



School of Evangelization

PASTORAL INSTITUTE
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN
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March 2016

Dear Pastors, Administrators, and Parish Team Members,

We are beginning the process of accepting a new group of candidates for the *Lay Ministry Program* (LMP) with classes starting in September 2016. **The goal of this program is to prepare lay persons with leadership potential to assume positions as leaders in the parish.**

What is the Lay Ministry Program?

The LMP, sponsored by the Pastoral Institute, provides a resource at the diocesan level that addresses the need for future lay leaders. It also provides current lay staff members with an opportunity to further their formation. This program integrates theological education, spiritual formation, pastoral skills development, supervised ministry practicum and a mentoring process. Please see the enclosed information on exciting changes that are being made to the program of formation.

What is a Lay Pastoral Leader?

- A person working under the guidance of the pastor or other parish staff members.
- A person who is committed to being a model of servant leadership.
- An agent of the New Evangelization bringing Christ to all whom they serve and witnessing to the truth in society.
- A person capable of contributing to the pastoral life of the parish as either a volunteer coordinator for a particular ministry or as a member of a parish staff.
- Someone who has been formed for ministry through theological study, spiritual growth, prayer, reflection, mentoring and pastoral skills development.
- A person who recognizes the giftedness of others and calls them forward in service.

How do You Start the Process?

- **Review** the enclosed materials that relate to both the English and the Spanish language formation programs. These documents will guide you through the process of selecting two or three (perhaps more) persons from your parish whom you would sponsor.
- **Think**, along with your pastoral staff, of the areas of parish life that need leaders. Ask who in your community possesses the gifts needed for leadership. Start by looking at those who already serve as catechists, heads of organizations or on pastoral councils, school/academy boards and finance councils.
- **Speak** to the persons who have been identified about the need for formation for leadership and the opportunity to take part in the LMP.

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- **Complete and submit** a Nomination Form for each individual that you would like to support in this effort. All candidates require pastoral approval.

Because the Pastoral Institute will conduct **pre-acceptance interviews in July and August** with every nominated person, we ask your cooperation by **returning the Nomination/Sponsorship Form to the Pastoral Institute office as soon as possible** so that candidates have enough time to complete their application and obtain recommendations before their interview.

As we continue preparing lay leaders for the future of our diocese, we ask you to pray that God will bless all those who serve the Church by giving generously of their gifts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald J. Tortorella".

Gerald J. Tortorella
Director, Pastoral Institute

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