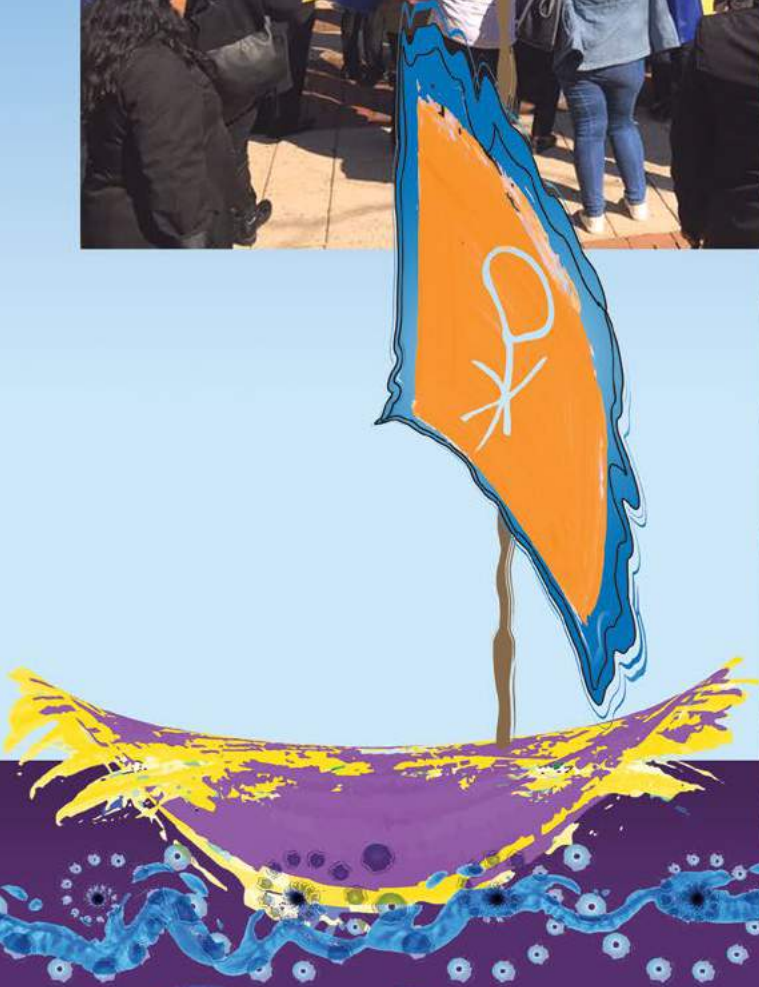


Put Out Into the Deep



GUIDEBOOK

Programs, Events, and Courses — September 2018 through August 2019



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Cover photos courtesy of *The Tablet*



MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP OF BROOKLYN

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The *Guidebook for 2018-2019* of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis of the Diocese of Brooklyn provides an overview of events, initiatives, programs, and processes meant to motivate each one of us to be a missionary disciple. I encourage you to read and share the printed or digital version of the *Guidebook* with your family members, friends, fellow parishioners, and, even more importantly, with those who may be distanced from the Church for one reason or another.

In July of 2017, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops sponsored a convocation entitled *The Joy of the Gospel in America: A National Convocation of Catholic Leaders*. At that convocation, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, gave an important instruction to each of the nearly 4,000 leaders in attendance:

You will return to your Dioceses, parishes, ministries, and families to continue the conversation. I encourage you to share what you have heard and experienced. This is the beginning of something new and beautiful – a *kairos* moment. This is your moment! Share what the Spirit has said to you and to the Church, especially by the witness of your lives.

Our delegation of bishops, priests, deacons, and lay leaders took that call to heart. Here in the Diocese in Brooklyn and Queens, we doubled our efforts to provide many additional ways for each of us to put out into the deep. Courses, initiatives, programs, processes, and events help us contribute to that *new springtime* that I spoke about at our very own Diocesan Assembly on Evangelization and the Celebration of the V Encuentro. Active participation in these opportunities for education and formation mentioned in this *Guidebook* aid us in our desire to become holy. They help us witness to Gospel values. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in *Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and Be Glad)*, reminds us, “To the extent that each Christian grows in holiness, he or she will bear greater fruit for our world.”

Please join me in praying for a continued *new springtime* here in Brooklyn and Queens, and, in fact, throughout the entire world. I look forward to seeing you at one or more of the events.

Thanking you for promoting the New Evangelization by your living example of holiness and joy, and with an assurance of my prayers, I am



Sincerely in Christ,
Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.
BISHOP OF BROOKLYN



Welcome to the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis

In his address to the 4,000 people gathered at the Diocese of Brooklyn's Assembly on Evangelization and the Celebration of the V Encuentro in April of 2018 at St. John's University, His Excellency, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America, gave us this challenge:

The whole People of God has a collective responsibility to evangelize. Here we must recall the Second Vatican Council's teaching on the universal call to holiness – to daily holiness, which is associated with patience, not only in our duties or our existential situations but also in moving forward each day. This call to holiness is not only for the well-educated or “qualified” but for the whole people.

At the start of this new catechetical year 2018-2019, we have the opportunity to reflect on how we can work to respond to this universal call to holiness. The Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis, now beginning its second year, provides this *Guidebook for 2018-2019* to assist in your reflection especially as you move to create a plan of action to respond to this call to be holy. As a fellow missionary disciple called to put out into the deep, I encourage you and your family to take advantage of the many opportunities provided for you by the Secretariat, your parish, and our dedicated collaborators.

The universal call to holiness is not always easy, but it is definitely necessary for each baptized person to consider and act on. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in his Weekly Audience Address on October 2, 2013, told us:

Do not be afraid of holiness, do not be afraid to aim high, to be loved and purified by God, do not be afraid to let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit. The Church is holy because it proceeds from God who is holy. It is not holy by our merits; we are not able to make her holy. It is God, the Holy Spirit, who in his Love makes the Church holy.

I look forward to seeing you during the year at the various Masses and events held throughout the Diocese. Please feel free to contact me or a member of the staff of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis to inquire about our offerings and to provide your suggestions and comments. Thank you for considering this important call to universal holiness.



Theodore J. Musco
SECRETARY FOR EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN



SECRETARIAT FOR EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS

Staff Contact Information

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Technology/Sports Coordinator	gsimone@diobrook.org



Summary of Services Provided to Parishes, Catholic Academies, and Parish Schools

Please feel free to contact us with any questions regarding the programs and services listed. Some services are offered in a variety of languages.

Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis

Contact:

Secretary Theodore Musco
718.281.9544

tmusco@diobrook.org

- General resources provided by the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis
- Pastor — Secretariat liaison
- Catholic academy/parish — Secretariat liaison
- Secretariat programming, events, and initiatives
- Diocesan and national initiatives for parish and Catholic academy/parish school programs of Religious Education and evangelization
- Parish programs of Religious Education consultation
- Secretariat handbooks and documents
- Evangelization and Catechetical support for Pastors, Administrators, Pastoral Associates, and Catechetical Leaders
- Hiring process for new catechetical leaders
- Small faith sharing group processes
- First Penance, First Eucharist, and Confirmation Proximate Preparation for candidates and families
- Professional development for new catechetical leaders
- Confirmation for Catholic high school students

Contact:

Executive Administrative Assistant to the Secretary
718.281.9544

To be announced

Adult Faith Formation

Contact:

Director Joann Roa
718.965.7300 ext. 2440

jroa@diobrook.org

- Formation of catechists and catechetical leaders
 - Living and Leading by Faith Catechist and Catechetical Leader Faith Formation Program (LLF)
 - My Catholic Faith Delivered
 - Catholic Distance University (CDU)
 - University of Notre Dame Satellite Theological Education Program (STEP)
 - Multicultural catechesis planning and program implementation/assessment
- Formation of adults
 - Holy Spirit Institute for Service and Leadership
 - Retreats and days of reflection
 - Franciscan University of Steubenville Catechetical Institute
 - Credible Catholic Modules
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and RCIA Adapted for Children
 - RCIA coordinators and teams
 - Diocesan Rite of Election for Adults and Rite of Election Adapted for Children



- Parish and deanery assistance and consultation regarding the RCIA process

Contact:

Administrative Assistant Maria Plascencia
718.965.7300 ext. 1036
mplascencia@diobrook.org

Curriculum and Academic Degrees

Contact:

Coordinator Father Joseph Gibino
718.281.9544
jgibino@diobrook.org

- Curriculum
- Course development coordinator
- Outreach to other formation programs
- Outreach to colleges and universities
- Master of Arts Scholarship Program
- Degree program
- Holy Spirit Institute Professional Track

Registrar

Contact:

Registrar Christine Georgi
718.965.7300 ext. 5416
cgeorgi@diobrook.org

Marriage, Family Formation, Respect Life Education

Contact:

