



School of Evangelization

PASTORAL INSTITUTE

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

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To: Pastors, Administrators, Pastoral Associates, Catechetical Leaders
From: Gerald Tortorella
Re: Lay Ministry Sunday – February 7, 2016
Date: December 2015

Pope Francis recently wrote to the Pontifical Council for the Laity that lay people “participate, in their own way, in the priestly, prophetic, and royal function of Christ himself. The Council, therefore, does not look at lay people as if they were ‘second class’ members, at the service of the hierarchy and only executors of orders from on high, but as disciples of Christ who, by force of their baptism and their nature inserted ‘in the world,’ are called to animate every space, every activity, every human relation according to the spirit of the Gospel.”

Here in the Diocese of Brooklyn, we recognize God’s call to all the baptized to use their gifts in service to others and to the Church through our **annual Lay Ministry Sunday celebration**. Lay Ministry Sunday is celebrated in the diocese on the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday (February 7, 2016). 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 our 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.

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.