

Diploma in Ministry

Experience personal spiritual growth and strengthen your contribution to your faith community by participating in StFX University's Diploma in Ministry program. This flexible Distance Education program is designed to meet the needs of adult learners by offering part-time study at home.

"The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.... has anointed me.... has sent me to bring good news to the poor; to proclaim liberty to captives, and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour" (Lk 4:18-19).

With these words, Jesus proclaims his ministry to bring people into a new and redeemed relationship with God and each other. Today, the Church continues Jesus' mission. Through our Baptism, we accept Jesus' mission and make it our own. Each of us is called to discipleship.

"Ministry," in the general sense, refers to the specific means of accomplishing an intended mission. Ministry is always responsive - it calls for action that is ultimately directed toward promoting our relationship with God and each other. These actions illustrate God's presence in our world and empower us to live fully in communion with God and our neighbour. There are diverse ministries given by God as gifts to the Church in

response to the needs of God's people.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Catechesi Tradendae*, to the faithful of the Church on faith development in our time, His Holiness Pope John Paul II states:

"... the Church is bidden by God and by events to renew her trust in catechetical activity as a prime aspect of her mission. She is bidden to offer catechesis her best resources in people and energy, without sparing effort, toil or material means, in order to organize it better and to train qualified personnel. This is no mere human calculation; it is an attitude of faith."

John Paul II



The University

St. Francis Xavier University (StFX) is a leading national university. Founded in 1853 by the Diocese of Antigonish, the university is proud of its strong Catholic heritage. StFX is recognized nationally and internationally for its commitment to social justice and community service, as well as its proven reputation in the field of adult education and distance delivery programming.

Diploma in Ministry

The Diploma in Ministry program is an initiative of the University's Faith Development Institute which has received widespread interest from across Canada. Expert religious educators have recommended the program content, developed by professionals with extensive background in theology and/or adult religious education.

Who should enrol? This diploma is for people who wish to learn about their faith for personal reasons and for those involved (or wishing to be involved) in a variety of ministries at the parish, diocesan or other levels. Some candidates may have talents and skills that they would like to offer to the Church community, but may require additional knowledge and confidence. Others may be currently working in ministry, but are seeking personal and professional development. Reflecting on the reality of today's Church, there are a variety of needs that call for a responsive ministry. The diploma program will strive to address these new needs as they emerge.

How long is the program? The diploma requires completion of five courses that may be achieved in 2.5 to 5 years.

What is the program's purpose? The overall objective of the program is to strengthen the faith community in Canada through ministry formation.

What is the educational focus? This educational opportunity is built on the following principles that support the goal of faith formation:

- **Ministry:** Ministry, as a call to service, is a central theme in the program. The role of the laity is explored at the parish, diocesan and other levels and is integrated throughout the program.



- **Pastoral Formation:** The program provides the knowledge and skills required to lead, facilitate, or organize others in faith development activities at the parish/diocesan or other levels. The program culminates in the application of learning in a ministry-related project.
- **Christian Spirituality:** The program recognizes that personal spiritual growth is essential to ministry. Courses in the development of Christian belief and practice encourage the growth of both community and personal faith.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

These courses are delivered by distance education, and incorporate features that contribute to the success of adult learners. Many adults describe the freedom of home study as the main reason for choosing a distance delivery program. The Diploma in Ministry program follows a learner-centred approach.

Key features of the program include:

- **Course Materials** - At the beginning of each course, you receive a learning package consisting of course materials and supplementary readings. A suggested study schedule is included.
- **Course Instructors** - Access to course instructors is an important feature of the program. You may call (toll free), fax or e-mail your instructor with questions or concerns. The instructor also provides written feedback on assignments.
- **Advisors** - You are assigned to a local advisor who can assist and support you in achieving the learning objectives of each course.
- **Group Meetings** - Throughout the program, periodic sessions with your advisor and other learners in your area will be arranged at convenient times. The program encourages a spirit of sharing between learners that will continue in faith development activities beyond the completion of the program.

Application for Admission

The minimum academic admission requirement is grade twelve certification or its equivalent. Applicants who cannot meet this requirement may qualify for entrance under the University's *Mature Student Policy*. Upon entry to the program, you will receive an orientation package detailing program policies/procedures. Later, you will receive a learning package, along with information about your advisor and local meetings.