Director Christian Rada
718.965.7300 ext. 5541
crada@diobrook.org

- Marriage Preparation
 - Pre-Cana
 - Engaged Encounter Weekends
 - FOCCUS© Pre-Marriage Inventory
 - Natural Family Planning workshops
 - Training on the Billings Ovulation Method™
 - Theology of the Body workshops

Marriage Enrichment

- Formation for leaders of married couples
- Marriage Encounter weekends
- Marriage Enrichment workshops
- Retreats/workshops for couples and families
- Annual World Marriage Day
- Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Marriage Support

- Retrouvaille weekends for troubled marriages
- Beginning Experience weekends for separated, divorced and widows/widowers
- Referrals to marriage and family counselors/therapists

Catechesis for Human Sexuality/ Family Life Initiative

- Infant Baptismal preparation training and resources
- Workshops on the pastoral care of the family in difficult situations
- Respect Life Education training and resources
- Crisis Pregnancy resources
- Post-Abortion Ministry/Project Rachel

Contact:

Administrative Assistant Martha Hernandez
718.965.7300 ext. 5540
mhernandez@diobrook.org

Young Adult Faith Formation

Contact:

Director Paul Morisi
718.965.7300 ext. 5556
pmorisi@diobrook.org

- Opportunities for formation for young adults
 - Theology on Tap
 - Mass and fellowship
 - Small faith sharing groups



- Midnight Run
- Days of Reflection
- World Youth Day
- Walking Pilgrimage
- Grilling with God

Youth Faith Formation

Contact:

Director Paul Morisi
718.965.7300 ext. 5556
pmorisi@diobrook.org

- Outreach to parishes, Catholic High Schools, youth, and families regarding Youth Faith Formation
 - Diocesan Youth Day
 - Steubenville NYC Youth Conference
 - World Youth Day
 - National and international conventions
 - Theology of the Body workshops for teens
 - Pilgrimages (in collaboration with the Pilgrimage Office)
 - Holy Hours (in collaboration with the Diocesan Vocations Office)
 - Vocations Office collaboration
 - Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) collaboration
 - Catholic High School Staff Resource Days
 - Catholic High School Religion Curriculum Standards and Outcomes
 - Confirmation preparation programs and retreats

Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative (CYMI)

in collaboration with the Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens

Contact:

Specialist Lucia Morales
718.965.7300 ext. 5418
lmorales@diobrook.org

- Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative supervisor
- Consultation with pastors and catechetical leaders regarding the Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative

Contact:

Administrative Assistant Martha Hernandez
718.965.7300 ext. 5540
mhernandez@diobrook.org

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)

Contact:

Director Robert Caldera
718.281.9549
rcaldera@diobrook.org

- Sports leagues and programs for parishes
- Spiritually based athletic and volunteer activities
- Spiritual growth through sportsmanship, cooperation and community
- Coach as Youth Minister; coaches workshops and clinics
- Partnership with Play Like a Champion, University of Notre Dame

Catechetical Program Outreach

Contact:

Facilitator Nelsa Elías
Catechetical Program Outreach
718.965.7300 ext. 5558
nelias@diobrook.org

- Religious Education assessments for students in grades three, five, and eight
- Reports for Parish Religious Education Program review, assessment, and consultation



- Religious Education Program Strategic Plans and Mission Statements
- Religious Education Program Handbook
- Religious Education Resource Guide
- Parish Crisis Management Plans review and consultation
- Religious Education Program Initiatives (such as the Annual Religion Bee)
- Safe Environment Office liaison

Special Needs Religious Education

Temporary Contact:

Theodore Musco

Secretary

718.281.9544

tmusco@diobrook.org

- Consultation regarding special needs programs of Religious Education





Department for Children's Faith Formation

I thank God that many families, which are far from considering themselves perfect, live in love, fulfill their calling and keep moving forward, even if they fall many times along the way. The Synod's reflections show us that there is no stereo- type of the ideal family, but rather a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems. The situations that concern us are challenges. We should not be trapped into wasting our energy in doleful laments, but rather seek new forms of missionary creativity.

#57, POST-SYNODAL APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION
AMORIS LAETITIA, POPE FRANCIS

OVERVIEW

The uniqueness of the Church is reflected in the uniqueness of each local parish. Mindful of this diversity and in light of local needs, and following Diocesan guidelines, each parish develops a religious education program. Education and formation in the Faith is not only in preparation for the Sacraments; it is ongoing. Children and teens should participate in Catholic education and formation from at least kindergarten through grade twelve. Every grade level is important as it builds on a child's or teen's previous knowledge and experience.

Following Confirmation, it is essential that the newly-confirmed continue to learn more about our Faith and participate in programs of youth ministry that include components of academic learning as well as spiritual growth opportunities. Attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, as well as regular reception of the Sacraments, must be a priority in the life of all Catholics.

It is a long-standing Diocesan policy that all children

must receive at least two full years of catechesis, including academic instruction in the Faith, before they receive First Penance and First Eucharist. Preparation for Confirmation begins immediately following the reception of First Eucharist. Reception of Confirmation is in grade eight. However, we know that the Faith formation of our children involves more than academic instruction. Each child must be gradually formed into the full image of the Lord Jesus by developing a mature life of prayer, culminating in full, conscious, and active participation with the parish community at Sunday Mass. Since such participation is usually not possible without the cooperation of their parents and guardians, Faith formation must also involve every child's family, school/academy community, and the entire parish community in prayer, witness, and celebration.

Parishes provide opportunities for parents to actively participate in four to six sessions before a child receives First Penance, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. These proximate preparation sessions begin or end with Sunday (Saturday Vigil) Mass and are meant to bring together families from the parish to explore certain themes. For specifics, please contact your local parish.

As a family of families, the parish remains the ideal home for Catholic families to join together, not only at the spiritual birth of their children at Baptism, but also to be nourished by the Eucharist each Sunday. It is our Diocesan policy that each family's home parish remains the privileged place for celebrating a child's First Penance, First Eucharist, and Confirmation. This policy directs families to celebrate the Sacraments of First Penance, First Eucharist, and Confirmation in the parish where they usually celebrate Mass and their Catholic Faith every Sunday.

How to find a parish program of Religious Education

Go to the Diocesan website www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org and click on Parishes to find the parishes in your area.



Photo courtesy of *The Tablet*

Religious Education Assessment Initiative

The Religious Education Assessment Initiative provides the Secretariat, parishes, Catholic academies, and parish schools with current data regarding areas of strength and challenge relating to programs of religious education. Now in its fourth year, this assessment is given to students in grades three, five, and seven in parish programs of religious education, Catholic academies, and parish schools on an alternating year basis. Over 15,000 students have taken

the assessment anonymously; the goal is to capture information about what our students learn well about our Faith and where they have challenges. The assessment provides data on how well the class, grade, overall parish program, Catholic academy, or parish school does in relation to the results of the entire Diocese. From this information, we can determine where to place our efforts to improve instruction and provide additional catechist formation. The Diocese of Brooklyn collaborates with My Catholic Faith Delivered to provide this assessment, which is one of very few offered throughout the United States.

Diocesan Annual Religion Bee

The Diocesan Annual Religion Bee is an opportunity for students and their families to learn more about their Catholic Faith in a fun and different way. There is a grouping for students of parish programs of religious education in grades three through five and another for students in grades six through eight, as well as similar groupings for students in Catholic academies and parish schools. Certain questions are provided in advance, while others are given on the day of the Bee without previous notice. This is an excellent opportunity for family members to learn about the Faith as well. The Secretariat partners with Sadlier, Inc. and our local representative Anna Ferraiuolo.

Programs and Events— Continuing Formation

In addition to the various models of religious education that parishes offer, there are many programs and events sponsored by the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis. Please go to www.meetmein.church and www.bqonlineformation.org for information regarding events and courses for parents and family members.

Information is provided throughout this Guidebook relating to resources for parents, grandparents, siblings, relatives, and others to grow in the Faith.



Special Needs Religious Education

Every child encounters Christ in a different way. Some children have special needs that can be addressed on the parish level.

Currently, the Secretariat is collaborating with various parish leaders and national organizations to enhance special needs religious education offerings. In 2016, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio established a Special Needs Religious Education Commission to attend to those with special needs in Brooklyn and Queens. Please contact your parish leaders first to see if a special needs religious education program is available locally. If there is no special needs religious education program in your parish, please call 718.281.9544. Check the website at www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org and www.ncpd.org (The National Catholic Partnership on Disability) for updated information and resources.

A regularly scheduled Mass for those with special needs is celebrated as follows:

Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church
14-51 143rd Street, Whitestone, NY 11357
718-746-7730

Special Needs 12:30 Mass

September 23, 2018**
October 21, 2018
November 18, 2018
December 16, 2018
January 20, 2019
February 17, 2019
March 17, 2019
April 14, 2019**
May 19, 2019
June 9, 2019**

** All Masses are scheduled for the 3rd Sunday of the month except September (4th Sunday), April (2nd Sunday), June (2nd Sunday), due to conflicting events/holidays falling on the 3rd Sunday.

