



# Secretariat FOR Evangelization AND Catechesis

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

## The Holy Spirit Institute for Service and Leadership

*I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord".*

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, #3

In response to Pope Francis' invitation at the start of his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*, the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D., established the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis on June 23, 2017. Coinciding with the establishment of the Secretariat was the development of a new structure for lay leadership formation. Building on the successes of the last fifty years of lay leadership formation in the Diocese of Brooklyn, the Holy Spirit Institute for Service and Leadership is tasked with providing excellent formation and education to men and women called to serve as missionary disciples.

### HOLY SPIRIT INSTITUTE FOR SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP AT A GLANCE

- Pastors/Administrators will nominate active parishioners called to be missionary disciples for one of two tracks, each of which will address the four pillars of formation: Academic, Spiritual, Pastoral, and Human
- Volunteer Lay Leader Track in English or Spanish—Leads to a Diocesan Lay Leadership Certificate granted by Catholic Distance University
  - Approved areas for certification as a Volunteer Lay Leader:
    - Evangelization
      - Small Faith Sharing Group leader
      - Evangelization Committee leader
      - Hospitality Committee leader
      - Consolation/Bereavement Committee leader
    - Faith Formation
      - Special Needs Religious Education Team leader
      - Catechist mentor
      - RCIA Committee leader
    - Family Life
      - Natural Family Planning group leader
      - Pre-Cana leader
      - Respect Life Committee leader
    - Social Justice
      - Disability Advocacy leader
      - Hospital/Prison Visitation Team leader

**Areas listed above may require additional training.**

- Professional Degree Track—Leads to an Associate of Arts Degree, a Bachelor of Arts Degree, or a Master of Arts Degree in Theology or related area of study:
  - This degree will prepare the participant to work in the following approved areas:
    - Adult Faith Formation
    - Young Adult Faith Formation
    - Youth Faith Formation
    - Children's Faith Formation
    - Family Life Formation
    - Respect Life Formation
    - Liturgy
    - Spiritual Formation
    - Other approved areas

*The New Evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries", but rather that we are always "missionary disciples".*

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, #120

- The following applies to those called to serve the ecclesial community as a:
  - Volunteer Lay Leader (for all areas indicated above)
    - A two year commitment with the successful completion of all four components of the Institute including six courses (at least three completed online) leading to a Diocesan Certificate granted by Catholic Distance University (CDU)
  - Coordinator of Religious Education
    - A three year commitment with the successful completion of all four components of the Institute; for those without a Bachelor of Arts Degree, either begin with six courses towards an Associate of Arts Degree or complete the undergraduate CDU 18 credit Catechetical Coordinator Certificate;
    - For those with a Bachelor's degree in a non-religious area, complete the 18 credit CDU Graduate Certificate for Catholic Educators or other approved programs (i.e. The Catechetical Institute, Franciscan University of Steubenville)

- Director of Faith Formation
  - Participation in the Institute is optional, but participation in regular gatherings for those in various Master's Degree programs is required; the Coordinator of the Diocesan School of Evangelization will determine the individual's requirements
- Recommended for Catholic Academy/Parish School Teachers specializing in Religious Education
  - A three year commitment with the successful completion of all four components of the Institute; for those with a Bachelor's degree in a non-religious area, complete the 18 credit CDU Graduate Certificate for Catholic Educators;
  - For those with a Master of Arts degree in a non-religious area, complete the 18 credit CDU Graduate Certificate for Catholic Educators, or participate in other approved programs (i.e. The Catechetical Institute, Franciscan University of Steubenville)

## INSTITUTE COST

The total cost for those in the Volunteer Lay Leader track of the Holy Spirit Institute is shared by the parish, participant, and the Diocese of Brooklyn.

- The parish           \$350.00 annually
  - The participant   \$250.00 annually
  - The diocese       \$350.00 annually
- For those in the Professional Degree track of the Holy Spirit Institute, the total costs, in addition to those charged by the college or university, are shared by:
    - The parish -       \$750.00 annually based on two courses per year for three years
    - The participant - \$750.00 per year based on two courses per year for three years
    - The diocese -   \$1000.00 per year based on two courses per year for three years
    - The college or university - based on individual need
    - Payment is due annually by November 1. A bill will be issued.

There are scholarships available in case of need.

## INSTITUTE COLLABORATORS

- Creole Pastoral Institute, Diocese of Brooklyn
- Catholic Distance University, West Virginia
- Saint Joseph Seminary, Dunwoodie
- Saint John's University, Flushing
- Fordham University, Bronx
- Franciscan University of Steubenville

## WHY PARTICIPATE IN THE INSTITUTE?

- To become a Volunteer Lay Leader for a particular area of parish life
- To receive a professional academic degree in Theology, Religious Education, or other related field
- To become a leader in a particular work of the Church
- To further one's religious education and faith formation
- To become a well formed and educated missionary disciple

## INSTITUTE REQUIRED COURSES

CDU Diocesan Lay Leadership Certificate--Six non-credit courses for those participating in the Volunteer Track

1. Profession of Faith
2. Constitutions on the Church
3. Celebration of the Christian Mystery
4. Life in Christ
5. Introduction to Scripture and the Gospel Message
6. Christian Prayer

CDU Catechetical Coordinator's Certificate--Six three-credit undergraduate credits for those participating in the Professional Track

1. Foundations of Catholicism
2. Introduction to Scripture and Salvation History
3. Jesus Christ: God, Man, and Savior
4. Sacraments: Masterworks of God
5. Principles of Moral Theology
6. General Catechetics for the New Evangelization

For information regarding CDU Certificate or Degree programs, please consult Fr. Joseph Gibino at 718-965-7300, extension 5559.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information regarding the Holy Spirit Institute, please contact Miss Joann Roa at [jroa@diobrook.org](mailto:jroa@diobrook.org) or 718.965.7300, extension 2440.

*I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, styles, and methods of evangelization in their respective communities.*

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 33