Fees

Program application fee: \$50. Tuition is paid course-by-course. Subject to change, the tuition fee for each course is \$475 (text book extra). Official tax receipts issued.



St. Francis Xavier University

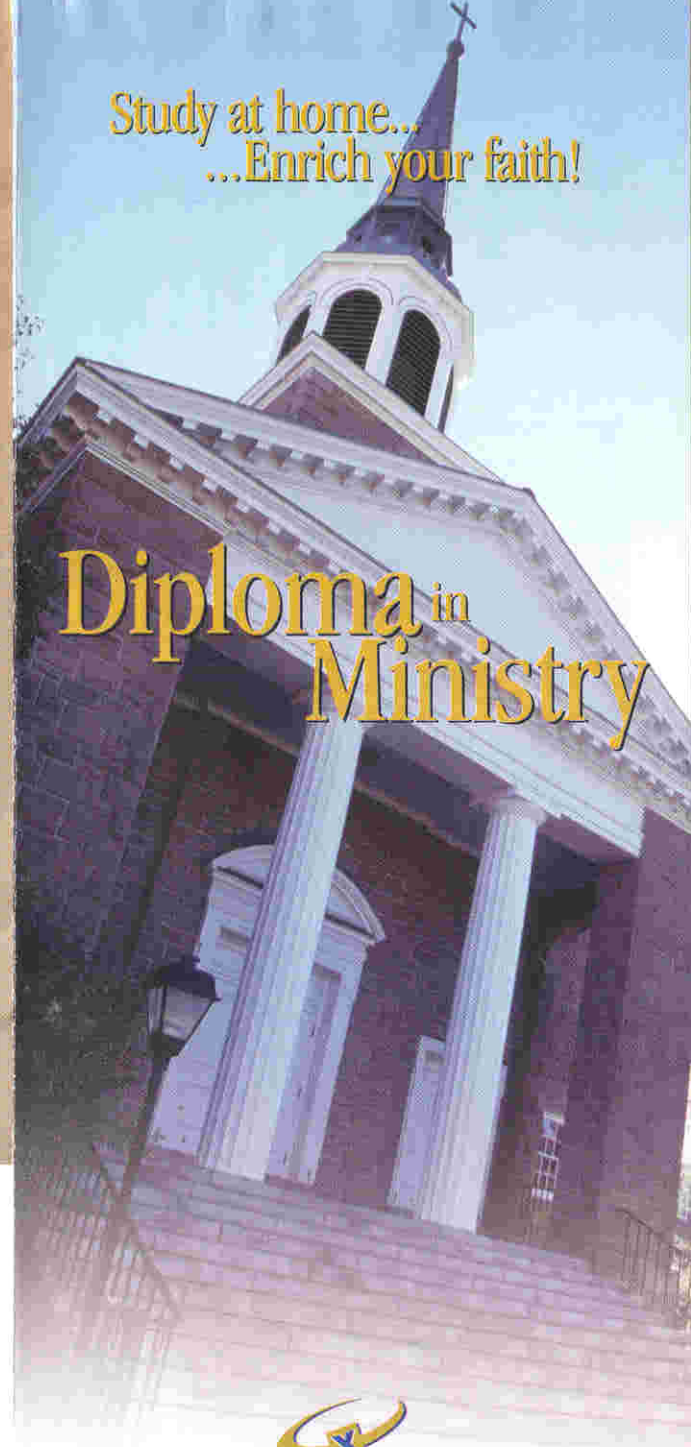
Diploma in Ministry Program • Continuing & Distance Education Department • Box 5000 Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5

Phone: (902) 867-3319 • Toll free 1-877-867-5562 Fax (902) 867-5154 • Email: diplomainministry@stfx.ca

www.stfx.ca/academic/ministr

Study at home...
...Enrich your faith!

Diploma in Ministry



St. Francis Xavier University

ANTIGONISH • NOVA SCOTIA • CANADA



Diploma in Ministry Program
Continuing & Distance
Education Department
Box 5000 Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5
Phone: (902) 867-3319
Toll free 1-877-867-5562
Fax (902) 867-5154
Email: diplomainministry@stfx.ca
www.stfx.ca/academic/ministr

For information on the StFX Diploma in Ministry program, please fill out the following form and return by postage or fax.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone #'s : _____