All Masses are signed.





Department for Adult Faith Formation

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 unfailingly 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

OVERVIEW

In *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States* (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2005), the bishops of

the United States identify three major goals of Adult Faith Formation.

Adult Faith Formation invites the adult Catholics to:

1. deepen their conversion to the Lord
2. actively participate in the life of the Church
3. accept their rightful place in the Church’s mission to evangelize

Since adults are called to be disciples of Christ through Baptism, programs of Adult Faith Formation assist the individual to gain a better understanding of the Catholic Faith as well as its practical application for Christian living.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

OVERVIEW

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is designed for adults who, after hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed, freely desire to seek the living God and enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. The journey is one of conversion, preparation, and formation which at the proper time leads towards reception of the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) that are received at the Easter Vigil.

If you do not already belong to a Catholic parish, please go to: www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/parishes/about-our-parishes/ to find a parish near you and ask the pastor about the RCIA process.

The process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is for:

- All **unbaptized adults** seeking full initiation through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- Those **baptized in Christian denominations**, but not Catholic, who seek to come into full communion with the Catholic Church by

making a Profession of Faith and receiving Confirmation and Eucharist.

- Baptism is considered valid when a minister or priest pours water over the person to be baptized or they are immersed in water using the specific words: I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Eastern Christian (Orthodox): the Roman Catholic Church recognizes and accepts all sacraments as being valid.
- Those **baptized Catholic** but who have never been catechized who seek to complete their initiation through Confirmation and Eucharist. The Church does not consider anyone who has received Eucharist as un-catechized, though understandably, further catechesis is needed.
- Any adult seeking only the Sacrament of Confirmation **should not be a part of the RCIA process**. Adult Confirmations are held on Pentecost Sunday at the local parish or at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. James.



- Those who are baptized and confirmed at birth but have never been catechized and wish to receive the Eucharist would be part of the RCIA process because they are considered un-catechized. The recommended calendar below is

divided into the four periods as outlined by the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). This is the recommended RCIA model and can be adapted to meet the local parish needs and/or circumstances.

I. INQUIRY/PRE-CATECHUMENATE
August/September 2018 to December 2018 (Advent) *Ideally this period is to be ongoing.
II. CATECHUMENATE
December 2018 (Advent) to December 2019 (Advent) and all the way through to March 2020 (Rite of Election). *This is an extended period that should be long enough—several years if necessary—for the conversion and faith of the catechumens (RCIA, 75).
III. PURIFICATION & ENLIGHTENMENT
Lent (March 2020) to Easter (April 2020)
IV. MYSTAGOGY
Easter Season 2020

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Adapted for Children

There is only one RCIA process; Part I pertains to adults and Part II to its adaption for children. In conformity with our Diocesan RCIA Guidelines, unbaptized children who are eight-years-old (usually in Grade 3) through Grade 10 in our parishes or our Catholic academies and parish schools should have a catechumenal preparation of a minimum of three years and then be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil or on one of the Sundays of Easter. The Church mandate since 1988 is that children who fall into this age bracket cannot receive the Sacraments of Initiation separated from one another, but rather all three Sacra-

ments at one celebration. Unbaptized children under eight-years of age should be baptized according to the Infant Rite.

In the parishes of the Diocese of Brooklyn, the RCIA team must attend Diocesan training sessions and Days of Reflection. Each parish organizes the RCIA process according to its particular needs and Diocesan policies. The Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis provides training and consultation for all RCIA and RCIA Adapted for Children coordinators and teams.



Recommended Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

ARISE/LEVÁNTATE/LEVE KANPE

The spiritual path laid out by ARISE: Together in Christ invites participants to encounter Christ and grow as missionary disciples in powerful small-group settings. This unfolds over five periods of time (called seasons) each of which lasts six weeks.

Each season engages the entire parish in a basic Gospel theme:

Season 1 Fall	Encountering Christ Today
Season 2 Lent	Change Our Hearts
Season 3 Fall	In the Footsteps of Christ
Season 4 Lent	New Heart, New Spirit
Season 5 Fall	We Are the Good News!

RENEW International provides comprehensive training for the parish teams and small-group leaders.

It is available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Portuguese, Vietnamese, French, English, and Lithuanian.

Why Catholic? Journey through the Catechism

Why Catholic? has a rich scriptural and catechetical approach that gives a solid foundation for Catholics to express their faith and be able to reach out to others in faith and offers a concrete approach to help adults deepen their Catholic Faith and connect its teachings to their everyday lives.

Why Catholic? explores Catholic teaching with direct quotes from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, *The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, scriptural references, and reflection questions covering four themes of Catholic beliefs, sacraments, morality, and prayer in 48 sessions designed for faith-sharing in a small group setting that is a supportive environment for evangelization and Adult Faith Formation.

It is available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Portuguese, Vietnamese, French, English, and Lithuanian.

Be My Witness: Formation for the New Evangelization

Be My Witness is a Christ-centered, Spirit-led approach to transforming parishes and forming disciples for the New Evangelization, and draws its inspiration from *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis' landmark document on evangelization. Be My Witness is presented in two phases:

- Phase 1 equips parish staff, leaders, and pastoral councils to lead mission-focused change and to develop a parish pastoral plan focused on evangelization and mission.
- Phase 2 includes small faith sharing groups while it also engages and forms parishioners as missionary disciples, ready to become partners in the New Evangelization.

The results are the pastoral plans and motivation needed to transform the parish into a "center of constant missionary outreach."

It is available in Spanish as Sean mis Testigos: Formación para la Nueva Evangelización.

ENDOW

ENDOW (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women) is a Catholic study program that engages the intellect of women and teenage girls to help them understand their God-given dignity and respond to our culture's desperate need for an authentic feminine presence to transform every aspect of life and society.

Symbolon

The Symbolon series is a compelling presentation of the Catholic Faith. Through beautifully crafted teaching and state-of-the-art video, author and speaker



Dr. Edward Sri leads a team of dynamic teachers who provide a clear and comprehensive understanding of what the Catholic Church teaches and how to live it.

Living the Eucharist

Living the Eucharist is a program designed to help revitalize parish life and spirituality through a more profound experience of Sunday Mass. It helps the entire parish—adults, teens, and families—grow in their Catholic Faith and live more fully as disciples of Jesus. Living the Eucharist runs during Lent for three years. Parishioners can take part in adult and teen faith-sharing groups, family activities, devotional and catechetical Lenten readings, and a prayer campaign.

Catholicism Study Program

The Catholicism Study Program presents the strong, ecclesial dimension of the Catholic Faith – God’s revelation through Jesus Christ and His Church. Bishop Robert Barron created this groundbreaking program as a thematic presentation of what Catholics believe and why, so all adults can come to a deeper understanding of the Catholic Faith.

The Great Adventure Catholic Bible Timeline

The Great Adventure Catholic Bible Timeline study program is designed in such a way that anyone can make sense of the Bible and experience the life-changing power of God’s Word. The key to understanding the Bible is finding the story that ties it all together. The Great Adventure Catholic Bible Timeline learning system makes the complex simple by helping you to uncover the story woven through Scripture so that you can make sense of it.

Credible Catholic

Father Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D., is a Catholic Priest in the Jesuit order (Society of Jesus) and is currently the President of the Magis Center and the Spitzer Center. As their web site states:

Credible Catholic (CC) is NOT just another provider of Catholic content. Credible Catholic is a force designed to stem the atrophy from within our Church and theism in general. Credible Catholic marks the return of apologetics in our education channels (as preferred by our Bishops). We seek to completely discredit the secular myths that are creating the NONES. To this end, Credible Catholic offers FREE on-line teaching products based on content from Father Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D. While the initial products are targeted at high school through adult studies, a series for middle school is also in development.

There are seven modules Fr. Spitzer says Catholics must know:

- Evidence of a soul from medical studies,
- Evidence of God from science
- Proof of God’s existence from philosophy
- Proof of the Resurrection
- Why be Catholic?
- Where to find True Happiness ?
- Why God allows suffering in the world?

Go to www.crediblecatholic.com for more information.

The Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University

The Diocese of Brooklyn partners with Franciscan University of Steubenville to train and support key catechists and catechetical leaders—priests, deacons, men and women in consecrated life, and the laity, professional or volunteer. Faculty and mentors work in close partnership with Dioceses and catechists, offering a variety of opportunities to grow in developing and enhancing catechetical skills.

Please go to www.catechetics.com/courses for more information regarding Franciscan at Home; online learning at your convenience. These courses can be taken for Living and Leading by Faith credit.



The staff of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis provides ongoing support and opportunities for presentations regarding these various Adult Faith Formation opportunities. We will continue to

add to our list of recommended Adult Faith Formation opportunities throughout the year. If you are interested in any of these programs or processes, please contact Mr. Musco or Miss Roa.



