



2022-2023

What is Ministry en lo Cotidiano (MLC)?

Ministry en lo Cotidiano means “ministry in the everyday.” Lo cotidiano is a concept drawn from the work of Latine theologians in the United States over the last 40 years.¹ It describes the starting place for knowing and understanding God (for doing theology) as the real, lived experience of Latine communities in this country. These are experiences that have been marked by marginalization and celebration, by injustice and profound grace.

MLC is a [non-employment based experience \(NEBO\)](#) - and fellowship that provides faith formation and ministerial leadership development for undergraduate and graduate students interested in experiencing faith-based service in Latine communities in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. The purpose of the MLC Fellowship is to develop leaders for the future of the Church and Latine communities in the United States. Currently, Latines make up more than 50% of the US population of Catholics under the age of 25 and those numbers are even higher in the Sunbelt states.² Dominican University is uniquely positioned to play an important role in this kind of vocational formation as a Catholic institution with a distinctly Dominican charism that is also a Hispanic-Serving Institution. We partner with parishes and community-based organizations on Chicago’s Southwest side and the near-West suburbs to create dynamic immersive experiences for students and supports their formation through an innovative theological reflection model.

Is Ministry en lo Cotidiano for Me? Who Should Apply?

If you will be a student in the 2022-2023 academic year and are interested in and deeply invested in Latine cultures and theologies and making an investment in Latine communities, you should discern application to this program. If you are a student willing to explore the rich stories of Latine faith communities and their experiences, this program is for you! Additionally, students who have experience or are interested in any of the following are strongly encouraged to apply:

- Dominican University Ministry programs
- Service trip experiences, Community-Based Learning, or justice and advocacy
- Applied curricular experience including, but not limited to areas such as:
 - Latine and Latin American Studies
 - Business, Communications and Entrepreneurship
 - Interfaith courses and experience
 - Political Science
 - Psychology
 - Sociology
 - Social Work
 - Social justice experience (SJCE minors)
- Retreat or prayer leadership
- Liturgical Leadership at Mass
- High School Campus Ministry or Parish Youth Ministry programs
- Other campus leadership roles or faith-based experience
- Undergraduate students who maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0
- Commitment to deepening one’s faith, engaging in service and social justice, and developing an authentic university faith community with a welcoming, open, and inclusive spirit
- Ability to manage time and work in a collaborative setting with other participants in MLC, University Ministry staff, and manage internship responsibilities
- Enthusiasm, commitment, and desire to reach out and make an impact within our Dominican University and local Latine community

¹The concept of lo cotidiano, or daily lived experience, is traced thoroughly by Carmen Nanko-Fernández, “Chapter 1: Lo Cotidiano as Locus Theologicus,” in *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Latino/a Theology*, ed. Orlando O. Espin, 1st Ed. (Chichester, West Sussex, UK ; Malden, MA: Wiley, 2015), 31–49.

² Putnam, Robert D., and David E. Campbell. *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2012, 299. Also, we recognize that language continues to evolve and that all collective names for peoples with roots in Latin American tend to collapse important differences. University Ministry privileges the way that people identify themselves within community and therefore students may choose from a variety of ways of describing their communities.

What does the program look like?

University Ministry looks for 10-15 students to place at fellowship sites in Latine communities. Fellowship responsibilities span a wide range of activities including but not limited to accompaniment of immigrants, community organizing, education and tutoring, immigration legal services, increasing food security and faith development and campus ministry. A list of past and current placements can be found on our [website](#). The experience of faith, service and everyday life of Latine faith communities is one of encounter, or encuentro. Weekly theological reflection sessions that draw upon the deep wells of Latine theologies provide a safe and brave space for interns to process and interpret their experiences. In encountering el Pueblo de Dios and reflecting upon those encounters, interns inevitably encounter their own shifting cultural identities and reinterpret them in the light of faith. A competent staff member at each of the partner organizations supervises Dominican students on-site while a trained University Minister prepares and guides small groups in theological reflection.

Program Benefits

Dominican University students' time is valuable. University Ministry recognizes that you have competing commitments and need your time and space to work to support yourself in your studies and, in some cases, your families. This non-employment based experience (NEBO) and fellowship engages students in immersive learning in community for ten hours per week spanning ten weeks of the fall and spring semesters. Students also receive at least 12 hours of professional development training and may be eligible for academic credit that appears on one's transcript through the Theology Department or any other academic department pending approval by the chair and a professor of record.

Every fellow receives a generous award of \$1,500 per semester or \$3,000 for the year. Eligibility for the full award will be determined individually. Here is a brief step-by-step outline of the process:

1. Award amounts will be determined based on the student's cost of attendance
2. The result will be added as financial aid to your tuition account
3. Applicants consent to allow the Office of Financial Aid to share information with University Ministry regarding financial aid eligibility and total award amounts. This information is used to determine if the applicant is eligible to receive the full award.
4. Applicants will be notified of their eligibility and the amount of the award prior to interviewing.
5. Students whose cost of attendance prohibit them from receiving a partial or full award may choose to continue in the application process and, if selected, participate in the fellowship with an amended or partial fellowship award.
6. If the award amount exceeds the student's tuition balance, a refund of the tuition account can be requested.
7. If the award amount exceeds the student's qualified costs (required tuition and fees), the award amount may be subject to federal tax withholding and reporting.

