

Critical Conversations™

In this age of overwhelming amounts of information and new forms of communication, the lines between personal and professional roles continue to blur. Adults in ministry are continually challenged with management of boundaries with those being served.

Critical Conversations is an educational training program for priests, deacons, and lay ministers that utilizes best practices in adult learning theory and realistic case studies to challenge them as never before. The program covers topics such as:

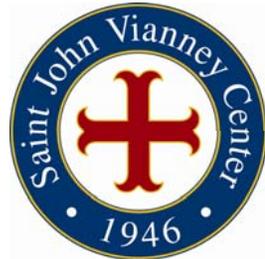
- ❖ Ministerial relationships and appropriate management of boundaries.
- ❖ The addictive nature of the Internet.
- ❖ The blurring lines between personal and professional roles.
- ❖ Ministerial opportunities and pitfalls using technology, such as texting and social media.
- ❖ Understanding the power inherent in a pastoral role.
- ❖ The importance of effectively utilizing healthy support systems.

The Critical Conversations Program has these key features:

- ❖ All participants will be tested for core competencies in child sexual abuse prior to undergoing this new training and then post training.
- ❖ This new standardized national program moves to a continuing education model of formation with measurable competencies. Research based outcome studies can show how well it works with your diocese.
- ❖ The program features a case study method filmed on DVDs in an adult learning manner with facilitated discussion. Each case study will present a healthy and unhealthy scenario in boundaries and the emerging role of technology.
- ❖ All facilitators will be trained in this new learning methodology.
- ❖ Each vignette includes detailed objectives, questions to consider, points of discussion, and didactics for each case study and discussion.
- ❖ The program is comprised of three DVDs: one for priests, one for deacons, and one for lay ministers.
- ❖ Flexibility is a key feature. It is designed for possible use in several different situations that best fit your needs. One possible format is with two case studies in a 1 ½ to 2 hour session or all four case studies in a 3 to 3 ½ hour session.

Critical Conversations...Serving Today's Church

The program will be available in English, Spanish, and other languages. To view a preview of the DVD, please link to <http://virtus.org/virtus/criticalconversations.m4v>. For more information about the *Critical Conversations* program, please call toll-free **1-888-847-8870** or send an email to pneal@virtus.org.



**Communicating a Deeper Understanding of
Ministerial Boundaries and the Emerging
Role of the Internet**