



PASTORAL INSTITUTE
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

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Dear Pastors, Administrators, and Parish Team Members,

The Pastoral Institute is beginning the process of accepting a new group of candidates for the three-year *Lay Ministry Program* (LMP) with classes starting in September 2012. The goal of this program is to prepare lay persons to assume positions as volunteer pastoral leaders for a particular ministry in the parish.

The LMP, sponsored by the Pastoral Institute, provides a resource at the diocesan level that addresses the need for future lay pastoral leaders. This program includes a holistic approach to lay formation by integrating theological education, spiritual formation, pastoral skills development, supervised ministry practicum and a mentoring process.

All candidates require pastoral approval and, therefore, the application process begins with the submission of your Nomination Form for each individual that you would like to support in this effort.

In thinking about potential candidates you might ask which areas of parish life have been identified in your Pastoral Plan as needing leadership, who among your current lay leaders need more grounding in their faith and who would be good candidates for the LMP. You might look at those members of your community who already serve as catechists, heads of organizations or on pastoral councils, school boards and finance councils.

Included herein are 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. 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 move into our second decade of 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,

Gerald J. Tortorella
Director

Nelsa I. Elías
Associate Director

Enc.