

# **LAY BROTHER / LAY SISTER**

**in Church Universal and Triumphant®**



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### **A Step towards the Ministry**

The ministry is a profound calling and an opportunity to offer one's gifts and talents on the altar of God. It is a path of service, sacrifice, surrender and selflessness that centers on helping others find the way Home.

The first step on this path in our Church is that of the lay brother or lay sister. In 1992, beloved El Morya inaugurated the order of the lay brother and the lay sister for chelas of the masters preparing themselves for the ministry.

### **The Ministering Servant**

The ascended masters consider all who strive on the path of the ministry to be ministering servants. Therefore, lay brothers and lay sisters are first and foremost ministering servants, dedicating themselves to serving the Christ in all.

Ministering servants are advocates of the people. They take upon themselves the cross, the crown and the sword (sacred Word) of Christ in defense of the children of Light.

Elizabeth Clare Prophet explained that the path of the ministering servant is a path of love. She said it is also a path of chelaship and discipline. It requires the opening of the crown chakra and the Mind of God, which requires the raising of the Kundalini fire. This in turn requires the conserving of the light of one's I AM Presence as well as the light of the Mother in the base-of-the-spine chakra. The Mother Flame must rise in order to magnetize to each chakra the light of the Spirit from the I AM Presence. Clothed in light the ministering servant becomes a beacon of hope to those in need.

### **Lay Brothers and Sisters**

Those who graduate from the Ministering Servant Certificate Program offered by Summit University® with a B average or higher will be invited to apply for the office of lay brother or lay sister in Church Universal and Triumphant.

Therefore, be it known this day that I have introduced into the Church the order of the lay brother and the lay sister for those who are seeking entry into the courts of ministering servant, who shall seek, then, and attain to the level of the lay minister of Church Universal and Triumphant, [serving in that capacity] until the hour when they, too, might receive this ritual of ordination.

*El Morya*  
*April 19, 1992*

The Office of the Spiritual Director and the Ministerial Advisory Body will review the applications and award the office of lay brother or lay sister to those graduates who meet the Church's spiritual and character requirements for this office.

Lay brothers and lay sisters will be authorized and trained to do the following:

- Conduct Sunday Services at a local center), including a sermonette or homily consisting of a reading or playing of a published teaching with personal commentary
- Conduct the Sacred Ritual, "Watch with Me" Jesus' Vigil of the Hours and Ashram Rituals
- In the absence of an ordained or lay minister, conduct the transition ritual and ascension/memorial service for deceased Keepers of the Flame, communicants and their families
- Serve Holy Communion
- Assist a minister with certain sacraments
- Teach the communicant class
- Attend lay brother/lay sister convocations

In addition, lay brothers and sister will be trained to:

- Perform outreach
- Effectively apply the Science of the Spoken Word®
- Assist a minister with home visits
- Assist a minister with service preparation
- Assist a minister with the general spiritual care of a congregation and local center

Based on the electives taken in the Ministering Servant Certificate Course, lay brothers and sisters may also be trained to do the following:

- Facilitate groups
- Teach Sunday School
- Work with youth
- Provide basic senior care
- Provide basic end-of-life care

### **More Information**

For more information on the Ministering Servant Certificate Program, please visit [www.SummitUniversity.org/product/ministering-servant-certificate-program-tracks-a-and-b/](http://www.SummitUniversity.org/product/ministering-servant-certificate-program-tracks-a-and-b/).