

Presenting
DJM
to
Parish Priests



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General Information

Informing the pastor or other parish priests about the DJM Formation Program should be done at the appropriate time. This is usually indicated when parishioners express interest in going through the formation or because the pastor inquired about it.

Representing DJM

How to present the DJM Formation Program is based on various circumstances. There is not one particular method that must be followed, as such. However, it is important that disciples are prepared to represent DJM properly.

In the Directory of Correspondence, there are questions submitted to Fr. Pinto in regards to presenting the DJM Formation Program to a pastor of a parish. Instructions were given based on the situation at hand, which Father was quite familiar with. While Father's response should certainly be considered, it is important to look at the situation and how it was applied. Then see if and how it may apply to your area at the given time.

The information presented here is intended to assist Core Groups so they are well informed before a meeting with the pastor or other priests in a parish. The Communication and/or Formation Team Servant Coordinators should be present at the meeting, if possible, as they serve in leadership and are expected to know how to represent DJM properly.

Please read this material thoroughly and become familiar with it so you are prepared for questions that may be asked. This should also give the confidence and assurance that you have the correct information. It is also helpful to review the Directory of Correspondence - *Comprehensive Format, Modifying Program or Material*, pp. 4-5.

An Apostolate of Lay Faithful ...

Fr. Pinto formally stated that the Disciples of Jesus and Mary are *an Apostolate of Lay Faithful serving in Apostolic Ministry in the Church*. Though there is yet to be an official recognition of this, the obedience of the Disciples of Jesus and Mary to their local pastors and by following the DJM Structure is a living example of the spirit of love and service Fr. Pinto hoped to instill in our hearts.

The Disciples of Jesus and Mary Formation Program is not classified as a membership organization whereas one takes vows or enlists in contractual participation. Rather it is a formation program that helps individuals grow in holiness and serve in the Church.

DJM Headquarters

The official headquarters (Motherhouse) for the Disciples of Jesus and Mary is located at the DJM Formation Center in Honey Grove, Texas in the Diocese of Dallas. DJM Ministries, Inc. is listed as a non-parish-based organization in the Official Catholic Directory in the Diocese of Dallas.

DJM Website

The Disciples of Jesus and Mary website: www.disciplesofjesusandmary.org contains comprehensive information about DJM.

Meeting Notes

Letter to Priests

The *Letter to Priests* from Fr. Santan Pinto SOLT should be given to the parish priest before meeting with him, if possible.

Let the Lord do His work

It is important to be humble so he can see the spirit of love and service in you. Allow him to ask questions and lead the discussion.

Please do not try to guess or answer a question if you do not know what the answer is. If you do not know the answer, then simply tell him you do not know.

Remember that this work is of the Lord and it is He who will place words in your mind and heart so that you will share what this formation is all about. It is the Lord who can touch hearts and so let the Lord do His work. On your part try to keep always humble in all things.

It is important that as a disciple you always ask a priest for his blessing because it is the blessing of the Lord he imparts on you! (Fr. Pinto)

DJM Formation Books and Manuals

Please be prepared to show the **updated** Prayer in Your Life, Discernment in Your Life, and Discipleship Your Way of Life Books and Formation Manuals, if he is interested. You can inform him that he is welcome to keep the material but do not pressure him into taking it.

DJM Overview PowerPoint Presentation

A DJM Overview PowerPoint Presentation is typically held virtually or at the parish (*with pastor's blessing*) for those who are interested. It could also be used to present DJM to the parish priests.

Letter to Priests

Dear Brother Priests:

My heartfelt gratitude to you my brother priests, for your untiring service to God, His Church and the people entrusted to your care. Thanks in a special way for serving the “disciples of Jesus and Mary” and know that you and your intentions are always in my personal prayer.

I am Fr. Santan Pinto SOLT, originally from India. Now I live in New Mexico and am serving on the priests’ council of the “The Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity” (SOLT is the short form).

Since my ordination to the priesthood in 1977 the Lord has been preparing me through various experiences, how to give retreats, seminars, conduct healing services and spend hours in the confessional. After arriving in the USA in 1987 I have been writing some notes, which eventually I have put into books.

