

Institute for Pastoral Initiatives Graduate Assistant

Job Description

2019-2020

The graduate assistant works in the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives (*see IPI UD website at udayton.edu*) with a dynamic team who are reaching out to Catholics around the world via both online learning, as well as, preparing our University of Dayton students to become outstanding Catechists and Catholic School Faith Formaters in the Catholic Church today.

The primary function of the graduate assistant consists of working with the **FORUM for Young Catechetical Leaders**, a two-year undergraduate catechetical program. The function involves organizing, planning, teaching, liturgical preparation and follows up with students, as well as, supporting undergraduate student's practicums in the area parishes. The FORUM offers the graduate assistant an opportunity to hone their pastoral leadership skills. This is a great opportunity for anyone considering parish leadership, ministry, and teaching positions. The content of the Forum rotates every semester focusing on faith formation, diversity, liturgy and prayer, and morality and social justice, as well, as the praxis experience of the students in local parishes. The Graduate Assistant mentors UD's Student Service Club '**The God Squad**' that offers their services in parishes throughout the region particularly with Confirmation and related Sacramental Retreats and Faith Experiences on the elementary and high school level. Every Graduate Assistant Student has received significant positions in dioceses, colleges, Catholic Schools and parishes following graduation.

The graduate assistant has the opportunity to assist with the Institute for Pastoral **Initiative's FORUM for Young Hispanic Leaders** (16-18 years and 19-26 of age within the Dayton Community) to prepare the Catholic Hispanic Youth for future leadership within the Hispanic Community. By working with the Archdiocesan regional Hispanic Ad Hoc Committee, the University of Dayton Collaborative Latino/Latina initiative, the graduate assistant is able to embrace a culturally diverse perspective for ministry within the Church in the 21st century.

The graduate assistant works closely with the Director for engaging in pastoral research and program design & development for advancing new initiatives within the Institute. These opportunities emerge based upon the experience that a graduate assistant brings into the graduate assistant position.

The **Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation** is a significant benchmark of the Institute. Based upon the growing expertise of the graduate assistant she/he is able to learn how the digital culture is forming, informing and transforming faith formation in the 21st century.

What is unique about the graduate assistantship within the Institute of Pastoral Initiatives is the **opportunity for a person to cultivate, hone and practice Catholic Leadership/Ministry skills**. This position is not a 'fill in the blanks', or 'busy work' but it is all about becoming part of a national (international) team exploring how to serve the Church in new and innovative ways while working with UD undergraduate and graduate students. There are always ways for the graduate assistant to spark new energy into the Institute during their time of service here at UD! The graduate assistant is a member of a 'pastoral team'!

The Institute is grounded in solid Catholic values, mission, and vision. The Institute team strives to '**be**' what we '**profess**' witnessing to the Church the Marianist Catholic charism of the University of Dayton for supporting the mission of the Church.

Check out udayton.edu - The Institute for Pastoral Initiatives for more information, or, <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/partnership/partners.php>

Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, MSHS, D.Min.
Director