Neumann to Offer Degrees to Camden Diocese

Neumann University signed an agreement with the Diocese of Camden on September 23 to allow parishioners to attend Neumann as part of the Diocesan Lay Ministry Formation Program.

The agreement is the result of collaboration between the spiritual direction track of the pastoral care and counseling program and the division of continuing adult and professional studies (CAPS) at Neumann and the Office of Lifelong Formation of the Diocese of Camden. The conversations focused on exploring the missions of the two institutions and intersected to enhance each other’s purpose and goals.

Dr. Rosalie Mirenda, president of Neumann; Dr. Gerard O’Sullivan, vice president for academic affairs at Neumann; Bishop Joseph Galante, Sr.; and Roseann Quinn, SSJ, delegate for Lifelong Faith Formation, were on hand to sign the agreement. Dr. Tish Szymurski, dean of the CAPS program, Dr. Joe Gillespie, dean of the Division of Education, Dr. Len DiPaul, executive director of pastoral and theological studies, and Dr. Eileen Flanagan, associate professor of spirituality and religious studies, also attended the event.

“We come to this day with great joy,” said Dr. Mirenda. “We are so happy to be able to participate in the Camden Diocese Lay Ministry Formation Program. I want to thank Bishop Galante and Sr. Roseann for inviting us and for entering into this agreement. Neumann has a proven academic track record, as both programs have been operating successfully for more than 20 years. I am excited that such an opportunity will now be available to the parishioners of the Camden Diocese.”

“The Neumann degree program will bring academic recognition through undergraduate credits granted to students for past educational experiences,” said Sr. Quinn.

The initiative is one component of the diocese’s Lay Ministry Formation Program (LMFP) that was announced last fall. The LMFP program offers college and university degree and certificate courses for parish leaders and staff in the Diocese who serve in various pastoral ministries. Programs are also offered for lay persons involved in pastoral administration, Catholic schools, and parish business management. This agreement offers programs that are not available at Catholic colleges in New Jersey at a location that may be closer for some.

Degree completion graduates can obtain their undergraduate degree by earning credits for their past educational and life experiences. The degree completion program recognizes credit from prior documented university-level learning experiences and professional development activities. Courses for both the undergraduate and graduate programs can be taken at the Aston campus.

“I think the program is a great opportunity for Neumann and the Camden Diocese. Both of us are open to see if this grows into other areas in time. I think this agreement captures the sense of missionary zeal of Catholicism,” said DiPaul.