

## Lay Ministry Program

The *Lay Ministry Program* is an integrated three-year program of theological education, spiritual formation, mentoring, supervised ministry practicum, and pastoral skills development that prepares **volunteer lay pastoral leaders** to coordinate a particular ministry in the parish. Classes start each September at locations throughout the Diocese.

- Requires nomination of candidate by pastor, after a period of discernment with parish staff
- Applicants must demonstrate the potential for ministerial leadership; therefore, they must be known to the pastor or parish staff and currently involved in ministry
- The financial cost for the 2014/2015 academic year:
  - Parish: \$150 per semester for each person it sponsors
  - Participants: \$75 tuition per semester and a yearly \$25 book fee. There is also a non-refundable application fee of \$35 and a one-time commissioning fee of \$10.
  - Financial assistance may be available through the Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens for parishes or individuals who cannot make the full contribution
- Locations for classes beginning in September 2014 (English track):

St. Patrick Parish (Brooklyn)  
9511 4th Avenue

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish (Bayside)  
56-15 213th Street

Wednesdays

Saturdays

- Locations for classes beginning in September 2014 (Spanish track):

Most Precious Blood Parish (Brooklyn)  
70 Bay 47th Street

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary (Jamaica)

88-19 Parsons Boulevard

Wednesdays

Thursdays

General Information: <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/lay-ministry-program/>

Overview: <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/lmp-program-overview/>

Information for Pastors/Administrators: <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/lay-ministry-program-pastors-page/>

Applicants' Information in English: <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/applicants-page/>

Applicants' Information in Spanish: <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/applicants-page/>

## Foundations for Ministry Program

The *Foundations for Ministry Program* is a ten-week, twenty-hour program that serves two purposes: it provides **theological updating** for those already engaged in parish ministry and it offers an educational experience for persons who are **discerning participation** in the *Lay Ministry Program*.

- The *Foundations for Ministry Program* is offered in English, Spanish, Creole, Mandarin and Polish. Each week a different topic is introduced. The ten topics are:
  - Week One – Theology as a Field of Study
  - Week Two – Emerging Role of the Laity
  - Week Three – Structure and Mission of the Church
  - Week Four – Jesus: His Mission, His Message, His Ministry
  - Week Five – Sacred Scripture
  - Week Six – Prayer
  - Week Seven – Liturgy
  - Week Eight – Moral Theology
  - Week Nine – One Church, Many Faces
  - Week Ten – Theological Reflection, Theological Research, Closing Ceremony
- While the pastor and/or parish pastoral staff is best able to identify likely candidates for the program, sponsorship is not required. A potential participant may enroll with the Pastoral Institute directly.
- The current fee for participation in the program is \$55. Financial assistance may be available through the Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens for individuals who cannot afford the full fee.
- Locations for classes starting in September 2014: TBA

General Information: <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/foundations-for-ministry-program/>  
Registration (Online Only): <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/fmp/spring-2014>  
Frequently Asked Questions: <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/fmp-faq/>

## Ongoing Formation for Commissioned Lay Pastoral Leaders

Ongoing formation in our faith is an integral part of enhancing the personal growth and ministry of commissioned lay pastoral leaders. For this reason at the completion of the *Lay Ministry Program*, commissioned lay leaders are invited and encouraged to **continue their formation** and to take seriously the need to constantly **up-date and enhance** their theological understanding and spiritual development.

- The Pastoral Institute in collaboration with the Alumni Association of the *Lay Ministry Program* offers:
  - Courses, conferences, and other educational opportunities
  - Days of reflection and weekend retreats
- The Pastoral Institute, through its partnership with the University of Notre Dame's Satellite Theological Education Program (STEP), offers the opportunity for commissioned pastoral leaders to continue their education through online theology courses. Course fees are discounted under the Pastoral Institute's agreement with STEP.
- The *Certificate in Ministry Program* remains available to any commissioned lay pastoral leader who completed the two-year program and wishes to earn a certificate in a particular ministry. Candidates must seek approval from a parish staff member before applying.
- *M. A. Scholarship Program in Theology*
- Commissioned lay pastoral leaders are encouraged to seek out opportunities for ongoing formation that are available through the diocese and parishes.
- Alumni are made aware of offerings through the semi-annual Alumni Association Newsletter and monthly email messages.

