



LAY MINISTRY PROGRAM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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RESULTS OF 2009 MINISTRY SURVEY

During the Spring of 2009 the Pastoral Institute conducted a survey of all commissioned lay pastoral leaders to determine the extent to which you are involved in ministry. The results show that you are a blessing to the people of the Diocese of Brooklyn by your willingness to volunteer many hours of time serving the people of God in many capacities in your parishes.

Since the beginning of the *Lay Ministry Program* in 2001, 496 persons have been commissioned by the diocesan bishop as lay pastoral leaders after completing the program of theological education, spiritual formation, mentoring and ministry preparation. In addition, there are currently a total of 231 persons enrolled in the Spanish and English language tracks of the program who are expected to complete leadership formation over the next three years.

The results of the survey indicate the depth of your involvement in volunteer ministerial leadership positions. The survey asked you to indicate all of the ministries in which you are involved as a volunteer coordinator, team/committee member or participant.

Of the 496 persons surveyed, 65 did not respond and another 36 are no longer involved in parish

ministry in the diocese for one of several of reasons. The remaining 395 persons are actively engaged in parish ministry and most of them are involved in more than one ministry.

The survey showed that our commissioned lay leaders participate in many ministries. However, those with the greatest amount of participation are Adult Faith Formation, Liturgical Planning, Parish/Diocesan Leadership – especially the Parish Planning Councils, RCIA/Sacramental Preparation and Religious Education of Children and Youth.

In addition, pastoral leaders are involved in parishes as Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Ushers and Greeters, as well as members of several parish organizations (Rosary-Altar Society, Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus, etc.).

We at the Pastoral Institute are thankful for all of you who have answered the call to ministerial leadership by participating in the *Lay Ministry Program* and for the dedicated persons who serve as your instructors, mentors, retreat leaders and ministry supervisors. We pray that there will be many more who accept the challenge to be formed as lay Church leaders for the 21st century.

ALUMNI DAY OF REFLECTION

Approximately 30 alumni braved the cold on December 12, 2009, for the Alumni Day of Reflection, which was held at the Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston. The presenter was **Deacon Michael Vicinanza**, Dean of Diaconate Formation. The theme for the Day of Reflection was **“Radiating Christ in Ministry as Gift to the Father.”** The first part of Deacon Mike’s presentation dealt with how we, as Christians, could give Christ the power to live

again, in and through our lives and ministries. The second part of the presentation focused on the Contemporary Marian Spirituality of St. Maximillian Kolbe and St. Louis de Montfort. The day also included lunch and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction in the Bishop’s Chapel. When the Day of Reflection was over, many persons commented that they were grateful for this opportunity to gather with other alumni and to be refreshed spiritually.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN 2010

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

- 1 Peter 4:10-11

The Alumni Executive Committee members have been hard at work planning opportunities for continuing education and spiritual growth for this New Year. Below is a brief description of what alumni can look forward to in 2010 -

On **Saturday, April 17th** at St. Francis of Assisi-St. Blaise (Brooklyn), Rev. Charles Caccavale of the Immaculate Conception Seminary at Huntington will give a workshop on beginning-of-life issues. You may recall that last March Fr. Charles gave a talk on medical ethics dealing with end-of-life

issues that was very well received. We believe that this new workshop will be just as enlightening especially in light of the ongoing public debates on abortion.

The **2010 Alumni Reunion and Fundraiser** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 12th** at The Mary Louis Academy in Jamaica Estates, Queens. This year the guest speaker will be Dr. Rose Zuzworsky. The theme of her presentation will be *Environmental Concern from a Catholic Perspective*.

Both topics, beginning-of-life issues and the environment, are in the forefront of the public and political arena. As commissioned lay leaders, you are responsible for continuing your formation and it would be important for you to understand these issues from a Catholic perspective.

For the Fall, an **Alumni Weekend Retreat** is being planned for the weekend of October 22nd-24th at the Bishop Molloy Retreat House in Jamaica Estates, Queens. More information will follow when it becomes available.

ONLINE CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Pastoral Institute, through its partnership with the University of Notre Dame's Satellite Theological Education Program (STEP), is pleased to offer the opportunity for commissioned pastoral leaders to continue their education through **online theology courses**. STEP has over 40 courses available online and all are designed with the adult learner in mind. Most are six weeks long and require about a 3 to 5 hour commitment each week.



With a Diocese of Brooklyn 50% discount, **all courses will be less than \$50**. The following courses are just a few that are offered: *The Doctrine of Salvation in Jesus Christ, Mary as Mother, A Symbol of Life and Hope for Christians*, and *The RCIA: Can We Get the Rite Right?*

To register and enroll go to STEP's homepage (www.step.nd.edu) to create an account and register for a course. If this is your first time considering an online course, don't be discouraged. It is very easy to register.

RETREAT LOCATIONS

Retreat Centers in the local area:

Ss Peter & Paul Spirituality Center
Immaculate Conception Center
Douglaston
718-229-8001, ext. 310

Bishop Molloy Passionist Retreat House
86-45 Edgerton Blvd.
Jamaica, NY

718-739-1229
www.bishopmolloy.org

St. Ignatius Retreat House
Inisfada - 251 Searington Rd.
Manhasset, NY
516-621-8300
www.inisfada.net

The following retreat locations are approximately within a 2 to 4 hour driving distance:

Stella Maris Retreat Center
981 Ocean Avenue
Elberon, NJ 07740
732-229-0602
www.stellamarisretreatcenter.com/

St. Edmund's Retreat
99 Yacht Club Road
Mystic, CT 06355
860-536-0565
www.endersisland.com/

MASTERS SCHOLARS HONORED

On August 31, 2009, the Pastoral Institute and the Office of Faith Formation honored Maura Chisam (Class of 2005), Susan Karcher (Class of 2002), James Lonergan (Class of 2004), Julia Fernandez and Andrea Florendo for successfully completing their graduate level studies, each earning Masters Degrees in Theology.



