



PERSONAL DISCERNMENT

STOP. READ. REFLECT. PRAY. LISTEN. ACT.

This is a tool for you, the applicant, to use during your discernment and reflection for the student minister application process.

Stop.

At The Catholic University of America one of the important leadership positions is that of Student Minister. The Pastoral Staff is grateful that you are thinking of applying for this position of service but, it is also important to ask, **what is God asking of you?** The first step in trying to discover that answer is to: ‘STOP’ and commit to a process of *discerning* God’s desire for you at this time.

Read.

Before you consider filling out the application ‘READ’ the application carefully. Be mindful of the details like deadlines and training dates as well as the more essential elements of the application: *Position Description, Ministry, Prayer and Community Responsibilities*. Read through the *Application Questions* and the *Self-Reference* page. Now read the position description, including the 3 areas of responsibility one more time.

Reflect.

Ask yourself:

- Did I realize that this position requires me to spend 20 hours a week developing three different areas of my life: Prayer, Community and Ministry?
- Am I open to learning how to grow as a person of deep personal prayer and as an intimate friend of Jesus Christ? Am I open to learning how to lead public prayer and praying with my particular community and my residents? Do I understand that prayer in community (adoration, weekly community Mass, Tuesday Night House Mass, Sunday Mass and scheduled community prayer each week) opens me up to new relationships and is a place that is sacred for all involved?
- Do I understand that my ministerial community reminds me that ministry is never an individual adventure? Community supplies me with a place to pray and a place to give and receive support. Am I prepared to listen and not always demand to be heard? Am I prepared to put others first, pitch in with whatever needs to be done, while at the same time letting others know when I need help? Am I open to sharing my “successes and challenges” in community?
- Will I keep in mind that ministry is rooted in prayer and community? Am I prepared to knock on doors and establish relationships with my residents? Am I prepared to put up with rejection, misunderstanding and pre-judgment on the part of some and still continue to find joy in the little successes with many? Will I see Renew as an essential element of evangelization? Will I be open to learning how to offer social and spiritual programs in my



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STUDENT MINISTRY STAFF APPLICATION

residence hall? Will I see our social programs (Friday Nights, Cellar Nights, CUAonTap, service days) as ways to build up the Body of Christ?

Pray.

Ask God to help you answer truthfully the questions above. Ask Him to see if your desire to be a Student Minister is life-giving and coming from your heart's desire to serve Him through serving others?

Listen.

Then, "Be still and know that He is God." You will not be able to do ministry for very long if everything you do depends upon you. Where and how has God indicated that I might make a good student minister? Have others told me so? Is my fear of doing a good job far out-weighted by my joy of being God's servant? Do I have a sense of peace when I imagine myself making ministry a priority in my life?

Act.

After you have gone through this process – now might be the time to begin the written application process.

Prayer for Discernment

*God of beginnings,
As your spirit moved
Over the chaos and confusion on the first day of creation,
Move with us now in our time
Of beginnings,
When the world seems fresh and full of possibilities.
I tremble on the edge of a maybe,
A first time,
A new experience,
A tentative start,
And the wonder of it lays its finger on my lips.
Spirit of God,
I share now my eagerness and my uneasiness
About this something different
I would be or do;
And I listen for your leading
To help me separate the light from the darkness,
That I may know your vision, your desire,
Your dream for me AMEN*