



MANTLE OF ELIJAH

2010 Session

➤➤➤ A Program of Priest Mentoring



CONTACT US

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Session Dates

Segment One:

“Foundations for Mentoring”

January 25 - 29, 2010

Segment One introduces the role and value of mentoring within the context of diocesan priestly life. Segment One distinguishes the role of the mentor from other important formational roles (e.g. supervisor, pastor, spiritual director), and provides a set of recommended guidelines for the practice and implementation of mentoring at the diocesan level.

Segment Two:

“Mentoring in Practice”

April 19-22, 2010

Segment Two provides participants with the opportunity to practice the skills of mentoring and introduces them to particular situations that they may encounter as mentors (e.g. intercultural dynamics, addiction). Segment Two also addresses the role of the mentor vis-à-vis first-time pastors and newly-arrived international priests.

Both segments begin on Monday with lunch and concludes after lunch on Friday. Wednesday afternoon and evening are set aside for relaxation in the Bay Area.

Cost : \$1750

For registration forms, please contact us at: (650) 325-9122 or vat2ins@aol.com

2011 Dates:

Segment One: January 24-28

Segment Two: May 2-6

Cost: \$1800



Why the Name *Mantle of Elijah*?

We are all aware that a mantle was the outer cloak worn by adults in the ancient world. The term has become synonymous with offering protection and positions of leadership. We know the scripture passage about the passing of the mantle from Elijah to Elisha from the Second Book of Kings. We are all familiar with prayers that ask for us to be kept under the mantle of God's power and protection.

The image of passing or bestowing the mantle from one person to another is an image of giving and receiving wisdom, sharing of authority, or the bestowal of an identity. As experienced priest-pastors are called forth and trained as Mentors for their dioceses they become equipped with a vision of formation that is personal. It is one that establishes a one-on-one relationship which engenders trust and opens avenues for personal and priestly growth.

Elijah left his mantle to Elisha so that Elisha could draw on the wisdom and spirit of his Mentor in order to continue to serve the People. So this program seeks to empower priest mentors to pass on their wisdom and experience to a new generation of priests and for the service of the People of God.



◆ **Scriptural Reference:**

When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask for whatever I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha answered, "May I receive a double portion of your spirit." "You have asked something that is not easy," he replied. "Still, if you see me taken up from you, your wish will be granted; otherwise not." As they walked on conversing, a flaming chariot and flaming horses came between them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.....But when he could no longer see him, Elisha gripped his own garment and tore it in two. Then he picked up Elijah's mantle which had fallen from him, and went back and stood at the bank of the Jordan. (2 Kings 2: 9-13)

◆ **Where Did This Program Come From?**

In its origins, a group of mature priests gathered to tell their stories of supporting the recently ordained and the pitfalls or successes they encountered in so doing. The spirit of life emanating from these men led to a recognition that a gold-mine existed in the wisdom these servants brought to priestly identity and pastoral excellence.

Within a short year of collecting stories, a structure of training priest mentors emerged that has served as the foundation of the priest-mentor training seminar known as the **Mantle of Elijah**. This training calls forth the best from priests who are soon to be mentors and focuses their attention on methods of support, encouragement, and challenge.

In the U.S. Bishops' document, *The Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests*, the **Mantle of Elijah** represents one segment of the proposal to secure the goal of becoming life-long learners. The **Mantle of Elijah** encourages dioceses to consider the art of mentoring as a crucial component in a priest's ongoing formation. It is the hope of the **Mantle** program that mentoring will affect higher rates of stability and satisfaction for priests in transition such as newly ordained priests, newly appointed pastors, and recently arrived international priests. The program desires to affect higher rates of stability and satisfaction in a changing church landscape that calls priests into new collaborative ministerial relationships and new systems of delivery.

The **Mantle** program is an effort to integrate the formation dimensions of spiritual development, pastoral development, intellectual development, and human development as a priest moves into a new phase of his life. The mentor does not replace the Spiritual Director or the other coaches he may have in his personal and/or professional life. Rather, he works alongside those to help integrate these new experiences into the protégé's priestly identity.



◆ **As a Mentor, What Can I Expect to Learn?**

- To listen attentively to the dynamics and issues that are present in the life of the protégé.
- To build trust with your protégé as a foundation for future growth and learning.
- To celebrate the wonders that are being achieved by the Spirit in the life of the protégé and in your own life.
- To assist a recently ordained priest or newly arrived international priest to integrate effectively into the local diocesan presbyterate.
- To become a part of a network of concerned priest-mentors who seek to share their own experiences and wisdom with the next generation of priests.

◆ **What Does the Training Look Like?**

The **Mantle of Elijah** training utilizes the concepts taken from John Paul II's, *I Will Give You Pastors*. It has developed a structure that comprises the four pillars of formation: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral. These are woven into a cohesive methodology providing the soon-to-be mentor a guide for his work. This methodology is composed of case studies, group discussions, role-plays, and educational conferences. The environment of the week is intentionally relaxed, casual, and prayerful making it conducive to community-building and learning. The materials for this training program were developed by the Mantle of Elijah Team under the auspices of a Lilly Endowment in their *Sustaining Pastoral Excellence* program.

◆ **Who Needs a Mentor?**

- Priests who have been recently or newly ordained.
- Priests experiencing their first assignment as a Pastor or Pastoral Leader.
- Priests from outside the USA who are newly arrived and entering their first assignment.

◆ **Who Benefits?**

The Mentee/ Protégé

- He is able to build a relationship founded on trust with someone who will become his guide and colleague.
- He will be able to identify possible trouble spots in his life that can be dealt with early before they become serious issues.
- He will experience a greater sense of joy in ministry and thus offer better service to the people.

The Mentor

- He can be challenged and inspired to grow by the new energy and insights that the mentee/protégé can bring to ministry.
- He can develop a sense of satisfaction knowing that he is trusted by his brother priests and trusted as a guide for the next generation.
- He can grow in his own sense of joy in the priesthood as he reflects on the experiences of others.

