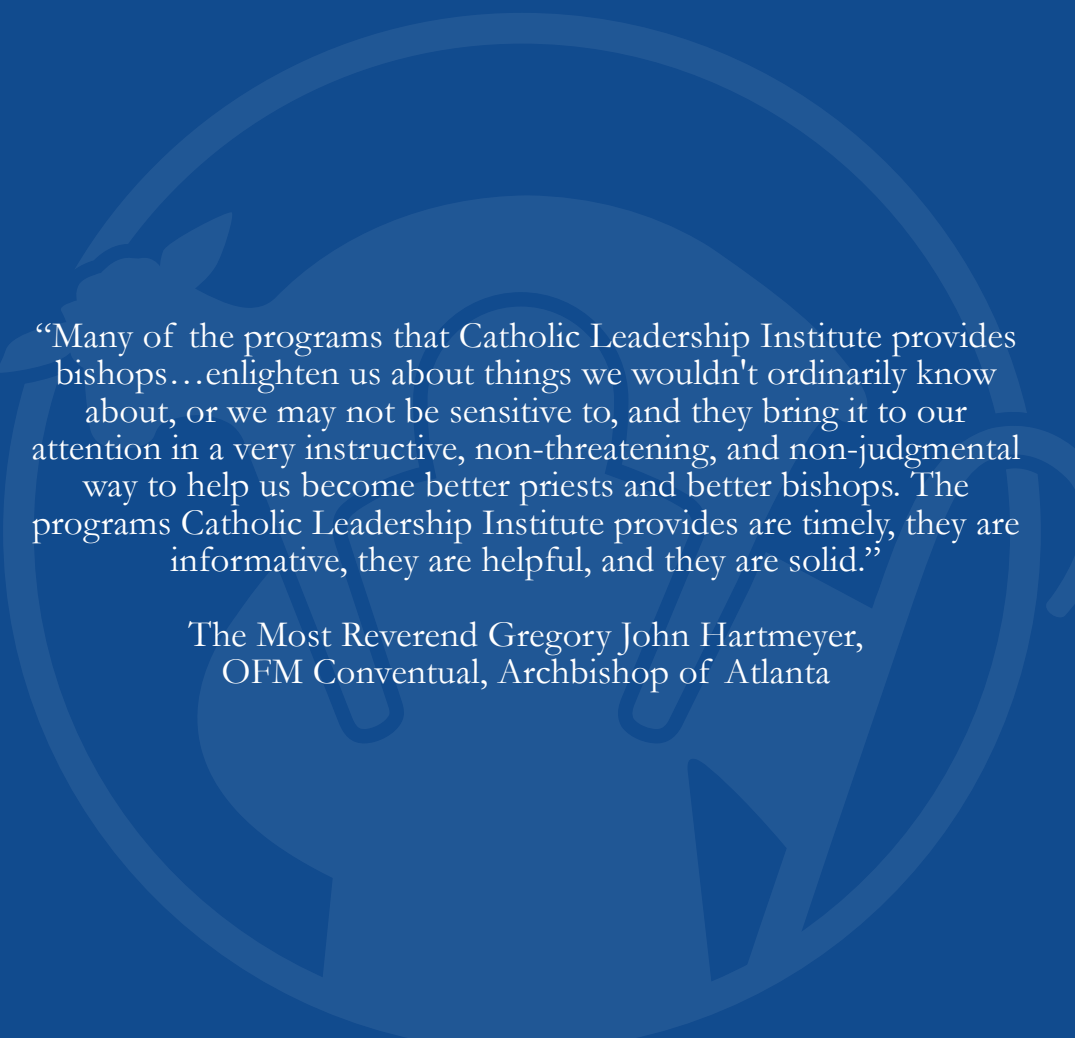
Catholic Leadership Institute seeks to enhance its support for the successors of the apostles by providing tailored guidance, unique resources, and formation experiences relevant to the ever-changing needs of the Church and Her episcopal leadership.



As Bishop Robert Gruss, Bishop of Saginaw, once shared:  
“You don’t go to school to learn how to be a bishop.”

When bishops are formed to be confident Shepherds, they are better able to address modern challenges with wisdom and compassion, lead diocesan operations with transparency and compassion, and ensure that parishes are served by pastors who meet their needs and improve pastoral care.