Lay Ministry Program Alumni Association: <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/lay-ministry-program-alumni-association/>

Helpful links: <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/news-and-helpful-links/>

STEP Theology Online: <http://step.nd.edu/>

## Lay Ministry Sunday

*Lay Ministry Sunday* is an annual diocesan-wide celebration that **recognizes and affirms** the role of all persons involved in lay ministry.

- Each year *Lay Ministry Sunday* is celebrated throughout the diocese on the Sunday immediately preceding Ash Wednesday. All parishes are encouraged to join in the diocesan wide celebration of all of those involved in lay ministry on this day.
- By homily, pulpit announcements, bulletin articles, and a light reception after Mass, parishes can show those involved in lay ministry how much their time and talents are appreciated as they serve in the parish.
- The Pastoral Institute will provide the following resources to parishes:
  - Ideas for celebrating *Lay Ministry Sunday* at the parish
  - Sample Bulletin announcements promoting Lay Ministry Sunday
  - General Intercessions
  - A blessing of persons involved in lay ministry
  - Informational flyer about the *Lay Ministry Program*
- A diocesan-wide celebration, hosted by the Pastoral Institute, may also be held on this day.
- Next Lay Ministry Sunday: March 2, 2014

Resources: <a href="http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/lay-ministry-sunday/">http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/lay-ministry-sunday/</a>
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## **Celebrating Lay Ministry: Working in the Vineyard of the Lord**

This occasion is an **annual fundraiser** that promotes the work of all persons involved in lay ministry in their parishes and the Diocese while raising funds for the Pastoral Institute Scholarship Fund.

- Opportunities for participation include attendance at the event, journal advertisements, raffles and other activities.
- The proceeds are used to provide scholarships for needy participants and parishes as well as to fund current and future initiatives, such as additional language offerings for the ten-week *Foundations for Ministry Program*, supplementing *Lay Ministry Sunday* activities and providing varied continuing education offerings.
- Donation opportunities:
  - \$1,000 Benefactor - Provides 5 scholarships in the Lay Ministry Program for one semester
  - \$750 Sponsor - Provides funding for 1 student to take a course in graduate degree program in theology
  - \$500 Patron - Ensures that 20 participants can attend a continuing education course
  - \$250 Supporter - Allows 4 participants to enroll in the Foundations for Ministry Program
  - \$100 Friend - Provides one year of books and materials for 4 participants in the Lay Ministry Program
  - Other amounts
- Donations of \$500 and above receive special recognition and include a ticket to our benefit event in October 2014
- Information for the event to be held in **October 2014** – TBA

## Other Information

*M. A. Scholarship Program in Theology* is a collaborative program co-sponsored by the Pastoral Institute and the Office of Faith Formation. Its purpose is to prepare individuals to serve as Pastoral Associate, parish catechetical leader, or in other leadership positions, by offering the opportunity for **graduate studies in theology**.

- Program is offered in partnership with Fordham University Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education, St. John's University and the St. Joseph's Seminary at Huntington.
- The sponsoring agencies are responsible for the theological reflection process that is scheduled once each semester.
- Through the John Paul II Fund for Lay Leadership and the Pastoral Institute Scholarship Fund of the Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens, the Diocese provides financial assistance for those persons who need it.
- Criteria for Acceptance into Program
  - The applicant is willing to minister in a geographic area that is under-served by professionally prepared lay persons.
  - The applicant currently works for the Church.
  - The applicant has completed the *Lay Ministry Program*.
  - The applicant possesses the ability to complete the academic requirements of the university or seminary.

General Information: <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/m-a-scholarship-program-in-theology/>

The Pastoral Institute is also the diocesan agency that relates to *Pastoral Associates*. It assists those parishes that are interested in hiring these ministers and also relates to persons who are seeking employment as Pastoral Associates. Continuing education opportunities are also offered for those who are engaged in this ministry.

General Information including Diocesan Guidelines for Pastoral Associates: <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/pastoral-associations/>

*Pastoral Institute Scholarship Fund* exists to provide tuition assistance for parishes and participants who do not have the financial resources to take advantage of the formation opportunities offered by the Pastoral Institute.