Sr. Angela Gannon, the new Secretary for Catholic Education and Formation, Gerald J. Tortorella, Director of the Pastoral Institute, Nelsa I. Elías, the new Associate Director, and Dr. Philip Franco, the Director of the Office of Faith Formation,

were present at the reception which took place at the Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston. Also in attendance to honor the recent graduates were the other participants in the M.A. Scholarship Program. The

evening consisted of prayer, dinner, and plenty of time for socializing. Congratulations to all!

If you are interested in pursuing a Masters Degree in Theology, call the Pastoral Institute office for more information.

INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR THE LAY MINISTRY PROGRAM

It may seem like a long time away but, the Pastoral Institute is beginning arrangements to accept a new class into the Lay Ministry Program in September 2010. We depend on our alumni to recommend the program to those who serve with you in ministry. If you know of persons who might benefit from the program and enrich the Church through their formal preparation

for service, please invite them to learn more about the program by attending one of our information sessions that will be held in the near future. These will be held from 7:15 to 9:15 PM on Thursday, February 25, 2010 at the Diocese of Brooklyn Building, 310 Prospect Park West (enter on 19th Street), Brooklyn or Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at the

Bishop Molloy Retreat House, 86-45 Edgerton Boulevard (178th Street), Jamaica. In speaking with potential candidates, please remember to mention that they will need to speak with their pastor about their interest in the Lay Ministry Program since pastors must discern who will be nominated to the program.

SESIONES DE INFORMACIÓN PARA EL PROGRAMA DE MINISTERIO LAICO

Aunque parezca en el futuro lejano, el Instituto Pastoral ya está haciendo trámites para aceptar una clase nueva al Programa de Ministerio Laico en septiembre del 2010. Nosotros dependemos en los graduados para que recomienden el programa a las personas que sirven con ustedes en los ministerios. Si conocen a personas que podrían beneficiarse del programa y que por medio de su preparación

formal para el servicio beneficiarían a la Iglesia, por favor invítelos a aprender mas acerca del programa en las sesiones de información que se llevaran a cabo en el futuro cercano. Estas sesiones se darán de 7:15 a 9:15 PM el jueves, 25 de febrero de 2010 en el edificio de la Diócesis, 310 Prospect Park West (entrada sobre la Calle 19), Brooklyn o el martes, 2 de marzo de 2010 en la Casa de

Retiros Obispo Molloy, 86-45 Edgerton Boulevard (Calle 178th), Jamaica. Al hablar con candidatos potenciales, por favor recuerden de mencionarles que ellos deberían hablar con sus párrocos acerca de su interés en el Programa de Ministerio Laico, ya que los párrocos tendrán que discernir a quienes nominarán al programa.

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”

- Galatians 5:22-23



“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

In all circumstances

give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

In English -

Vatican

www.vatican.va/phome_en.htm

Diocese of Brooklyn

www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org

United States Congress of Catholic Bishops

Bible: www.usccb.org/nab/bible/index.shtml

Daily Readings: www.usccb.org/nab/

Daily Reflections Video: www.usccb.org/video/reflections.shtml

Catholic.net

www.catholic.net

Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership

www.emergingmodels.org/

En Español -

El Vaticano

www.vatican.va/phome_sp.htm

Lecturas diarias de la Santa Misa

www.ewtn.com/devotionals/lecturas.htm

ACI Prensa

www.aciprensa.com/

Encuentra portal católico

www.encuentra.com/

Catholic.net en Español

www.es.catholic.net/

Enciclopedia católica

ec.aciprensa.com/

VISIT THE PASTORAL INSTITUTE'S WEBSITE

www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/pastoral_inst/lay.aspx

SAVE THE DATES

- Saturday, April 17, 2010 - Alumni Workshop**
 Topic: Beginning of Life Issues
 Presenter: Fr. Charles Caccavale
 Location: St. Francis of Assisi - St. Blaise (Brooklyn)
- Saturday, June 12, 2010 - Alumni Reunion**
 Topic: Environmental Concern from a Catholic Perspective
 Presenter: Dr. Rose Zuzworsky
 Location: Mary Louis Academy (Queens)
- Friday, October 22nd to Sunday, October 24th**
 Alumni Retreat
 Location: Bishop Molloy Retreat House (Queens)

REMINDER

During this season of giving, the Pastoral Institute is grateful to those of you who have paid your annual \$10 dues and made a donation to the Pastoral Institute Fund for Lay Leadership Development.

We ask that those of you who have not sent in your dues to do so as soon as you are able and to consider making an additional contribution.

Your financial support will enable us to continue offering you, our graduates, opportunities for ongoing formation and spiritual growth, as well as make it possible for needy participants to enroll in our programs.

Thank you!

LAY MINISTRY PROGRAM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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**Have you moved? Do you have an email address?
Please remember to update your contact information
with the Pastoral Institute in order to stay connected.**

Please keep us informed of any happenings in your life, including accomplishments, experiences in ministry, but most especially about your family. If you have lost a loved one, or are dealing with illness or a difficult situation, we would like to hear from you so that we can keep you in our prayers and offer support.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. If you would like to submit material for the next edition, please contact us at: AlumniLayMinistry@gmail.com