“Many of the programs that Catholic Leadership Institute provides bishops...enlighten us about things we wouldn't ordinarily know about, or we may not be sensitive to, and they bring it to our attention in a very instructive, non-threatening, and non-judgmental way to help us become better priests and better bishops. The programs Catholic Leadership Institute provides are timely, they are informative, they are helpful, and they are solid.”

The Most Reverend Gregory John Hartmeyer,  
OFM Conventual, Archbishop of Atlanta



## KEY SERVICES & INITIATIVES

**Episcopal Transition Service:** Guiding and supporting bishops as they embrace new diocesan assignments, helping them lead with clarity and purpose from the start.

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**Episcopal Ongoing Formation & Support:** Tailored formation opportunities that empower bishops to grow as visionary leaders in service to the Church.

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**Consulting Services:** Providing customized leadership solutions for dioceses, including pastoral planning, curia support, and parish realignment, in order to address the Church's evolving needs.

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**Thought Leadership:** Expanding Catholic Leadership Institute's impact through leadership symposia and comprehensive resources that inspire innovation and excellence in Church leadership.





# EMBRACING THIS MOMENT EMBOLDEN THE CLERGY

We see priests who are chosen, anointed, and promised – to be His. With resolve, each man will reclaim the heart of the priesthood through renewal and love for Christ's Church to share His message with great joy, confidence, and competence.

## The Mission Need: \$30,000,000

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In collaboration with bishops, Catholic Leadership Institute will focus on empowering priests, their closest collaborators, to spread the gospel to the farthest reaches of their communities. Just as the apostles appointed presbyters to establish missionary activity in the early Church, Catholic Leadership Institute will work to equip 950-1,000 priests over the next five years with ongoing formation and spiritual support.

To meet this need, Catholic Leadership Institute is enhancing priest support services, including the new Eius priest ongoing formation service. This initiative emboldens priests to be fully attentive in sacramental ministry, build stronger, more authentic relationships with parishioners, lead and support their parish staff and volunteers, and foster spiritual growth and vibrancy both in the pews and outside the parish doors.

Fr. Bill Hahn, Vicar for Clergy in Columbus, reflected on a Catholic Leadership Institute multi-day session he attended for Vicars for Clergy, noting that while Vicars often handle crises, priests also need intentional investment in their spiritual, human, pastoral, and intellectual well-being. He said, "A common phrase was 'if someone is not proactively caring for the priests of your diocese, then no one is.'"

When a priest is fully alive in his ministry, the Church is strengthened in its mission — better able to evangelize in a chaotic culture and meet people where they are, drawing them closer to Christ. We need priests who are healthy, holy, and joy-filled for the spiritual future of our children and their children.









Eius is Latin for “His” and appears in the Ordination Rite when the priest offers himself completely to God and the Church. The priest is God’s - His.

## KEY SERVICES & INITIATIVES

Eius is Catholic Leadership Institute’s ongoing formation service that is carefully crafted to be a guiding force in a priest’s ministry, refocusing him to the resolve of his ordination and helping him navigate a complex world of ministry. This is a 9-month learning experience that includes in-person sessions, virtual discussions, one-on-one coaching, and self-paced modules — built on decades of experience in adult learning and priestly formation.





“[Catholic Leadership Institute] brings the expertise the Church by default lacks in Her hierarchy, but not in Her body. It is an opportunity for the gifts and the talents God has given to the body of Christ to speak to the hierarchy, so we can work together at the service of the building of the Kingdom... and because of that, apply a particular science to benefit from the wisdom of years of experience that crosses over dioceses all over the country, for a much more meaningful conversation with ourselves, and makes me feel confident that I am part of the solution of our age.”

Fr. Seán Loomis  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia





# EMBRACING THIS MOMENT IGNITE THE PARISH

We see parishes that are equipped with a mission-driven mindset that “goes out” to find the lost sheep and welcome them to sacramental life in the Church.

## The Mission Need: \$50,000,000

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Catholic Leadership Institute is reshaping parishes into vibrant witnesses of hope and beacons of light in this new era. By proposing new models of parish life tailored to the needs of today’s Church, we are helping 225-250 communities across 10-12 dioceses transform into a more dynamic and missionary way of life.

To support this transformation, the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey is being enhanced to reflect the realities of contemporary parish life, providing updated insights into spiritual engagement.

Vibrant parish life looks different today than it did even five years ago. Catholic Leadership Institute is committed to offering tailored tools and resources that assist parishes in becoming centers of evangelization, actively engaging both practicing and non-practicing Catholics and serving as hubs of spiritual renewal – for today and for the future.

