



## ***Lay Ministry Sunday*** ***March 2, 2014***

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

Since 2010, Lay Ministry Sunday has been celebrated in the Diocese of Brooklyn on 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/lay-ministry-sunday/>. Please mark your calendars and help us celebrate the great contribution these lay persons freely give to their parishes.

There will also be an event sponsored by the Pastoral Institute. Please invite your lay persons involved in ministry to join you at 4:30 PM on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs in Forest Hills for solemn evening vespers celebrated by Bishop Octavio Cisneros. Dr. Frank Villaronga, Chairperson of the National Association for Lay Ministry and Director of Evangelization and Ministry Formation for the Diocese of Charlotte, will give a bilingual (English/Spanish) presentation relating the role of the laity in serving the mission for a new evangelization. A light reception will follow. More information and a registration form is contained on the flyer that is enclosed

In addition, at that time we will 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 a commissioned lay pastoral leader. 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. 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.

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