

**Interview with Nina Rivera, Sacramental Coordinator and Youth Ministry Leader
at St. Leo the Great**

When did you begin thinking about working in the church?

I started participating in youth ministry as a teenager which included taking some lead roles as I got older in the group. By 18 years old I was teaching religious education with the young children. I have continued on and off since then.

Who was involved in your considering lay ecclesial ministry?

First, my parents were very involved and active in the Church as well as some of my siblings. They were an example for me.

How did you prepare for your role? What training did you receive – from where? From whom?

At the beginning, I learned by participating and helping others. I eventually earned a Bachelors in Spanish/Bilingual Education. Through the years, I've gone to workshops to learn more about being a catechist.

What is your title and what do you do?

I'm currently a Sacramental Preparation coordinator/Teacher.

What is your advice to others thinking about a similar path?

It is very rewarding to help others, especially children, to grow in their faith and accompany individuals and families in their faith journey. And, you do end up learning and growing in your faith as well!