Lusant Ordonez is a lay leader in the Diocese of Orlando and is already reaping the fruits of the Next Generation Parish service. He shares that “the change is visible. The numbers speak loudly of what we have been able to accomplish, especially trending against the national averages. Pews that were empty are now packed. You can see the difference; it is night and day. What changed to make it so much better? The leadership.”

When parishes thrive, they become spiritual homes where the faithful find a place to belong in the sacramental life of the Church. Such parishes offer engaging liturgies and meaningful homilies, provide opportunities for all ages to grow in faith, and become visible signs of hope in their neighborhoods where everyone is welcome and the poor and marginalized are served. From such a parish come clergy and lay people who go out and share their faith with others in active discipleship.

## KEY SERVICES & INITIATIVES

**Prescriptive Parish Support Service:** An evolution of the Next Generation Parish service, this initiative provides a prescriptive approach to equip parishes for effective ministry in an apostolic age with tailored, actionable strategies.

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**Expand Parish Resources:** Development of a robust suite of resources to give parishes real-time access to best practices and proven strategies, enabling them to effectively navigate and impact a time that calls for renewed discipleship.





# YOU HAVE A ROLE IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH.

## Join Our Mission

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Imagine what's possible when bishops are confident in their leadership, priests are energized for mission, dioceses have the tools they need, and parishes come alive with apostolic purpose. This isn't just a vision — it's a future we can build together.

**But we can't do it without you.**

To bring this bold plan to life, Catholic Leadership Institute must raise more than \$100,000,000 in philanthropic support by 2030. Your generosity will help forge the future, ignite parishes, and embolden clergy across the country.

Christ gives us the ultimate model of leadership. This moment isn't just for a few. It's for the entire Church. It is for you.

**Will you lead with courage and partner with us, embracing this moment with your support?**

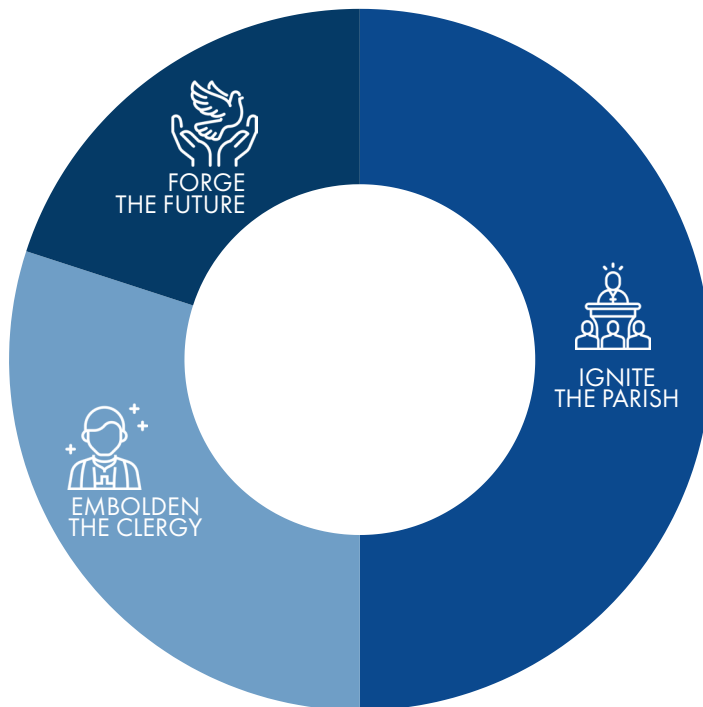
The Holy Spirit is moving across the Church in the United States calling leaders to step beyond comfort and bring others to Christ. Together, we can equip them to build thriving communities rooted in Jesus.

Our actions today shape a future where faith flourishes for generations. Let us move forward together in faith, hope, and the joy of the Gospel.

# JOIN OUR MISSION

“My prayer for you is that you have found the intersection of your joy and God’s greatest need. God’s greatest gift to you is your potential and what you do with it is your gift to God. Thank you for the part you will play in the fulfillment of our mission.”

Tim Flanagan, Co-Founder



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To learn more, visit our website or contact Chad Peddicord,  
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## Catholic Leadership INSTITUTE

We see a world where each individual understands their God-given mission in life and is doing their best to fulfill it; a world where Catholic leaders are influential voices in society; a world where Jesus' example of loving, servant leadership is modeled in every family, workplace, parish, and community.

**EQUIPPING LEADERS. IGNITING HOPE.**