

**PASTORAL INSTITUTE
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN**

7200 Douglaston Parkway, Douglaston, NY 11362 • (718) 229-9001, ext. 350 • Fax: (718) 281-4290 • Email: pastoralinstitute@iccdob.org

PRESS RELEASE

Pastoral Institute Welcomes New Participants

At two recent full-day orientation sessions, the Pastoral Institute welcomed 73 new participants for the Lay Ministry Program. Coming from parishes across the diocese, they embarked on a three-year course of intellectual, spiritual, human and pastoral formation that will prepare them for service in their parishes. Thirty-five will follow the Spanish language track while thirty-eight will be part of the English language track. An additional 74 participants have begun the second year and 98 have started the third year of the lay formation program.

Addressing the new participants, Sister Angela Gannon, C.S.J., the Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education and Formation said that they have been called at this particular time in their lives by virtue of their baptism. Sister went on to say that in a time of change is our Diocese their gifts and skills will be needed so that parishes can continue to serve their communities.

Participants will study at one of four sites in the diocese. Those in the Spanish language track will take classes at Holy Family-St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Brooklyn and St. Sebastian parish in Woodside. Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston and St. Francis College in Brooklyn will host the English language track.

At the completion of their studies, the participants in the Lay Ministry Program will serve as coordinators or team members for a variety of parish programs such as Adult Faith Formation, Ministry of Consolation, Pastoral Care of the Sick, Bereavement, Prison Ministry, Scripture Study Groups, Women and Men's Spirituality, Stewardship, and Liturgical Planning. All serve as volunteers and many participate in more than one ministry.

These persons are making a major commitment of time and talent in order to serve more effectively in their parishes and to promote the evangelizing mission of the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens.



Participants listen during workshop on theological vocabulary given by Mrs. Rosa Gomez while attending the Pastoral Institute's Orientation Day for Lay Ministry Program.



Participants attend workshop on the documents of Vatican Council II during Pastoral Institute Orientation Day for Lay Ministry Program.

For further information:
Gerald J. Tortorella
Pastoral Institute
718-229-8001, ext. 350
gtortorella@rcdob.org