



- ✦ Classes are held from September to May at sites around the diocese; weeknight and Saturday class options.
- ✦ Nurtures our baptismal call to ministry by providing foundational knowledge and skills for ministry on the parish/regional level.
- ✦ Study scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Church documents and theological works.
- ✦ Collaboration with other diocesan departments to offer formation for leadership in a specific area of ministry.
- ✦ Applicants must be nominated by their pastor or parish administrator prior to applying; application deadline is July 31st.
- ✦ Affordable cost, shared by parish and participant; some scholarship assistance available.
- ✦ Option to end participation after two years or continue formation for a specific ministry.

For more information:

(718) 281-9556

pastoralinstitute@diobrook.org

<http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/get-involved/pastoral-institute/>

310 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, NY 11215



Office of the Pastoral Institute

Lay Ministry PROGRAM



School of Evangelization
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

"The Lay Ministry Program has affirmed the gifts that I have received in my journey of faith. Guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit, I am able to respond even more to the Lord's call for the New Evangelization."



"Before starting the Lay Ministry Program, I thought I knew all there was to know about my faith. Boy was I mistaken. I now feel that I have grown to the point where I look for the Kingdom of God in all of the people around me."

There has been a growing awareness of the identity and mission of the laity in the Church. We can count on many lay persons, although still not nearly enough, who have a deeply rooted sense of community and great fidelity to the tasks of charity, catechesis and the celebration of the faith... The formation of the laity and the evangelization of professional and intellectual life represent a significant pastoral challenge.

— Pope Francis
The Joy of the Gospel, par. 102

Is God inspiring you to answer Pope Francis' call to be formed for lay ministry? The Pastoral Institute will help you:

- ✦ Deepen your knowledge of our Catholic faith
- ✦ Enrich your prayer life
- ✦ Form community with fellow lay leaders
- ✦ Share your faith with greater ease
- ✦ Grow in confidence as you develop skills for ministry

"The Council 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."

— Pope Francis

The Lay Ministry Program is for you if you:

- ✦ Have an integrated Catholic faith and prayer life
- ✦ Regularly participate in the sacramental life of the church
- ✦ Are open to personal transformation and on-going human development
- ✦ Are ready for ongoing study of the faith
- ✦ Have tolerance for viewpoints other than your own
- ✦ Demonstrate potential for leadership in ministry and a desire to work collaboratively with clergy, religious and other lay persons
- ✦ Are a fully initiated lay member of the Christian faithful who exhibits fidelity to the teachings of the Magisterium; all candidates must provide sacramental proof of baptism, confirmation, and marriage, where applicable, to their parish office.



Program's Initial Stage – Two Years

FIRST YEAR

- ✦ Orientation session and theological conference
- ✦ Courses: Theology of Lay Ministry, Ecclesiology, Old Testament and New Testament

SECOND YEAR

- ✦ Courses: Liturgy and Sacraments, Ecumenical / Interreligious Dialogue, Christology and Moral Theology

Two required and two elective **online courses** during the first and second year

SPIRITUAL FORMATION DAYS

- ✦ Two per year will help you to make "faith sense" of your experiences in the Lay Ministry Program and to recognize how and where God may be calling you to ministry.

MENTORING

- ✦ Mentor assigned by parish
- ✦ Process facilitates your dialogue with the parish staff and helps you to discern your choice of ministry.

Program's Second Stage

At the end of the second year, if you wish to continue your formation, you will elect to enter one of the following Ministerial Specialty Tracks:

- ✦ Volunteer Lay Pastoral Leader
- ✦ Catechetical Leader
- ✦ Pastoral Associate
- ✦ Parish Management
- ✦ Your preparation may include: pastoral skills workshops, a ministry seminar, spiritual formation days, supervised ministry project and graduate level studies in theology or related field.

At the conclusion of the program, you are expected to participate in 10 hours of ongoing formation each year while in ministry.

Diocesan Faculty

Diverse group of instructors with strong academic backgrounds, experience with adult learners, and a commitment to furthering the mission of the Church of Brooklyn and Queens.