



# EPS

Education • Parish • Service

*Educating Catholics to Understand, Live, and Share Their Faith since 1978*

**Q What is EPS?**

**A** Established in 1978, EPS is a certificate-conferring program for adult Catholics who want to understand, live and share their faith in their families, parishes, jobs and communities. The program provides high-level instruction in theology, Scripture, Church history and moral teaching. Students develop confidence and skills for sharing the faith by practicing theological reflection with classmates and courses that provide practical application. Through liturgy, prayer and mornings of reflection, EPS provides significant opportunities for spiritual development and enables lay Catholics to contribute more effectively in the Church's mission. EPS operates certificate programs in the Archdiocese of Washington and Dioceses of Arlington and Bridgeport. It also offers the short-term EPS Forum in Diocese of Bridgeport. Affiliated programs are located in Madison, WI; Fargo, ND; East Orange, NJ; and London, England.

**Q Who enrolls in the EPS program and why?**

**A** Catholics of all ages and backgrounds enroll in EPS because they want to increase their knowledge and understanding of all the Catholic Church teaches. They seek to deepen their faith, and grow in union with Christ. Most students enroll in the certificate program which offers a comprehensive education in the faith. However, any Catholic who wants to grow in faith may enroll in a single course initially. Graduates are also welcome to return to an EPS class.

**Q When and where are classes held?**

**A** EPS offers classes four quarters a year. Day or evening **EPS Washington** classes are held 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., or 7-9:15 p.m. Tuesdays (foundational) and Thursdays (advanced) in the Main Building, Trinity (Washington) University, 125 Michigan Ave., NE. **EPS Virginia** classes are held Wednesdays, from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at St. Ann Church, 5300 N. 10th St., Arlington; and **EPS Connecticut** holds its classes from 7:15-9:20 p.m. Tuesdays (advanced) or Wednesdays (foundational) at St. Philip Parish, 25 France St., Norwalk. A non-certificate morning program, called the EPS Forum, also offers classes in Connecticut during fall and spring terms.

**Q What do EPS students do with their education?**

**A** EPS students gain confidence and skills to express their faith more fully in their homes, parishes and communities. Many take on leadership roles. EPS graduates serve in their parishes as lay readers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, RCIA leaders, catechists, and Bible study facilitators. Others serve the poor, homeless, sick or in pro-life ministries.

**Q How is the EPS program structured?**

**A** The certificate program is designed to deepen the adult Catholic's knowledge of the essentials of the faith through an integrated study of Scripture, theology, and Church history, as

well as practical application which provides tools for living the faith more fully. Courses cover the following topics:

- The mission and ministry of Jesus the Redeemer
- God's covenant with his people
- The doctrine of the Trinity
- The sacramental life of the Church
- The birth of the Church
- American Church history
- Mary and the Communion of Saints
- Catholic spirituality
- Catholic moral tradition
- Bio-medical ethics
- Christian prayer and Catholic prayer traditions
- Liturgy
- Evangelization in a multi-cultural perspective
- The ministry of catechesis
- Sharing faith (apologetics and evangelization)

**Q What is the caliber of EPS faculty?**

**A** Excellent. Our instructors are theologians and professors from the most respected Catholic universities, colleges and seminaries, as well as pastors from the dioceses we serve.

**Q Must one have a diploma to be eligible?**

**A** No, but prospective students should be prepared to be challenged by college-level instruction. While no exams or term papers are required, students should commit to attending classes regularly, extensive reading and discussions. At the beginning of each course, instructors provide a





“comprehensive question” which students use as a guide as they progress through course material. Developing a response to this question and sharing it with classmates at the end of the course enables students to summarize course teaching and articulate their faith.

**Q What type of credit is given for these courses?**

**A** Continuing Education Units (CEUs). One CEU represents attendance for ten class hours.

**Q What accommodations are available?**

**A** Lecture room suitable for adults, with space for discussion groups, brown bag lunches or snacks and coffee breaks.

**Q How is EPS funded?**

**A** EPS is funded through tax-deductible contributions from students, graduates, friends, parishes, dioceses and communities, all of whom benefit from

EPS. Those contributions go toward covering the more than \$1,500 a year it costs EPS to see each student through the certificate program.

**Q What does EPS charge for its certificate program?**

**A** EPS does not “charge” for the education it provides. Instead, it relies solely on donations. We believe, as Pope John Paul II taught, that Christian formation is not the privilege of a few but the right and duty of all. (*Christifideles laici* #63) Ideally, students would donate the full cost of their education per year (\$1,500). We know, however, that not everyone can afford \$125 per month, and others can afford even more. Therefore, we ask each student to (1) consider our costs; (2) discern honestly and prayerfully what he or she can afford; and (3) make a free-will gift to EPS.

**Non-certificate students** are asked to make a suggested donation of \$25 per session for each course they attend. (For instance, for a six-week course, students are asked to contribute \$150 for the course.)

**Q Are parishes charged for parishioners who attend?**

**A** No. But EPS relies on generous contributions from the parishes and dioceses it serves. Contributing parishes that send lay parish ministers to EPS courses are given special suggested donation rates.

**Q How does a person apply?**

**A** Complete the EPS application form and ask your pastor to sign it. Mail it to the address and EPS staff person listed below. The director will phone you to arrange an interview before acting on your application.

Applicants are asked to send completed application, signed by their pastor, to:

**EPS Connecticut Program**  
**Priscilla Toumey**  
**St. Philip Parish**  
**25 France Street**  
**Norwalk, CT 06851**  
**203.847.2363 or EPSCTProgram@trinitydc.edu**

**EPS Washington and Virginia Programs**  
**Ann Kitterman**  
**Trinity (Washington) University Campus**  
**125 Michigan Ave., NE**  
**Washington, DC 20017**  
**202.884.9030 or kittermana@trinitydc.edu**

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Founded 1978

Visit the EPS website: <http://eps.trinitydc.edu>

*Based on the campus of Trinity (Washington) University, Washington, DC*