



**The Franciscan Spirituality Center**  
**Spiritual Direction Preparation Program**  
**Cohort 19**  
**2026-29**  
**Application Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Tradition \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the program? \_\_\_\_\_

**All are welcome at the FSC. The following questions are designed to assist the SDPP staff in getting to know the applicant in terms of background, experience, call to this form of service and the expectations of the applicant relative to this program.**

1. What are your reasons for wishing to participate in this program?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Describe your educational background. Include degrees, if any.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What workshops, courses and/or seminars have you had that are related to the service of listening?

**4. Describe your experience with receiving spiritual direction. For example, “I have been receiving spiritual direction monthly for the past 5 years from John Smith.” (Please note that we require all applicants to be receiving regular spiritual direction prior to beginning and throughout the Spiritual Direction Preparation Program.)**

**5. Who is your spiritual director?**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_**

**We would like to contact your spiritual director to confirm your participation and seek any feedback they might offer on your aptitude for this program. Do we have permission to contact your spiritual director?**

**6. Describe your understanding of what happens in spiritual direction.**

**7. Describe any experiences where you have been “sought out” as a listener. (Examples: as a friend during grief, as a co-worker who offers support, as a professional in a formal ministry setting, as a volunteer in a classroom setting, etc.)**

**8. We are committed to the values of equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging. While our program is rooted in a tradition that is Christian, Catholic, Franciscan, we are open to anyone who desires to deepen their spiritual journey. Describe situations where you participated in groups with people who were diverse in their understandings of God.**

**9. The Spiritual Direction Preparation Program is not necessarily intended to prepare you for a new career. Our program is designed to help you:**

- **embark upon a powerful experience of personal transformation and spiritual deepening**
- **develop new techniques and methods to integrate into your existing line of work**
- **gain the skills to effectively serve in the ministry of spiritual direction**

**How do you foresee using the knowledge and skills gained through this program?**

**10. What is your present relationship and involvement in your civic community, church or spiritual fellowship?**

**11. Prepare a short autobiographical sketch including the following (attach a separate sheet of paper):**

- **your spiritual growth**
- **family life**
- **life of prayer or meditation**
- **significant life experiences**
- **any other areas you care to write about**

**12. We will schedule an interview with each applicant prior to program acceptance. Would you prefer a face-to-face meeting at the FSC or an interview by Zoom?**

**13. Prior to the interview we ask that you carefully read through our program brochure and review the details of the program. We want participants to have a clear understanding of what to expect. Do you have any concerns or questions we can explore during the interview?**

14. Please list the names of two people who may be contacted for further recommendation of your application. Include full mailing addresses, email addresses and phone numbers.
15. If you are accepted to this program and successfully complete the requirements for graduation, how would you like your name to appear on your certificate of completion?

To complete your application please submit the following:

- ✓ your completed application form
- ✓ your autobiography
- ✓ \$100 nonrefundable application fee

\*Check payable to *Franciscan Spirituality Center* or pay by card over the phone: 608-791-5295.

We will schedule an interview once we have received all three items. We receive more applications than there are available slots in the program, so your timeliness is important. Thank you.

Steve Spilde, SDPP Director  
Spiritual Direction Preparation Program  
Franciscan Spirituality Center  
920 Market Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601-8809