

MARRIED AND SINGLE LIFE

Marriage is a natural state of life that comes from God and can be found in all cultures, it is the foundation of the family. In Marriage, the man and woman are joined in love as one, just as Christ is joined to the Church. From beginning to end, the Bible compares the relationship between God and His People to a marriage, showing how sacred Marriage is to the Lord and to our Faith. Jesus raised Marriage to a Sacrament; in Christian Marriage the couple is joined as husband and wife in a free, lifelong commitment of life-giving love and support.

Marriage Programs

- **Marriage Preparation:** www.pre-cana.org
- **Worldwide Marriage Encounter:** www.wwme.org
Designed to revitalize good marriages and improve the relationship. (877) 697-9963
- **Retrouaille Weekend:** www.retrouaille.org
Designed to help troubled marriages. (800) 470-2230
- **Beginning Experience:** www.beginningexperience.org
Designed to begin the healing process for separated, divorced, and widowed individuals. (866) 610-8877

Single Life

Whether single by choice, due to death of their spouse or divorce, many people are living the single vocation in a very fulfilling manner. Single life, as any of the other vocations, reflects God's love in its own way. How single persons live their vocation differs greatly depending on age, interests, commitments and so on. As human beings created in the image and likeness of God, our main purpose in life does not depend on whether we marry or not, but on how well we love.

For many opportunities for lay single or married individuals, please refer to the Lay Ministry section.

For more information, contact:

Marriage & Family Ministry

Office of Faith Formation
7200 Douglaston Parkway
Douglaston, NY 11362
Telephone: (718) 281-9540
Email: precana@diobrook.org

www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/ministries/marriage/preparation.aspx

LAY MINISTRY

PARISH-BASED MINISTRIES:

There are many opportunities to serve the Church within your own parish. Here are some:

- Liturgical Planning
- Social Justice
- Faith Formation
- Consolation/Bereavement

**For more information,
speak with your Pastor
or a member of your Parish Staff.**

Founded in 1967, the Pastoral Institute of the Brooklyn Diocese has a long tradition of providing programs and resources for **theological and pastoral formation of the laity** in Brooklyn and Queens. This tradition continues to the present time with programs that are specifically designed for lay pastoral leaders in our parishes.

The Pastoral Institute sponsors the following programs:

Lay Ministry Program – a **three-year program** that prepares pastoral leaders to serve as volunteer team members or coordinators for a particular ministry. Classes in English and Spanish start each September at locations throughout the Diocese.

Foundations for Ministry Program – a **ten-week, twenty-hour program** of theological up-dating for those engaged in ministry, for parish council members, and for those discerning enrollment in the three-year program.

M. A. Scholarship Program in Theology – prepares individuals to serve as a Pastoral Associate, Director of Religious Education, or in other professional leadership positions, by offering the opportunity for **graduate studies in theology** at a nearby university or seminary.

For more information, contact:

Pastoral Institute

Immaculate Conception Center
7200 Douglaston Parkway
Phone: (718) 229-8001, ext. 350
Email: PastoralInstitute@diobrook.org

www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/pastoral_inst/lay.aspx

CALLED TO SERVE: VOCATIONS AND LAY MINISTRY

A RESOURCE FOR THE DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN



Through the Sacrament of Baptism every Christian has a vocation - a call from God - to holiness and service. This call is lived out by being single, married, ordained as a priest or deacon, or consecrated as a religious brother or sister. The Holy Spirit invites all of us to share our gifts, talents, and lives in service to others. Jesus calls us from a silent voice deep within to "Come and follow me".

www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org

PRIESTHOOD

A priest is a Christian, a member of the Church, who is called by God to proclaim the “Good News” of salvation to the world and to lead God’s people in worship, especially in making present the saving sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross in the Eucharist. He is privileged to act “in persona Christi” (in the person of Christ), especially in the celebration of the Sacraments: he gives the life of Christ to people in Baptism; he forgives their sins in Reconciliation; he anoints the sick; he witnesses vows as a couple is joined together in Marriage.

A priest also witnesses to the presence of God by his daily lived faith, especially in the midst of a parish community. He encourages, consoles, rejoices, and supports his parishioners in their lived experience of faith. Some priests are members of religious communities (Franciscans, Jesuits, Vincentians, etc.) and other priests are “Diocesan Priests”. Most diocesan priests are “parish priests”, serving in a parish in his diocese, while others sometimes serve in “specialized ministries”, such as teaching or serving as a chaplain in a school, hospital, or the military.

For more information, contact:

Vocation Office

341 Highland Boulevard
Brooklyn, NY 11207
Telephone: (718) 827-2454
Email: vocations@diobrook.org

www.brooklynpriests.org

RELIGIOUS LIFE

Throughout the centuries, men and women have responded to God's call to commit themselves wholly to God and God's people through the consecrated life.

In saying "yes" to the call of Jesus in the consecrated religious life, these men and women take the evangelical vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience and become part of a religious community. They pattern their lives after Jesus through the living out of their vows in a shared, communal life with a common mission and vision according to the particular "charism" of their community. They make time daily for prayer, ministry, and community. They follow the life and teaching of the founder of their community.

Most sisters and brothers are very ordinary people who have an "extraordinary" love for God and God's people and have a burning desire to witness to the love of Jesus, sharing the Good News and serving others, especially those in need. Religious life has a special role in witnessing to the world and it is worth giving up everything else for the sake of God and the Kingdom of God.

For more information, contact:

Vocation Office

341 Highland Boulevard
Brooklyn, NY 11207
Telephone: (718) 827-2454
Email: vocations@diobrook.org

www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/vocations

DIACONATE

A Roman Catholic Deacon is an ordained clergyman who is entrusted by the diocesan bishop to baptize, officiate at weddings, wakes, burial services, administer Holy Communion, visit the sick and the imprisoned and engage in other charitable works. When possessing proper faculties, he may preach at Mass and other sacred services. Permanent Deacons may be married or single.

The diocesan Diaconate Formation Office prepares men, who are eligible and have been accepted through an evaluative process, to become deacons through a vigorous five-year program. Consisting of various “stages”, the formation program attends to the academic, pastoral, spiritual, and personal dimensions by providing the environment for theological development and growth in personal and communal prayer of each participant. Our goal is to “form” men who are truly committed to follow Christ by becoming “servant-leaders” with profound humility and unwavering desire to “serve” others. At present there are two formation tracks: English and Spanish.

For more information, contact:

Diaconate Office

7200 Douglaston Parkway
Douglaston, NY 11362
Telephone: (718) 281-9577
Email: diaconateoffice@diobrook.org

www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/ministries/diaconate/default.aspx