

Foundations For Ministry Program Expanded

The Pastoral Institute recently inaugurated the Creole and Polish adaptations of its popular 10-week Foundations for Ministry Program at Our Lady of Refuge and St. Stanislaus-Kostka (Brooklyn) respectively. This program, which is designed for men and women who desire a basic update in theology for ministry, is being offered in these languages for the first time in an effort to reach out to the Haitian and Polish communities.

Gerald Tortorella, Director of the Pastoral Institute, Mr. Krzysztof Gospodarzec the Director of Religious Education at St. Stanislaus-Kostka and Rev. Tomasz Szczepanczyk, the instructor of the first session in the Polish track, welcomed thirty-two enthusiastic men and women at St. Stanislaus-Kostka, Brooklyn.

The Creole language track is being hosted by Our Lady of Refuge Parish, where the English and Spanish tracks of Foundations for Ministry Program are being offered as well. The thirty-two participants in Creole track were greeted by Mr. Tortorella and welcomed by Bishop Guy Sansaricq, who also taught the first session and Ms. Marie Fouche who was instrumental in the program's adaptation.

The response from both these communities exceeded expectations and classes filled up quickly causing the Pastoral Institute to create a waiting list for both the Polish and Creole language tracks. Based on this response to the program by the Polish and Haitian communities, the Pastoral Institute has decided to offer the program in these languages in the Spring semester.

The adaptation of the Foundations for Ministry Program into Creole and Polish was a team effort that took over a year and was made possible with grant monies secured from an anonymous source. In addition to the languages being piloted, the program is also offered in English and Spanish in different locations throughout Brooklyn and Queens in the fall and spring. In total, there are a total of 189 persons enrolled in this program. Adaptation of the program into Mandarin is also currently in process. Information about registrations for the spring session of the Foundation for Ministry Program (all languages tracks) will be distributed in the near future. For more information about the Foundations for Ministry Program contact Nelsa I. Elías at 718/229-8001, ext. 357 or nelias@rcdob.org.



Mr. Krzysztof Gospodarzec and Rev. Tomasz Szczepanczyk speak to the Polish language pilot group at St. Sanislaus Kostka



Participants in the Polish pilot program for the Pastoral Institute's Foundations for Ministry Program at St. Stanislaus-Kostka listen intently.



Creole language participants are attentive during class lecture.



Bishop Guy Sansaricq distributes the course handbook to participants in the Creole pilot program at Our Lady of Refuge Parish.