



School of Evangelization

PASTORAL INSTITUTE

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

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To: Pastors, Administrators, Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Associates, Catechetical Leaders
From: Gerald Tortorella
Re: Lay Ministry Sunday – February 26, 2017
Date: December 2016

Lay Ministry Sunday will be celebrated in the diocese on Sunday, February 26, 2017 (the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday) as a way to publically recognize God's call to all the baptized to use their gifts in service to others and to the Church. Parishes are invited to take advantage of this Sunday to acknowledge both the sanctity of God's call and the generous response of lay persons involved in parish ministry.

Attached are resources that you may wish to use in your parish's observance. These are also available on the Pastoral Institute's website: <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/get-involved/pastoral-institute/lay-ministry-sunday/>. **I would like to draw your attention, in particular, to the Recommitment Ceremony and suggest that it be used during Mass to draw attention to the many lay persons who are involved in ministry.** The Ceremony is provided in English, Spanish, Polish, Haitian Creole and Mandarin.

There will also be a **Lay Ministry Conference** sponsored by the Pastoral Institute on **Saturday, February 25th starting at 10:00 AM at St. Andrew Avellino Parish in Flushing.** The focus of the conference will be ministering to the family in light of *Amoris Laetitia*. Our presenter will be Valerie Torres from Fordham University. Bishop Paul Sanchez will celebrate Morning Prayer. If your schedule permits, please plan to attend and invite all of the parish's lay persons involved in ministry. Lunch will be provided. More information and a registration form is contained on the flyer that is enclosed

At that time we will also begin the process of accepting nominations of new candidates for the three-year *Lay Ministry Program* for classes beginning next September. It is our hope that you will encourage parishioners to become more involved in parish life and consider enrolling in the program to become commissioned lay pastoral leaders. Through the *Lay Ministry Program* candidates will meet others throughout the diocese who share their calling to lay ministry.

If you wish, photocopy the attached "Inquiry Flyer" and insert it in the bulletin for Lay Ministry Sunday. This flyer provides information about the *Lay Ministry Program* and encourages potential candidates to learn more about their faith while preparing for parish leadership.

Thank you for all you do to promote lay ministry in the parishes and the diocese. Please mark your calendars and help us celebrate the great contribution these lay persons freely give to their parishes.