Parish Offerings

Many parishes offer opportunities for adults to learn more about the Catholic Faith. Please go online to www.meetmein.church for information regarding a great array of the parish and local events. Also, consult local parish bulletins and websites.



Photo courtesy of *The Tablet*



Living and Leading by Faith Catechist and Catechetical Leader Formation Program

OVERVIEW

The Living and Leading by Faith Catechist and Catechetical Leader Faith Formation Program was developed in 2009 to educate adult Catholics. While the courses are required for all catechists and catechetical leaders, the courses are also available to all adult learners and can be found at www.bqonlineformation.org

Diocesan Policy

All who administer or teach in parish programs of religious education or in a Catholic academy/parish school must be theologically prepared, spiritually mature, and skilled in the methods of religious education/formation.

Every principal, assistant principal, and teacher in a Catholic academy/parish school and every director/coordinator/administrator of Religious Education/Faith Formation programs, and Diocesan or parish catechist is expected to fulfill the requirements of Catholic faith formation according to the approved Living and Leading by Faith Catechist and Catechetical Leader Faith Formation Program of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn. **At least ten (10) hours of approved adult faith formation are required each year and must be recorded in one's online transcript with My Catholic Faith Delivered.**

Initial Faith Formation Component

As of September 1, 2017, there are only **two** components that are part of the Living and Leading by Faith Program. **For all new catechists and catechetical leaders**, the six courses listed in the **Initial Component** are now all required for a total of fifty hours during the first four years. These courses are offered online or in a traditional classroom setting.

LIVING AND LEADING BY FAITH INITIAL COMPONENT COURSES	
Creed	10
Sacraments	10
Morality	10
Prayer	10
Introduction to Catechesis*	5
Introduction to the Bible*	5

*to be developed as an online course

Exemptions to the Initial Faith Formation Component are limited to the following:

1. An approved Bachelor of Arts Degree or Master of Arts Degree in Theology or Religious Studies received within the last ten years
2. Certificate of Completion from an approved (Arch) Diocesan Catechist Formation Program within the last ten years

Ongoing Faith Formation Component

As of August 2017, there is no longer an Enrichment Component. Nothing changed regarding previously completed courses and your record will remain valid. A Certificate of Completion is granted after every fifty (50) hours of successfully completed approved coursework (courses can only be counted for credit one time).



LIVING AND LEADING BY FAITH ONGOING COURSES

Evangelization and Discipleship

Catechesis 101	10
Didache: Introduction to Catholicism	10
The Call to Holiness	10
Catechetical Methods I	5
Catechetical Methods II	5
Multicultural Catechesis	5
Religion in Religious Education	5
The Art of Teaching Religion Grade 3 to 5	5
The Art of Teaching Religion Grade 6 to 8	5
The Art of Teaching Religion Pre-K to Grade 2	5
Vocation Awareness	5

Church History

Lives of the Saints	10
Saint John Paul II	10
Church History	5
Didache: The History of The Church	5
Ecumenical Councils and Vatican II	5
Marian Spirituality	5
Mariology	5
Our Catholic Traditions	5

Scripture

Didache: Our Moral Life in Christ	10
New Testament Studies	10
Old Testament Studies	10
Scripture Online	10
The Revelation of God	10
Covenant Stories in the Bible	5
The Gospels	5

Pastoral Studies

Catholic Spirituality	10
Spirituality for Teachers and Catechists	10
The Three Great Monotheisms	10
Catholic Identity	5
Ecumenism	5
Gifts of the Holy Spirit	5
Liturgy	5
Living Catholic	5
Pastoral Apologetics I	5
Pastoral Apologetics II	5
St. Paul: Defender of the Faith	5
The Church and Social Justice	5

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults	10
Forming Parish Teams and Year Round Catechumenate	2
Introduction to Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)	2
Rite of Election and Mystagogy	2

Marriage and Family Formation

Theology of the Body	10
Introduction to Baptism	2
Introduction to Natural Family Planning	2
Marriage Ministry Overview	2
Sexuality and Marriage and Natural Family Planning	2
Spirituality of the Married Couple	2
The Gospel of Life	2



Youth Formation

Basic Youth Ministry	10
Adolescent Development and Culture	2
Best Practices for Youth Ministry	2
Film and Media in Youth Ministry	2
Introduction to Adolescent Psychology	2
Liturgy Prep for Youth Ministers	2
Theology of the Body for Youth Ministers	2
Using the Bible in Youth Ministry	2
Praise and Worship in Youth Ministry	2
Preparing Teens for Confirmation	2
Youth Ministry Retreat	2

Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative

Evangelization and Catechesis	7
Foundations of Ministry Leadership	7
Justice and Service	7
Pastoral Care	7
Planning and Implementing Lifelong Catechesis	7
Practices of Lifelong Faith Formation	7
Practices of Youth Ministry	7
Prayer and Worship	7
Principles of Lifelong Faith Formation	7
Principles of Youth Ministry	7
Skills for Christian Leadership	7

Catechetical Leadership

Liturgical Planning	10
Ministry of Consolation	10
Pastoral Care Ministry	10
Social Justice Ministry	10
Communication and Listening Skills for Pastoral Leaders	6
Leadership as a Service	6
Preparing and Leading Prayer and Ritual	6
Self Care of the Pastoral Minister	6
The Organizational Leader	6
Catechesis and Cultural Realities in Our Changing Landscape	5
Catechesis and the Changing Technology	5
Catechesis as a Moment in the Process of Evangelization	5

Additional courses will be added
as they become available.

Please go to **www.bqonlineformation.org**
for updated information and to register.



SIGNING UP FOR AN ONLINE OR LIVE COURSE

1 Go to the Lifelong Faith Formation home page

- Go to www.bqonlineformation.org
- Click **Login** to register for a live or online class
- Click **Register for Classes** to register for other options like CDU/STEP/USCCB. If you don't have an account contact Christine Georgi: cgeorgi@diobrook.org



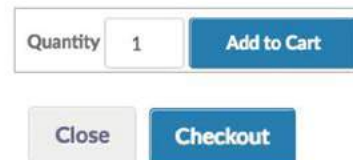
2 To register for a live or online course

- Once Logged in Click **Store > Courses** in the top menu to view the online and live course available for purchase.
- Use the Online and Live Classes Buttons to see the options for both live and online courses that are available.



3 The Shopping Cart

- Select the Course and click **Add to Cart**
- To add another Course click **Close**
- When done click **Checkout**



Checkout Process

- **Enter in your email address.**
- Enter your password
- Fill out your **Billing Address**
- Fill out your **Payment Address**
- Click the blue **Place Order** button.

After your order is complete, you will receive a receipt via email.

Secure Checkout

Account

Email (required) Save Password (required)

(For new and returning customers) Enter a password to create a new account

Billing Address

Add New Address

Paying With

Credit Card

4 Complete the Checkout process

- Click **Place Order** to finish transaction. You will see a confirmation screen and receive an email receipt





ACCESSING YOUR COURSES

1 Log into your account

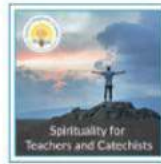
- Go to www.bqonlineinformation.org
- Click **Login** to log into your account
- Enter in your email address and password, click **Sign In**

NOTE: If forget your password or you see a message saying you already have an account, click the **Forgot Password?** link to receive an email to reset your password.



2 Access your online course or view your live event

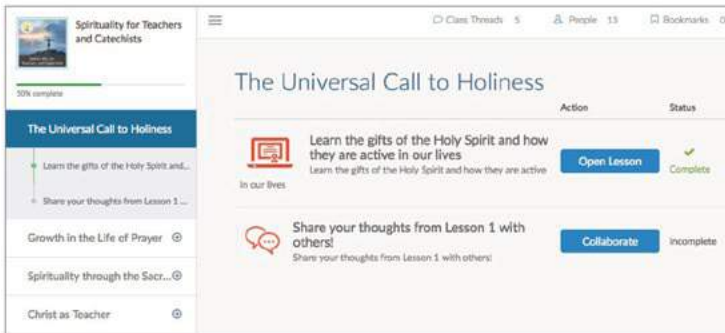
- Click on the **Learn** button in the top menu
- Select your course or event



