



***Lay Ministry Sunday
February 10, 2013***



***It's time for our annual celebration of
"Lay Ministry Sunday"***

Bishop DiMarzio established Lay Ministry Sunday in the Diocese of Brooklyn on the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday as a way to publically celebrate 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 ministers.

This year to mark the Year of Faith there will also be an event sponsored by the Pastoral Institute. Please join us and invite your lay ministers at 4:30 PM on February 10th at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs in Forest Hills for solemn evening vespers celebrated by Bishop Frank Caggiano. Robert McCarty, Executive Director of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, will speak about the state of lay ministry in light of the 50th anniversary of Vatican II. A light reception will follow. More information and a registration form is contained on the flyer that is enclosed

In addition, we have begun to recruit new candidates for the three-year *Lay Ministry Program* for classes beginning next September. It is our hope to encourage parishioners to become more involved in parish life and consider enrolling in the program to become a commissioned lay pastoral leader. Through the *Lay Ministry Program* candidates will meet others throughout the diocese that share their calling to lay ministry.

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

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/lay-ministry-sunday/>. Please mark your calendars and help us celebrate the great contribution these lay ministers freely give to their parishes.

Thank you for all you do to promote lay ministry in the parishes and the diocese.