Trainings are required elements of the program, but as benefits they are unpaid hours. Other benefits of this program include:

- Making connections between the classroom and your daily life explicit and concrete.
- Developing professional skills that you will use in postgraduate employment such as:
 - professional and clear communication;
 - taking initiative and problem solving;
 - planning and executing an event;
 - caring for work spaces;
 - collaboration;
 - practicing hospitality and creating a culture of inclusion;
 - and prioritizing time and developing self-direction in tasks.
- Developing a professional identity that can be clearly articulated in an interview and on a resume.
- Developing practices of self and communal reflection done in the light of faith and culture to do the following:
 - find meaning and purpose in work;

- discover vocational calling;
 - practice discernment;
 - hold yourself accountable to God and others;
 - develop a sense of self and communal identity;
 - and better understand the context in which God call you to discipleship within communities – in one’s cultures, faith traditions and human development.
- Identifying your own social location so that you can better understand the struggles and joys in the daily lived experiences of others and accompany them more effectively, especially those in the communities in which you serve.³

Roles and Responsibilities

- Commit to nine hours of service on site per week and an hour of small group discussion that will take place at Dominican University (ten total hours per week as discussed above);
- Navigate transportation to and from your designated community partner site;
- Meet with your Site Supervisor and the MLC Coordinator regularly for check-ins;
- Attend Orientation;
- Attend one Saturday training each semester as part of your formation;
- Attend the Closing Retreat in the Spring;
- Report activities on a regular basis

Timeline (Attendance on the following dates is mandatory and failure to attend will result in a deduction of your stipend.)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Thursday, September 23, 2022: | Applications accepted on a rolling basis until this date |
| After application submission: | Interview with Program Coordinator |
| After internal interview: | Interview with fellowship placement site |
| Late September 2021: | Placements and schedules set |
| October 4 and 5, 2021 from 6- 9 PM: | Beloved Community & MLC Orientation |
| Between Oct -Dec: | Students will complete 100 hours including TR |
| Saturday in November (TBD): | Fellowship Training (All Day) |
| Between Jan – April: | Students will complete 100 hours including TR |
| Saturday in February (TBD) | Fellowship Training (All Day) |
| April 8-9, 2022: | Closing Retreat |

Application Complete if all are checked:

- Application: pgs. 3-4
- Short Answer Responses attached as a separate document or submitted in hard copy
- Sign up for a 30 minute interview

³ More complete work on the theology of accompaniment can be found in Roberto S Goizueta, *Caminemos Con Jesús: Toward a Hispanic/Latino Theology of Accompaniment* (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1995); Ada María Isasi-Díaz, *Mujerista Theology: A Theology for the Twenty-First Century* (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1996), 86–89; Carmen Nanko-Fernández, “Ortho-Proxy and Orthopraxis: The Ethics of Right Representation,” in *Theologizing En Español: Context, Community, and Ministry* (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2010).

Student Application 2022-2023

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|--------------|-------------|
| Name: | ID#: |
| | |

In 2022-2023 I plan to be a:
 Commuter
 Resident

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Anticipated Graduation Year: | Major/Minor: | GPA: | Pronouns | T-Shirt Size: |
| | | | | |

Permanent/Family Address:

| | | | |
|--------|------|-------|-----|
| | | | |
| Street | City | State | Zip |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Home Phone: if applicable | Cell Phone: |
| () | () |

Email Address:

@my.dom.edu

Dietary Needs (i.e., food allergies, vegetarian...)

Communication: It is expected that most communication will be via email. However, there may be times to contact you on short notice (eg. Site visit, meeting changes, important reminders). Please indicate the best method to contact you **fast**. Check all that apply.

- Text cell phone
 Call cell phone
 Email
 Call home phone

Activities and Involvement: List any other commitments or activities you plan to participate in during the 2022-2023 school year. This should include on- and off- campus jobs, sports, music groups, officer positions, newspaper, internships, study abroad, etc.

Transportation: The placement sites will be off campus, so we want to know about your transportation situation.

Are you able and willing to drive to your internship? (Please check) Yes No

Would you feel comfortable taking the CTA to your assigned site? (Please check) Yes No

Short Answer Questions:

Please type your answers to the following questions on a separate sheet and attach with your application materials. Each answer should be 1-2 paragraphs.

- 1) How are the Dominican University pillars of Prayer, Study, Service, and Community expressed in your life? You may reflect on all of the Pillars or focus on 2 or 3 that particularly stand out for you. Use specific examples.
- 2) What has it meant to be a member of a Latine community?
- 3) What strengths/qualities/experiences do you bring to this program that will help you serve the Latine communities you will be working with?
- 4) Why are you interested in being a part of a program that works specifically with Latine communities?

References

Please list two people who can attest to your leadership abilities and/or your commitment to your faith development. These cannot be family or friends, but rather, teachers, campus or youth ministers, coaches, mentors, or a job supervisor.

**At least one of these references should be someone with the capacity to speak to your work habits and commitments (academic or professional/job related). They may be people from Dominican University, but all must be outside of University Ministry.*

| | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | Name: | Title: |
| | Phone: | Email: |
| 2 | Name: | Title: |
| | Phone: | Email: |

I have read and understand the roles, responsibilities, and commitments of the Ministry en lo Cotidiano program, and attest that the contents of this application are a true reflection of my character and experience.

Signature

Date

Completed applications can be submitted via email to amercado3@dom.edu or in person at the contact information below.

Applications are accepted at any time and candidates will be interviewed on a rolling basis before the due date of Wednesday, September 23, 2022.

After you submit your application, you must sign up for a 30 minute interview in the Ministry Center during the month of September. Please contact Andrew Mercado: Amercado3@dom.edu with any questions.

Dominican University - University Ministry
7900 W. Division Street – Mazzuchelli North 298
River Forest, IL 60305
MLC Application c/o Amercado3@Dom.edu