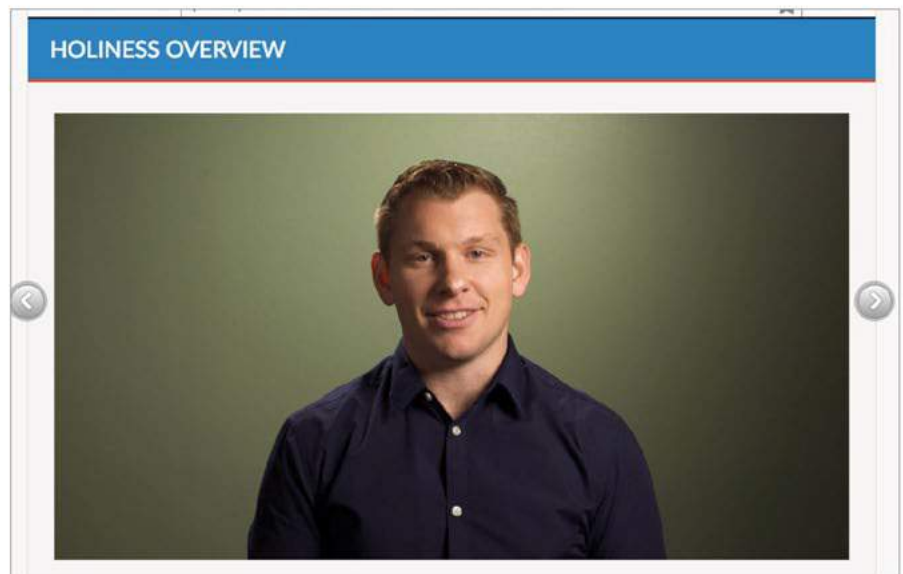
Spirituality for Teachers and Catechists

Spirituality for Teachers and Catechists is an engaging, 5 part course that guides the participant along the road of holiness. The course explores the foundations of spiritual theology while offering concrete applications to help participants grow in their daily prayer life. Each lesson contains high quality video instruction, interactive activities, and quizzes to apply the knowledge gained throughout

3 Navigating your online course



- Lessons are easy to navigate. From your **Courses** screen under **Learn**, you will see a vertical list of your lessons and course progress.
- Once in a lesson, you can navigate pages using the **Menu** to the left as well as using the **Next** and **Previous** buttons. When entering a lesson, you will be taken to the last page you left off on.





YOUR REPORTS AND CERTIFICATIONS

1 View your Reports

- Click on the **Reports** button in the top menu and click **My Reports**.

Choose your course and view your progress and results by lesson.

Course:

Lessons

Name	Completed	Total Time	First Score	Best Score	Status	Notes
RCIA Course - Welcome	8/15/2014	77.8m			100%	
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8/9/2015	144.7m	20%	20%	100%	

2 View your Transcript / Certificate

- Click on the **Reports** button in the top menu and click **My Transcripts** to view a history of all of the courses you have been enrolled in.
- Click on the **Reports** button in the top menu and click **My Certifications** to view any Certifications and download Certificates for the courses you have completed.

Transcript

Course	Start Date	End Date	Status
Prayer	09/18/2012	12/03/2014	✓
Faith Foundations (Public)	01/02/2013	12/15/2014	✓
1st Grade: Our Heavenly Father (Rv4)	09/21/2015	09/08/2015	✓
1st Grade: Our Heavenly Father (Rv4)	08/22/2012	09/08/2015	✓
3rd Grade: Our Life with Jesus (Rv4)	08/22/2012	12/03/2014	✓

3 Send Certification Requests to receive past credit

Send Approval Request

- Click on the **Reports** button in the top menu and click **My Certifications**.
- To request credit, select the Certification with a requirement you want to fulfill. When you find the requirement, click **Send Approval Request**.

Fill out the **Approval** item name, the date it was completed, description, and add a file to document proof of completion.

[Requirements](#) < Approve Requirement

Requirement: Prayer (LLF)

Approval Item Name:

Date Completed:

Description:

drop files here to upload



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Initial Faith Formation Component

The following courses are all required in order to achieve the Certificate of Completion for the Initial Faith Formation Component of the Living and Leading by Faith Catechist and Catechetical Leader Faith Formation Program.

Creed

10 hrs

From the Early Church onwards, there has always been a need to clarify and affirm what the Catholic Church truly believes as a united whole. The Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed both were developed in order to affirm the unity of Christ's people and bring others to God in truth. This course is important because it reminds catechists not only of the core teachings of the Faith, but also why specific teachings are maintained in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

Available online in English and Spanish

Morality

10 hrs

In this ten hour course, learners will explore some of the important principles and themes of Catholic morality such as constant conversion, the call to holiness, free will, grace, stewardship, and the formation of conscience. Attention will also be given to what is sometimes called "morality in action" or "social morality," "option for the poor," the dignity of work, the rights of workers, sexuality, health care, and end of life issues.

Available online in English and Spanish

Prayer

10 hrs

All catechesis must lead to and flow from liturgy and prayer. This course begins with a review of various forms and types of prayer. There will be an extensive treatment of the historical development of the liturgy and on the various feasts and seasons celebrated by the Church.

Available online in English and Spanish

Sacraments

10 hrs

This course will present an overview of the life and the mission of the Church (the Body of Christ) in the modern world. Special attention will be given to the principle of sacramentality and to understanding and celebrating each of the seven graced encounters with Christ which we call the sacraments.

Available online in English and Spanish

Introduction to the Bible

5 hrs

This course is designed to bring learners into a deeper appreciation for the word of God. Important ideas will be discussed such as why certain books of the bible are approved while others are not, as well as how and why the bible is organized the way it is. This course should not only bring learners to appreciate the bible but also give them a deeper inclination to read and seek God through both the old and new testaments.

Introduction to Catechesis

5 hrs

This course is designed for the new catechist or as a refresher for the more experienced catechist. The learner will discover what catechesis is and what makes a good catechist. The learner will come to understand and be able to explain the teachings of our Church better. Most importantly, the learner will come to know the Lord Jesus in a new and more personal way.

Ongoing Faith Formation Component

Evangelization and Discipleship

"Religion" In Religious Education

5 hours

This course is designed to aid catechists in understanding core principles of "religion" both as a term in general as well as how to present and teach religion within different classroom levels in light of the Catholic Faith with sufficient understanding of other religions' stances. The goal of this course is to aid catechists in being able to properly present religion to others as well as establish guidelines for comparison of different religions so that catechists will be prepared to answer students whole-heartedly and within the Faith.



Catechesis 101 **10 hours**

This course provides a solid understanding of the Church’s vision for catechesis as well as practical, hands-on methodology that is proven to bear fruit in catechetical sessions.

Available Online only-English only

Catechetical Methods I **5 hours**

This course covers the very basics of teaching catechesis and the teacher-student relationship. Learners will discuss the materials used in teaching as well as the practical aspects of teaching such as lesson plans and evaluations.

Catechetical Methods II **5 hours**

Catechetical Methods II is an extension course following Catechetical Methods I. This second part delves more deeply into the Catholic documents that specifically deal with teaching the Faith.

Didache: Introduction to Catholicism **10 hours**

Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, this course covers the basic tenets of the Faith and what it means to be Catholic. This course, which takes its material from one of four in the Didache Complete Course Series, is used by high schools, home school groups, RCIA, and is also suitable for anyone looking to broaden their Faith knowledge.

Available online only-English only

Multicultural Catechesis **5 hours**

Just as all races, ethnicities, and cultures in the world are represented in the population of the United States, so too do they find a home within the Catholic Church. Each group brings its own language, history, customs, rituals, and traditions “for building up the body of Christ.” (Eph 4:12) Since persons can only achieve their full humanity by means of culture, the Catholic Church in the United States embraces the rich cultural pluralism of all the faithful, encourages the distinctive identity of each cultural group, and urges mutual enrichment. This course outlines how the Catholic Church promotes unity of faith within the multicultural diversity of the people

The Call to Holiness **10 hours**

This course is dedicated to educating participants in ways of fulfilling their call to holiness and helping others fulfill their call to holiness as well.

Vocation Awareness I **5 hours**

This course is designed to bring learners into a deeper appreciation for their own and others vocations. Whether a person is called to the priesthood, the religious life, single life, marriage, or even as a lay consecrated person, each person is called to love God and others with the gifts and talents that they have been given. Vocations are different ways of answering the call to God and others by participating in a process that is a lifelong dedication of service and love.

Church History

Saint Pope John Paul II **10 hours**

This course is designed to present the life and work of Saint Pope John Paul II with particular emphasis on his philosophical and theological contributions to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and their significance for contemporary Catholic education and formation. This course presents excerpts of the major writings of Saint Pope John Paul II in a topical fashion.

Church History **5 hours**

This course is meant to help catechists develop a synthetic unity of the historical development of the Church as it is always going ever deeper into the truth of Christ, with an understanding of the diverse cultures within.

Available online only-English only

Didache: The History of the Church **10 hours**

This comprehensive history of the Catholic Church includes every major event in the Church’s history from the life of her founder, Jesus Christ, to the present day. This course places the Church in her context throughout history.

Available online only-English only



Ecumenical Councils and Vatican II **5 hours**

The students will have a chance to deepen their overall knowledge and understanding of the story of the Catholic Church through its shaping and development in Ecumenical Councils. Students will be exposed not only to the developments of the Church through Vatican II, but also the councils of Nicea I, Constantinople I, Ephesus, Chalcedon, Constantinople II, Constantinople III and Nicea II. What ecumenical councils are, the important questions they addressed, and the answers they give are all subject matter for the course.

