

## ST. KATE'S INITIATIVE for CONTEMPLATIVE DISCIPLESHIP *Discipleship Practices Program*

*Guardian Angels has been invited to participate in the Discipleship Practices Program through the St. Kate's Initiative for Contemplative Discipleship. The Parish Pastoral Council, Fr. Rodger and Parish Staff are collaborating on setting this program in motion here at the parish. All interested parishioners are invited to consider the following:*

### **The aim of the program**

Supporting Guardian Angels Catholic Community as we reach out in **discipleship** to a hurting world. By discipleship, we mean *Christian life patterns that attempt to humanize the world*, especially attempts in which (in the words of Pope Francis) the "Church constantly goes out from herself...in commitment to the poor" (Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel* [2013] par. 97).

### **What participation looks like**

1. **Three participants** take part in an intensive two-year period of study from fall 2021-spring 2023. These participants will take courses in *Church and Sacraments* (fall 2021), *Spirituality for Discipleship* (spring 2022), and *God and Christ* (spring 2023). All coursework will be taught by St. Kate's theology faculty and will be organized around a congregation-based social engagement project occurring in fall 2022. COVID protocols allowing, these courses will be held in person at both St. Kate's and Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie, with video connectivity between the sites. Participants will receive a 16-credit certificate in "Discipleship in Practice and Theory." Courses meet on Monday evenings beginning on September 13.
2. **Ten participants** take part in twice-yearly retreats with participants from seven other parishes also involved in the program. The first scheduled retreat is on Saturday, August 14 at St. Kate's.
3. **Any interested parishioners** are invited to participate in an annual gathering here at Guardian Angels focused on a specific area of interest chosen by program participants. This area of interest will focus on engagement as disciples with the surrounding community.

### **Costs**

Guardian Angels will be a participating congregation in this initiative and so **ALL** expenses of the program are covered by a grant from the Lilly Foundation. This includes the coursework at St. Kate's for the three participants mentioned above and all expenses for the ten participants in the twice-yearly retreats. (If the three participants in the certificate courses choose to take the courses for college credit, a portion of that cost will also be covered.)

### **Time Commitments**

For the three participants committing to the certificate courses at St. Kate's, the time commitment is a 90-minute course each Monday evening for 14 weeks along with some prep time outside of class during the duration of the course. Courses will meet in Fall 2021, in Spring 2022 and in Spring 2023. For the ten participants in the retreats, those retreats are a commitment of a Saturday twice per year along with yet-to-be-defined shorter gatherings at Guardian Angels over the course of the grant period.

### **Indicating Interest**

1. Our three intensive certificate students must be confirmed before April 19. In order to meet this deadline, **indications of interest are due no later than Monday, April 12.**
2. Our ten twice-yearly retreat participants must be confirmed before May 26. In order to meet this deadline, **indications of interest are due no later than Wednesday, May 19.**
3. To ask questions or to indicate interest, [click here](#). You may also call the Parish Office. Dependent on level of interest, an online question and answer session may be scheduled the week of April 12.