



PASTORAL INSTITUTE

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

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March 2013

Dear Pastors, Administrators, and Parish Team Members,

The Pastoral Institute wants to train your gifted and generous lay persons for leadership in your parish community!

We are beginning the process of accepting a new group of candidates for the three-year *Lay Ministry Program* (LMP) with classes starting in September 2013. The goal of this program is to prepare lay persons with leadership potential to assume positions as volunteer pastoral leaders for a particular ministry 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 pastoral leaders. This program integrates theological education, spiritual formation, pastoral skills development, supervised ministry practicum and a mentoring process. The goal of this program is to prepare lay persons who possess leadership qualities to assume positions as volunteer pastoral leaders for a particular ministry in the parish.

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 coordinating a particular ministry in the parish either individually or as part of a team and under the direction of a parish staff member.
- 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.

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- Along with your pastoral staff, think 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 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.
- Complete and submit a Nomination Form for each individual that you would like to support in this effort. All candidates require pastoral approval.

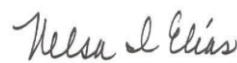
Because the Pastoral Institute will conduct **pre-acceptance interviews in July and August** with every nominated person, we ask your cooperation by **returning the Nomination/Sponsorship Form to the Pastoral Institute office as soon as possible** so that candidates have enough time to complete their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



Gerald J. Tortorella
Director



Nelsa I. Elías
Associate Director

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