Lives of the Saints **10 hours**

This course is geared to expose the great heroes and heroines of the Church and reveal them as great models towards living our own paths towards love of man and God. It permits students to be both exposed to the basics of understanding why Catholics pray with the saints, as well as delve deeper into the lives of particular saints in an attempt to see their similarities and differences to aid us on our individual paths within the Church.

Marian Spirituality **5 hours**

Catechists are exposed to the beauty of the spiritual tradition within the Catholic Church about Mary, the Mother of God while building upon the previous Mariology course. Particular emphasis is given to Marian theologians, such as Blessed John Paul II, in order to expose the spiritual role, significance, and importance of Mary in light of the fundamental idea of “Ad Jesum Per Mariam,” or “To Jesus through Mary.”

Mariology **5 hours**

The main idea for this course is to expose catechists to the beauty of the theology and tradition within the Catholic Church about Mary, the Mother of God. This course is designed to cover the main theological concepts that surround the Blessed Mother in order to instill in others a proper devotion and respect for the “Theotokos” or “God-Carrier.”

Our Catholic Tradition **5 hours**

This course is designed to aid participants in understanding the significant role that Tradition

plays within the Catholic Faith and how both Scripture and Tradition, as the deposit of Faith, are meant to bring the faithful into an ever deepening relationship with the Trinity through Christ.

St. Paul: Defender of the Faith **5 hours**

This course provides learners with a chance to deepen their overall knowledge and passion for Saint Paul with emphasis upon his history, and his contributions to the teachings of Catholicism including his role in the New Testament Canon. We will focus on the main aspects of the Epistles of St. Paul, both historically and theologically. Students will be given an opportunity to read and discuss different texts after sections are explained in order to provide a deeper faith and understanding of the Saint Paul.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Adult Faith Formation **10 hours**

The seminar includes an introduction to Church documents on adult faith formation, including *Our Hearts Are Burning Within Us*, *The General Directory for Catechesis*, *The National Directory for Catechesis*, and *Sons and Daughters of the Light*. The topics of fostering mature faith, approaches to adult faith formation, how adults learn and the pivotal importance of the parish are included in this course.

Forming Parish Teams and Year Round Catechumenate **2 hours**

This workshop will focus on the various ways that members of a team can work cohesively. We will also explore the different ways to maintain a year-round catechumenate.

Introduction to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) **2 hours**

This workshop introduces the participant to the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) as a general overview of the entire catechumenal process. It is meant to equip new leaders or parish teams in understanding the RCIA.



Rite of Election and Mystagogy **2 hours**

This workshop will go over the entire celebration of the Rite of Election along with the ways in which neophytes can be sustained through their first year of being part of the Catholic Church.

Scripture

Didache: Our Moral Life in Christ **10 hours**

With particular emphasis on the Catechism of the Catholic Church and *Veritatis Splendor*, this course provides the formation necessary to live a moral life and a foundation to pursue advanced theological studies.

Available online only-English only

Liturgy **5 hours**

This course explores worship within the Catholic Church. It examines “culture” and its influence on the understanding and experience of the “holy” and “mystery” in Christian rite, time, and place.

New Testament Studies **10 hours**

The main idea for this course is to provide learners with a chance to deepen their overall knowledge and passion for the New Testament with emphasis upon the main teachings of Catholicism and how it incorporates Sacred Scripture as an essential aspect of the Faith. This course will focus on how the New Testament is broken up into different books and sections and what the main aspects are for each section both historically and theologically.

Available online only-English only

Old Testament Studies **10 hours**

The main idea for this course is to provide learners with a chance to deepen their overall knowledge and passion for the Old Testament with emphasis upon the main teachings of Catholicism and how it incorporates Sacred Scripture as an essential aspect of the Faith. This course will focus on how the Old Testament is broken up into different books and sections and what the main aspects are for each section both historically and theologically.

Available online only-English only

The Gospels **5 hours**

The main idea for this course is to provide the learner with a chance to deepen their overall knowledge and passion for the Gospels with particular emphasis upon the four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This course focuses on each of the four Gospels in turn while discussing each author’s literary styles, the nature of the synoptic Gospels, as well as coverage of particular texts that provide insight into both the history and theology of Catholicism.

Available online only-English only

The Revelation of God **10 hours**

This course is designed for learners to be able to take the more important concepts and ideas that are presented in the initial formation Creed course and develop them to a more profound level. The catechist will develop a deeper understanding of the theology of God, building upon previous knowledge and personal faith in light of the idea of God’s revelation. The problem of good and evil, as well as the Mystery of the Trinity, will be addressed to not only bring learners closer to God and the good but also to discuss different pedagogical methods for conveyance.

Available online only-English only

Scripture **10 hours**

This course on Sacred Scripture will give the learner an overview and introduction to this intriguing book; a book that has not only changed the world but is also given a divine role to play in each of our lives. The Scripture course is filled with rich detail, inspirational imagery, engaging interactions, and over 60 fantastic videos featuring Matthew Kelly.

Available online only-English only

Pastoral Studies

Catholic Identity **5 hours**

Certain characteristics must be present for a school to be considered authentically Catholic. This course explores those characteristics such as a supernatural vision, founded on Christian anthropology, animated by communion and community, imbued with a Catholic world view throughout its curriculum, and sustained by gospel witness.



Catholic Spirituality **10 hours**

The main idea for this course is to expose catechists to the historical, theological, and philosophical depth and beauty of Catholic spirituality. As the conversion of others is obtained by the personal practice and joy of the Faith this course has two main objectives:

- ✦ To aid catechists in understanding and becoming more spiritual and closer to God by teaching them different spiritual traditions and concepts.
- ✦ To aid catechists with the means necessary to teach proper Catholic spiritual practices to students eager to discover and express their love for God and from God properly.

Ecumenism **5 hours**

This course offers participants an explanation regarding how the Catholic Church views ecumenism and the purpose that ecumenism is meant to fulfill for God's people. Since the last century, it has been used to designate the call for the universal unity of the Christian Church, especially overcoming the divisions between East and West, and of the Reformation churches of the sixteenth century. This course evaluates both the proper and improper interpretive and practical aspects of ecumenism in order to aid participants in understanding and respecting other religions but not by decreasing the Truth of the Catholic Faith or holding truth as relative among all religions.

Pastoral Apologetics I **5 hours**

Pastoral Apologetics I explores the religious discipline of defending the Faith through systematic arguments. It aims to present historical, reasoned and evidential bases for the Christian Faith.

Pastoral Apologetics II **5 hours**

This course is designed to take participants even further than Apologetics I into proper knowledge and defense of the Catholic Faith. This course will first provide a basis for the Catholic doctrine of the Real Presence from the Old and New Testaments, early Church Fathers, and history. It will also provide practical ways to increase participants' knowledge and love of Christ in the Eucharist. This course will trace the roots of atheism and the

New Age movements while providing participants with knowledge of how to refute atheism with sound philosophy and common sense

The Church and Social Justice **5 hours**

This course explores Christian social teaching and its relationship to economic, political and cultural structures. The concept of the common good and the virtue of distributive justice will be emphasized.

Available online only-English only

The Three Great Monotheisms **10 hours**

The main idea for this course is to expose catechists to the historical, theological, and philosophical differences and similarities between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This course will review the main differences and similarities between the three religions so as to clarify the Catholic Faith and the faith of others. This course reveals the historical and scriptural continuity between these great religions in light of the theological and philosophical basis for the belief in one God.

Living Catholic **10 hours**

The online lessons of Living Catholic parallel the four parts of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: the Faith we profess (the Nicene Creed), the way we worship (the sacraments), the way we live (Christian morality), and the way we relate to God (prayer).

Available online only-English and Spanish

Marriage and Family Formation

Gospel of Life **5 hours**

This course offers participants an opportunity to look at one of St. Pope John Paul II's key encyclicals, *Evangelium Vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*). This encyclical is a "pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life!" *The Gospel of Life*, which is inseparable from the entire Gospel of Christ, is fundamental to the Church's mission to the world. This course examines the roots of human violence. It reviews the history of man created in the image of God. Using the encyclical as a guide, participants will address specific actions



against life such as abortion, euthanasia and the death penalty.

Introduction to Baptism **2 hours**

This workshop offers training and resources that can be utilized in parish baptismal preparation programs. This workshop focuses on the Theology of Baptism, the Rite of Baptism and models for parents' sessions. Individuals will have opportunity to engage in conversation with people from other parishes and deaneries and see what they are doing, as well as preview a sample PowerPoint presentation participants can start using at their local parishes.

