

The Formation Team

Most Rev. Michael J. Boulette, director / founder of St. Peter upon the Water; Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio since 1976; leader of retreats and parish missions; spiritual director and supervisor; BA and MA in Psychology; MTh in Theology; DMin in Preaching and Worship.

Cecilia von Bertrab, co-director; prayer and meditation teacher; retreat leader; spiritual director and supervisor; MA in Education; MA in Spirituality.

Dianne Albrecht, registrar; member of the Domestic Expression of the Brothers and Sisters of Charity; leader of parish Adult Faith Formation and silent retreats; spiritual director and supervisor; MA in Psychology: Counseling and Guidance.

Dora Bill; secretary for St. Peter upon the Water; spiritual director; often the first voice you hear when making inquiries.

Bonnie Caruso; retreat leader; spiritual director and supervisor; BS in Education; MA in Religious Education.

David Domingue; co-owner and manager of Camp la Junta in Hunt, Texas; leader in ACTS retreats; spiritual director and supervisor.

Tim George, MD; physician specializing in Medical Oncology; spiritual director and supervisor.

Frances Schreiber; Licensed Professional Counselor; leader in ACTS retreats; spiritual director and supervisor; MEd in Counseling.

Carol Stehling; retreat leader; spiritual director and supervisor; BS in Nursing.

Steve Stutz; seminary professor; spiritual director and supervisor; BS in Environmental Science; MDiv; DMin in Spiritual Direction Formation.

Sallie West; elementary educator; leader in ACTS, silent retreats, and day retreats; spiritual director and supervisor; BS in Education.

The Cost

The cost of the program for Cycle 5 will be \$2500 per formation year. An application fee of \$50 is non-refundable. (Scholarships and extended payment plans are available, as well as possible help from the Archbishop's Appeal.) Weekend meals are included.

For More Information or To Request an Application:

Complete the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City, ZIP code _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____

Work (_____) _____

Cell (_____) _____

Send To:

St. Peter upon the Water
Formation Program for Spiritual Directors
Attention: Registrar
P.O. Box 509
Ingram, TX 78025-0509

Or E-mail: dianne@stpeteruponthewater.org or
secretary@stpeteruponthewater.org

Or Call:

Fr. Mike Boulette	Director	830.367.5959
Cecilia von Bertrab	Co-director	210.492.0407
Dianne Albrecht	Registrar	830.285.2555
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David Domingue	Team	830.739.0034
Tim George	Team	432.296.4177
Francis Schreiber	Team	956.330.7127
Carol Stehling	Team	210.340.7983
Steve Stutz	Team	281.804.6154
Sallie West	Team	830.739.6542



*"If it be you, Lord, bid me come."
Matthew 14:28*

*St. Peter upon the Water: A Center
for Spiritual Direction and Formation*

**Formation Program
For Spiritual Directors**

The Call

Followers of Christ continually ask Peter's implied discernment question before leaving the boat to meet Jesus on the water – "If it be you, Lord . . ." (Matthew 14:28) Disciples of Jesus have always sought to discern the Word in prayer, Scripture, and Tradition, and from the Church's early days seekers have looked to others to be spiritual guides.

Pope Benedict XVI declared, "As she has always done, today the Church continues to recommend the practice of spiritual direction ... to every Christian who wishes to live responsibly his or her Baptism.... [Everyone] needs to be accompanied personally by a guide reliable in doctrine and expert in the things of God." Pope Francis writes: "Today more than ever we need men and women who [practice] 'the art of accompaniment' ... [and can] make present the fragrance of Christ's closeness and his personal gaze."

In response to growing numbers of people desiring such spiritual guidance, the Church recognizes the urgent need to provide for the formation and supervision of spiritual directors, whom the Catechism names as "servants of prayer." [CCC 2690] St. Peter upon the Water seeks to meet that need through its formation program for spiritual directors.

The Person of the Spiritual Director

The goal of this program is to form Christian spiritual directors. Spiritual guides are first of all disciples, called to deepen their own spiritual maturity before becoming directors for others. Aware that the spiritual director is the Holy Spirit of God in Christ, those involved in the ministry of spiritual direction must have considerable experience in the interior life and a reasonable depth of knowledge of prayer, of Sacred Scripture, and of the Tradition as expressed in the Church's Magisterium. Persons called to be spiritual directors do not provide "pastoral counseling" but guidance in spiritual formation and in living the spirituality of the Gospels. Therefore, in addition to spiritual maturity they must develop the kind of presence and interpersonal skills that will invite others to a deeper understanding of the experience of God, the movements of the interior life, and human growth in relationship to God, self, and others.

The Formation Program and Discernment

St. Peter upon the Water is a center for contemplative and prayerful spiritual direction and formation. As a ministry of the Archdiocese of San Antonio it is deeply rooted in the Roman Catholic tradition. Its Formation Program is a three-year discernment process of forming and affirming women and men contemplating the call to become spiritual directors. Throughout the three years of this program the Formation Team will help participants explore God's gift and call to accompany others as spiritual directors, servants of prayer. This discernment is on-going, involving both the participant seeking formation and the Formation Team, as together they listen for and respond to God's leading.

The Content

The content of the Formation Program centers around the three gifts given to spiritual directors as named in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "The Holy Spirit gives to certain of the faithful the gifts of wisdom, faith and discernment for the sake of this common good which is prayer (*spiritual direction*)." [CCC 2690]

First Year

The call to deeper FAITH

September 2018 – June 2019

The focus in Year 1 is on the deepening of the participant's personal faith journey so that each becomes well grounded in foundational Christian spiritual theology as set forth in the teaching of the Apostles Creed.

Second Year

The call to increasing WISDOM

September 2019 – June 2020

The focus in Year 2 is on the increase of wisdom in spiritual guidance so that the participant can talk easily about God and faith, as he or she grows in understanding Christian spiritual theology and prayer traditions. Each participant will develop as a contemplative and compassionate person, able to listen to others, helping them understand their life stories in the context of the Word of God and Sacred Tradition.

Third Year

The call to on-going DISCERNMENT

September 2020 – June 2021

The focus in Year 3 is on growth in understanding a foundational Christian theology of discernment so the participant can listen to others' stories in the light of salvation history. The maturing spiritual director will become better able to guide directees in clarifying the source of their desires, discerning whether or not they are being led by the Holy Spirit as they live out the consequences of their intimate walk with Christ.

The Schedule

The three-year Formation Program will consist of ten sessions every year. The sessions, to be held at St. Peter upon the Water in Ingram, Texas, are scheduled for the second Friday evening and all day on the following Saturday of the months of September through June. Sessions in December and June will be weekend retreats lasting from Friday evening to Sunday noon.

Prerequisites

Each applicant

1. *Must be able to make the commitment to attend all ten sessions each year;*
2. *Must be an active participant in a parish or religious community;*
3. *Must be in or be willing to be in monthly one-to-one spiritual direction;*
4. *Must be open to the ongoing discernment of the call to be a spiritual director.*