I started working with small groups that were interested in growing in holiness. Many had been to Medjugorje or on some other pilgrimage; and on returning were filled with much fervor and wanted to make progress in holiness. It took me years to formulate this formation program, which I call “Disciples of Jesus and Mary”. There are members of different communities and organizations, who have used this formation and continue to do so. In no way is the former membership questioned or do persons leave them because of this formation.

The formation program consists of three phases: prayer, discernment and discipleship. It has been through years of studying the Gospels and looking at the way Jesus taught His disciples, that I came up with this format. There is nothing new in this formation; the only thing new is the way this formation program is outlined.

This program can be done either through groups or individually. The group program consists of meetings about once a month and in some areas, every two weeks. There is a training period and then there are retreats that end the phase of formation. It often depends on the individual how fast he or she wants to go. The program is usually flexible and much is expected from the individual to move along this formation. I personally recommend that an individual go through the entire formation program in two years and then can revise the formation over and over again. I have found revision as a key of deepening their desire to love and serve God and others in the Church.

The second way of doing this formation is doing it individually. There is a trained disciple who has undergone this formation program that leads the one interested in this formation. Materials are sent in piece meal, with instructions, followed by emails, and telephone conversation. Occasionally these individuals are invited to a group retreat, meeting, social, or other functions.

Prayer, discernment and discipleship focus on relationships. They come to know that they are children of God, who created them for a purpose. They see the hand of God forming them and thus through their life’s experiences, they discover the plan of God for each of them. They work on their own prayer schedule and then prepare themselves to make their consecration to Jesus through Mary, according to St. Louis de Marie Montfort. They learn simple methods of prayer and focus on the Lord’s Prayer as the perfect method over all others.

In discernment, they are taught simple rules, principles, and guidelines that have been handed down to us from the Church, the Fathers of the Church, and the great spiritual leaders, like Ignatius of Loyola and St. John of the Cross. The focus is on practicing these norms of discernment, so that they may seek to do God’s will in their daily lives.

Discipleship is the final phase, which has a three months preparation, then followed by nine one day retreats, and finally a wrap-up with a weekend retreat. The focus is learning to follow Jesus, like Mary

did. During the life of Jesus, he focused on certain aspects as He trained His disciples before they were sent out on mission. These specific gifts are placed as graces for each part.

Through personal meditation and hours of prayer, I came up with some points that helped me on this journey. I was drawn to the love of the Lord to walk with Him ever closer. I wanted to imitate Him and serve Him in others. I knew that He called me by name. All through my life He continued to call me to walk with Him closely. I realized that many wanted to walk with Jesus in this same way.

It is my aim to prepare these disciples, so that they can be of service to the Church, by assisting you and serving the needs of their local Church. I have placed much emphasis on belonging to a parish and not a floating parishioner. This formation should lead the disciples to be a source of help and assistance to each of you in your work.

I have always encouraged those in formation and those who have completed their formation to be obedient to their local pastors. I am certain that through this filial obedience they will enjoy the Lord's protection and blessing on their family and their work would be fruitful.

I have given guidelines stating that any disciple may pray over another either he or she be formed or in formation on only one condition that they do not give out messages to anyone or for anyone either during the actual praying over or afterward. This directive was presented to me by the Bishops that I had to meet, when I first began this program. There were individuals, who presuming to be inspired by the Holy Spirit, took upon them to give messages to individuals, especially to the priests. They had no formation or any spiritual director to guide them and discern these messages; they were acting on their own.

The "disciples of Jesus and Mary" are organized into various teams. There are six teams in all: communications, organization, ministry, formation, prayer and missionary of mercy. Each of these teams has a servant coordinator and assistant and team members.

In areas where the numbers are few, we have few servant coordinators; and as the membership grows, we then create teams. ¹

Once again I thank you for your service and I pray God's blessings on you, your parish, your community, and your intentions.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Santan Pinto SOLT

Please note: Fr. Santan Pinto entered eternal life on December 16, 2011.

¹. The following were omitted since they are no longer in effect: "Since I live in the American region, it is the best that when you ask for a letter stating that I am a priest in good standing, please write to my local superior, whose address is as follows:
Fr. Gerry Sheehan SOLT, Regional Priest Servant, Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity,
P.O. BOX 152, Robstown, Texas, 78380 Phone: (361) 767-9567
My major superior is: Fr. Rogel Rosalinas SOLT General Priest Servant
P.O Box 152 Robstown, TX 78380 Phone: 361-387-2754"