Introduction to Natural Family Planning **2 hours**

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is an umbrella term for certain methods used to achieve and avoid pregnancies. NFP reflects the dignity of the human person within the context of marriage and family life, promotes openness to life, and recognizes the value of the child. By respecting the love-giving and life-giving natures of marriage, NFP can enrich the bond between husband and wife. This course will present the myths and realities of Natural Family Planning.

Marriage Ministry Overview **2 hours**

This course will provide the opportunity for married couples to acquire the necessary skills to become Pre-Cana facilitators. It will cover topics such as Communication in Marriage, Conflict Resolution, Morality and Decision Making, Living the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, Children: The Gift of New Life, and Sexual Intimacy. Participants will learn the requirements for Marriage in our Diocese, as well as a basic wedding liturgy planning. This course is open to couples already involved in Marriage Preparation Ministry at the Diocesan or parish level, as well as married couples recommended by their pastor for this specific ministry.

Sexuality in Marriage and Natural Family Planning **2 hours**

The course will examine sexuality within marriage. It will discuss the Church's teaching and history of Natural Family Planning. It will examine the Church's views on contraception from a historical

perspective, using especially Blessed Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae* and St. Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris Consortio*. This course presents what the Church teaches about married love and how it relates to Natural Family Planning.

Spirituality of the Married Couple **2 hours**

"Spirituality" is a way to live out one's religious beliefs. A spirituality of marriage, therefore, is a way to help husbands and wives live out the vocation of marriage in light of Faith. This course will present a distinctive marital spirituality that is sacramental, communitarian, and missionary. A marital spirituality shows how couples reveal Christ, build community, and reach out to others in love. It is a powerful way to describe how Catholic couples live out their vocation of married life.

Theology of the Body **10 hours**

This course explores St. Pope John Paul II's catechesis which is centered on the human person. The Pope discusses the bodily dimension of human personhood, sexuality, and marriage in the light of biblical revelation. Starting from three primordial human experiences — original solitude, original unity, and original nakedness — he outlines a theology of the nuptial meaning of the body.

Available online only-English only

Youth Formation

Adolescent Development & Culture **2 hours**

This course explores the various developmental needs and generational characteristics of younger and older adolescents. Who are the youth we serve? What do they value? We will explore some of the findings of the National Study of Youth & Religion (NSYR) as well as additional research.

Basic Youth Ministry **10 hours**

This course has the objective of revealing the ideas presented in *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*. It offers a leadership system with several roles to meet the needs of emerging leaders. The youth minister develops the leadership system and coordinates the variety of



people and programs. The coordination team is usually made up of youth and adults.

Best Practices in Youth Ministry 2 hours

Working in youth ministry, it is important to connect those who are veterans with those who are new to the ministry for discussions and sharing of ideas. This course allows for the sharing of ideas to best engage the teens of our Diocese.

Film and Media in Youth Ministry 2 hours

Film and media is an ever growing element of the new evangelization, offering powerful tools and mediums through which to reach out and convey the message of the Gospels. This course will also present and review numerous and diverse Catholic resources that are currently available.

Introduction to Adolescent Psychology 2 hours

The student will hear a brief account of developmental psychology to aid in reaching out to the youth and to better prepare ministers to identify and understand general differences between normal and abnormal psychological activity in teens. This is not a course geared at turning the students into psychologists, but one that is meant to aid in identifying basic issues that may need professional attention in the youth, how to appropriately deal with minor or major psychological outbursts professionally and lovingly, and to provide basic understanding of the neurological and cognitive functions of teenagers so it can more appropriately meet their needs.

Liturgy Preparation for Youth Ministry 2 hours

The main idea for this course is to present a brief overview of the Catholic Church's understanding and love for liturgy. This will be done to set the foundations for a more specific conversation regarding proper and improper liturgy in the eyes of the church and how to prepare and incorporate the youth faithful into full participation of worship and liturgical services.

Praise and Worship in Youth Ministry 2 hours

As we look to engage our young Church, it is important to know how to use various forms of prayer to bring them into a personal encounter

with the risen Lord. This course will instruct youth ministers how to use praise and worship music as a form of prayer, in both liturgical and non-liturgical settings

Preparing Teens for Confirmation 2 hours

In this session, we will look at the best methods on how to ensure that the confirmation candidates are ready to complete their initiation to the Catholic Church. In addition, resources will be shared to show the different available teaching aids for this important moment in a young person's life.

Retreats for Youth Ministry 2 hours

In light of our youths' ever growing need for spiritual reflection and private personal development towards Christ, retreats are the perfect medium to provide such progress in their lives. Retreats are therefore an integral part of the New Evangelization and the call to constant conversion. This course is about conveying the nature and purpose of retreats and addressing questions concerning how to use retreats in youth ministry effectively to bring our faithful youth ever closer to Jesus Christ.

Theology of the Body for Teens 2 hours

This course explores St. Pope John Paul II's catechesis which is centered on the human person, understood within the mystery of Christ. The Pope discusses the bodily dimension of human personhood, sexuality, and marriage in the light of biblical revelation. A key theme is the communion of persons, a reflection of the Trinity. The Pope also considers the meaning of chastity for the sake of the kingdom. This course is adapted for and designed to present the main ideas of Theology of the Body for ministry with teenagers.

Using the Bible in Youth Ministry 2 hours

This course is a presentation and conversation on how to integrate the rich and beautiful Catholic tradition of Sacred Scripture into the hearts of the young faithful in our care. This course will review basic Catholic teaching regarding the Bible and discuss ways to get the youth faithful to seriously engage, read, and integrate the Bible into their personal lives. Different methods on how to achieve this will be presented and discussed.



Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative

Principles of Youth Ministry 7 hours

Principles of Youth Ministry presents the foundational understandings and principles for developing an effective, comprehensive ministry with young and older adolescents. It examines the dynamics of promoting healthy adolescent development and faith growth. It presents the vision and principles for comprehensive youth ministry and a model for developing comprehensive youth ministry which incorporates developmentally appropriate youth programming, strengthens family life, involves young people as integral members of the faith community, and collaborates with civic organizations in a common effort to promote positive youth development.

Practices of Youth Ministry 7 hours

Practices of Youth Ministry explores the development of comprehensive youth ministry through the collaborative sharing of the resources in the community. Rooted in a theological and pastoral vision of community life, this course develops foundational understandings that will assist leaders in setting and implementing a vision for dynamic ministry with youth. This will include skills for advocacy, planning and organizing youth ministry efforts. Methods for collaborative leadership among ministries and within ministry teams will also be developed.

Foundations of Ministry Leadership 7 hours

Foundations of Ministry Leadership explores the theology, principles, and practices of effective leadership in Christian ministry. Participants explore current leadership concepts and approaches, as well as Christian perspectives on leadership. Participants also learn how to empower individuals and teams of leaders for ministry with youth. The course combines theory presentation with experiential learning as participants explore (a) leadership theory and an assessment of styles for effective leadership; (b) theological and pastoral foundations for understanding leadership and empowerment; and (c) processes and tools for inviting, preparing and nurturing adult and youth leaders in ministry.

Skills for Christian Leadership 7 hours

Skills for Christian Leadership addresses the theories and skills needed for principle-centered leadership in ministry. Participants will develop a practical, working understanding of leadership process and skills and the experiential ability to use the skills. The course stresses the application of leadership skills to various ministry settings, problems, and issues.

Principles of Lifelong Faith Formation 7 hours

Principles of Lifelong Faith Formation presents the foundations and principles for developing effective lifelong catechesis with people of all ages in the parish community. It offers a vision for catechesis which is rooted in Church documents and Tradition. The current context for faith formation in the 21st century will also be explored, along with models for effective parish catechesis. Particular attention will be paid to the development of catechesis with families, children, youth, young adults and adults—in other words, with all ages and stages.

Practices of Lifelong Faith Formation 7 hours

Practices of Lifelong Faith Formation explores the development of comprehensive ministry through the collaborative sharing of the resources in the community. Rooted in a theological and pastoral vision of community life, this course develops foundational understandings that will assist leaders in setting and implementing a vision for dynamic ministry and faith formation. This includes skills for advocacy, planning, and organizing ministry efforts. Methods for collaborative leadership among ministries and within ministry teams will also be developed.

Pastoral Care 7 hours

Pastoral Care explores the principles and methods of caring for young people from various cultures and for their families. The course develops an understanding of the breadth and depth of pastoral care, of family systems and adolescent development, and of the role that cultural identity plays in the development of adolescents. The goal is two-fold: (a) to promote healthy adolescent development from a pastoral care perspective, and (b) to



develop preventative interventions for families with adolescents.

Evangelization and Catechesis 7 hours

Evangelization and Catechesis develops the foundations and practices for nurturing faith growth and Catholic identity in young and older adolescents through evangelization and catechesis. Participants will explore a variety of ways to learn about and from Jesus and how to promote a living relationship with Jesus in the lives of adolescents. They will examine a contemporary approach to developing Catholic identity and Catholic practices in the lives of adolescents today. Participants will experience and analyze the “postmodern” culture and develop strategies for faith formation with adolescents in a postmodern world. They will learn creative approaches for evangelization and catechesis and develop skills and methods for evangelizing and catechizing adolescents.

