



EPS

Education for Parish Service

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

Q What is EPS?

A EPS is a certificate-conferring program for adult Catholics who want to understand their faith so they can live and share it 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 through 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. Established in 1978, EPS today operates certificate programs in the Archdiocese of Washington and Dioceses of Arlington and 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 invited to return to EPS to enroll in single courses.

Q When and where are classes held?

A EPS offers classes year round.

- **EPS Washington offers day and evening courses.** Foundational courses are held Tuesdays, 10 AM – 12:30 PM (Mass included) or 7–9:15 PM (with prayer); Advanced courses are held Thursdays, 10 AM – 12:30 PM (Mass included) or 7–9:15 PM (with prayer) in the Main Building, Trinity Washington University, 125 Michigan Ave., NE.
- **EPS Virginia also offers day and evening courses.** Day classes (foundational and advanced) are held Wednesdays, from 10:30 AM – 1:15 PM (Mass included) at St. Ann Church, 5300 N. 10th St., Arlington; evening courses, live via webcast, are being planned for Tuesdays from 7–9:15 PM (prayer included) at the Benedictine Pastoral Center, Bristow.
- **EPS Connecticut classes** are held 7:15–9:20 PM Tuesdays (advanced) or Wednesdays (foundational) at St. Philip Parish, 25 France St., Norwalk. Prayer is included. A 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 What do EPS students study?

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:

- 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
- Church history
- Marian doctrine
- Catholic spirituality
- Catholic moral tradition
- Biomedical ethics
- Liturgy
- Evangelization in a multi-cultural world
- The ministry of catechesis
- Leadership skills for ministry

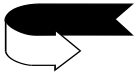
Q What is the caliber of EPS faculty?

A Excellent. Our instructors are theologians and professors from the most respected Catholic universities, colleges and seminaries, as well as pastors and staff 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 is the learning environment like?

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.

Q What does it cost to attend EPS?

A EPS asks certificate students to contribute \$1,500 per year (or \$125 per month) towards their education. Single course students pay \$140 for a four-week course. EPS makes every effort to support students who are financially unable to pay this cost. If you are unable to do so, please contact your program director. We believe, as John Paul II taught, that Christian formation is not the privilege of a few but the right and duty of all (*Christifideles laici* #63).

Q Are parishes charged for parishioners who attend?

A EPS relies on generous contributions from the parishes and dioceses it serves. Some parishes help students by contributing to EPS towards the student’s costs.

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
c/o St. Philip Parish
25 France Street
Norwalk, CT 06851
203.847.2363 or EPSCTProgram@trinitydc.edu

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

EPS

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Founded 1978

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

EPS is an independent Catholic non-profit organization whose headquarters are located on the campus of Trinity Washington University, Washington, DC.