



# Announcing...

## National Certification for Lay Ecclesial Ministers

*Promoting Professional, Competent, and Faithful Ministry*

Available to those serving in the following roles:

- Director of Worship
- Parish Life Coordinator
- Pastoral Associate
- Director of Music Ministries
- Parish Catechetical Leader
- Youth Ministry Leader, including *Pastoral Juvenil Hispana*
- Diocesan Youth Ministry Leader, including *Pastoral Juvenil Hispana*

The certification process consists of three steps: Apply, Prepare, Submit. All three steps are done online using the tools provided at [www.lmcertification.org](http://www.lmcertification.org).

1. **Apply:** Sign up for an online account, and submit your application materials and fee to the ministry organization that represents your ministry role.
2. **Prepare:** After you receive notice that your application has been approved and you have been accepted as a candidate for certification, build your online ministry portfolio which documents how you meet the national certification standards.
3. **Submit:** When your portfolio is complete, submit your materials for review. If approved by your national ministry organization and the Alliance, you will receive notification that you are certified!

Initial Applications and Completed Portfolios are accepted before the March 1 and October 1 deadlines each year.

Online accounts and application materials will be available in early 2012. **Please visit [www.lmcertification.org](http://www.lmcertification.org) to begin your journey toward certification!**

### Why be certified?

**Affirmation & Credibility:** Be affirmed and lifted up in your ministry and have your ministry professionally acknowledged by an outside authority. Certification is an acknowledgement of your pastoral and professional competence in ministry relative to national standards, and enhances your credibility as a lay ecclesial minister and the credibility of your field of ministry.

**Identity & Connection:** Affirm your commitment to ministry in the Church and strengthen your professional identity within your field and your connection with the national ministerial organization for your field.

**Portable Credential:** National certification provides a professional credential that is portable to other dioceses around the country. Having a nationally recognized credential can assist you in securing a new ministry position if you should choose to relocate.

**Development of Your Field:** Become an agent of change and contribute to the development and strengthening of your field. Your participation in this process supports the building of a "culture of competence" in lay ecclesial ministry and helps to raise the bar for competent, faithful and professional ministry with the People of God.

Certification for lay ecclesial ministers is granted by the Alliance for the Certification of Lay Ecclesial Ministers, a partnership of five national ministry organizations:

- Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC)
- National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM)
- National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM)
- National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL)
- National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM)

This national certification process and the national standards on which it is based were approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Commission on Certification and Accreditation in November 2011.