

**PASTORAL INSTITUTE  
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Masters Scholars Honored**

At a recent reception, the Office of Faith Formation and the Pastoral Institute honored eleven persons who recently completed their M.A. Degree in Theology from St. John's University and the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception. Those honored were: Rosemary Burchik, Catherine Crimmins, Gladcia Drew, Marie Fouche, Rosa Gomez, Dawn Hewitt, Shirley Lascano, Beverley Madar, Steve McDonald, Mary Susan O'Keeffe and Donna Spoto.

The M.A. Scholarship Program was inaugurated in 2003 to prepare individuals for parish staff positions as Director of Religious Education, Pastoral Associate or Youth Minister as well as in other leadership roles in the parish or diocese. Each person receives a tuition grant from the Catholic Foundation of Brooklyn and Queens toward their graduate studies in theology. Because they are sponsored by the Diocese of Brooklyn, the students also receive a tuition discount from the universities. Recipients have a choice of studying at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, St. John's University or Fordham University.

Besides their engagements in parish ministry, many of the graduates serve on their Parish Pastoral Council, the Diocesan Pastoral Council and as Instructors and Retreat Directors in the Pastoral Institute's lay formation programs.

The financial assistance of the Catholic Foundation of Brooklyn and Queens has provided immeasurable opportunities for the individuals in the M.A. Scholarship Program in Theology. The diocese is experiencing the fruit of that endeavor in the lives and ministries of its graduates.

Picture Caption: Recent graduates join diocesan personnel at reception at the Immaculate Conception Center. From left to right - Front: Rosa Gomez, Beverley Madar, Mary Susan O'Keeffe, Nelsa Elias (Pastoral Institute); Back: Rosemary Burchik, Gerald Tortorella (Pastoral Institute), Catherine Crimmins, Donna Spoto, Shirley Lascano and Sister Angela Gannon, C.S.J. (Secretariat for Catholic Education and Formation). Not pictured: Gladcia Drew, Marie Fouche, Dawn Hewitt and Steve McDonald.

Submitted:

Gerald Tortorella

Director, Pastoral Institute