Prayer and Worship 7 hours

Prayer and Worship investigates the foundational role that prayer and worship have in fostering the spiritual growth of youth. Participants develop understandings and practical skills necessary for: (a) preparing liturgy and worship experiences, (b) fostering the prayer life of youth and preparing prayer services, and (c) understanding the role of youth retreat experiences. Participants will apply these understandings by developing a realistic and integrated approach to worship within a comprehensive ministry to youth.

Justice and Service 7 hours

Justice and Service explores the foundations for fostering a justice and service consciousness and spirituality in youth drawn from Scripture, Catholic social teaching, adolescent development, and contemporary catechetical principles. It develops skills for creating integrated, action-learning models for the justice and service component of a comprehensive youth ministry.

Planning and Implementing Lifelong Catechesis 7 hours

Planning and Implementing Lifelong Catechesis develops the skills needed for development of dynamic catechesis with people of all ages in a parish setting. The course will engage participants in looking at the content of catechesis, fashioning a lifelong faith formation curriculum, teaching for discipleship, and placing catechesis within the context of evangelization. Participants will also be prepared to attend to the pastoral care dimension of catechesis with children, youth, adults and families.

Catechetical Leadership

Adults interested in the following courses may also be interested in participating in the Holy Spirit Institute for Service and Leadership.

Catechesis and Changing Technology 5 hours

This course will help identify the context of rapid technological advances in the Third Millennium. You will explore what a Catechetical Leader needs to know about technology. We will present five key aspects of a competent leadership, and identify and select ten of the most important leadership qualities and management skills for a catechetical leader.

Catechesis and Cultural Realities in our Changing Landscape 5 hours

In this course, we will identify what is meant by culture. Culture defines the values, beliefs and traditions and ways of life of a group of people in a particular time and place. We will identify some of the implications of diversity. Diversity is the condition of having or being composed of differing elements or characteristics. We will suggest ways the Catechetical Leaders can support the evangelizing role of family life and culture.



**Catechesis as a Moment
in the Process of Evangelization**

5 hours

In this course, we will review the meaning of Evangelization and explore the relationship between evangelization and catechesis. We will identify some of the challenges of “changing parishes” for pastors and their catechetical leaders, and discern and formulate components for a renewed model of an evangelizing catechesis in parish life and worship.

**Communication and Listening Skills
for Pastoral Leaders**

6 hours

This workshop will explore the process of communication, from the sender who speaks the message, to the receiver who interprets it. Included are verbal and non-verbal aspects of communication, tips for effective communication, empathic listening skills—listening to understand, and receptor-oriented communication with regard to intercultural communication.

Leadership as Service

6 hours

This workshop will explore the three S’s of the leadership challenge: service, style, and situation. It will assist learners in articulating their own understanding of leadership and leadership style. This exploration will be grounded in theological reflection on our call to ministry and Jesus as servant leader.

Liturgical Planning

10 hours

Using the General Instruction of the Roman Missal as a guide, the students will develop an understanding and appreciation for working collaboratively in creating meaningful liturgies and prayer services.

Ministry of Consolation

10 hours

This seminar covers meeting with the family of the deceased in preparation for vigil service and Mass of Christian Burial, preparing and leading a vigil service, preparing for the Mass of Christian Burial and formation of a parish team to serve in the ministry.

Pastoral Care Formation

10 hours

The seminar will review scripture passages related to the healing ministry of Jesus, setting boundaries for visiting the sick and home-bound, the ritual for bringing communion to the home-bound or to persons in nursing homes and the stages of dying.

**Preparing and Leading Prayer
and Ritual in the Parish Setting**

6 hours

This workshop will help participants understand the movements of prayer and their preferred prayer styles, so that they may more effectively lead others in prayer. Elements, requirements, themes and formats including the multicultural dimensions will be presented.

Self-Care of the Pastoral Minister

6 hours

This workshop will help participants reflect on their current ministry experience and how they can take care of themselves so that they can be of service to God’s people. Included will be input on time-management techniques, the importance of thinking positively and the influence of personal perceptions.

Social Justice Ministry

10 hours

This seminar begins with a definition of social justice ministry in the parish context as rooted in scripture and the baptismal call to ministry. The development and major themes of Catholic Social Teaching are presented.

The Organizational Leader

6 hours

This workshop will explore leadership in the context of facilitating effective meetings, utilizing a group dynamic exercise to set the stage for discussing: how to run a meeting, understanding group dynamics, and working with volunteers.



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 unfailingly 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 5. 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 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



BUILDING ON THE SUCCESSES OF THE PASTORAL INSTITUTE

Building on the successes of the former Pastoral Institute of the last fifty years of lay leadership formation in the Diocese in Brooklyn and Queens,

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.

Please go to www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/get-involved/holy-spirit-institute/ to find out more about the Holy Spirit Institute in English and Spanish.

Creole Pastoral Institute

The Diocesan Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis is attentive to the pastoral needs of the Creole speaking population of this Diocese and promotes a special program called *Kolèj Pastoral*.

The program has been in existence for twenty seven years, and the purpose is to provide a thorough biblical and doctrinal formation in the Catholic Faith. The Bible is studied systematically. First, a general introduction to the history of the Bible is given, then many books are studied one after the other.

Particular emphasis is given to the following books of the Bible:

- Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Samuel, Kings, Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Hosea, and Maccabees.
- New Testament: the four gospels, the Book of Acts, the Epistles of St Paul, and Hebrews.

In the area of doctrine, all the tenets of the Creed are scrutinized. The Sacraments are also studied in detail. Some Papal documents such as *Rerum Novarum*, *Quadragesimo Anno*,

Populorum Progressio, and the documents of the Second Vatican Council are also studied.

Every class has prayer session and a half hour conference on current issues. Lunch can be purchased.

The program spans over three years. Classes are given on Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm on a total of fourteen Saturdays from the end of September through June. As a rule, five days of class are given every second Saturday from September to December; five from January to Easter, and four from Easter to June. Classes are never held on two Saturdays in a row.

After two years a certificate is given, and after three years a diploma is presented to those who successfully complete the program. A yearly weekend retreat is also part of the program.



Photo courtesy of The Tablet



Department for Marriage, Family Formation, and Respect Life Education

We must be grateful that most people do value family relationships that are permanent and marked by mutual respect. They appreciate the Church's efforts to offer guidance and counseling in areas related to growth in love, overcoming conflict and raising children. Many are touched by the power of grace experienced in sacramental Reconciliation and in the Eucharist, grace that helps them face the challenges of marriage and the family.

#38, POST-SYNODAL APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION
AMORIS LAETITIA, POPE FRANCIS

OVERVIEW

Marriage Ministry offers practical ways to live out God's perspective for the Sacrament of Matrimony and family life. Ideally, parishes and deaneries should be the places that revitalize good marriages and help renew hurting marriages to keep them healthy and strong. The Diocesan coordinator of Marriage Ministry is available to assist in developing any or all of the initiatives in Marriage Ministry.

Marriage Ministry can be divided into several phases:

- Marriage Preparation
- Marriage Enrichment
- Marriage Support
- Infant Baptismal Preparation

Marriage Preparation

It is important to prepare, not just for the special day of your wedding, but for a marriage that will last a lifetime. In the Catholic Church, Holy Matrimony is a sacrament. The wedding is not only a very special day for the couple, but it is also a sacred event for the entire Church. The Church wants to be part of this wonderful celebration.

Introduction to Pre-Cana at [dioceseofbrooklyn.org/marriage/ marriage-and-family/](http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/marriage/marriage-and-family/)

This Diocesan Marriage and Family website provides an opportunity for couples to become familiar with what Pre-Cana is and the reason why you attend a marriage preparation program. You are directed to register online for the Diocesan program you wish to attend at bqonlinefaithformation.org/precana

The registration fee is \$150.00 per couple; however, grants are available through our office for those in financial need. No couple is ever turned away due to financial limitations. Please contact us to make the appropriate arrangements. If you do not have internet access, call us and we will mail you a printed copy of the information and the registration form.

Marriage Preparation Program Registration Information

There are several options of marriage preparation in our Diocese. Some classes are held at parishes throughout the Diocese, and others at our Diocesan centers.

Option 1. Weekend Pre-Cana Classes All Day Saturday (9:00 AM—5:00 PM)

Engaged couples will gather to discuss several topics, all presented in the context of the life experience by a qualified, married couple. The topics discussed during the Saturday Pre-Cana may include the following: Communication, Self Awareness, Morality in Marriage, Living the Sacrament of Matrimony, Intimacy and Sexuality, Natural Family Planning, and Wedding Liturgy Planning. After each talk, couples will work on some of the exercises in the workbook. Couples will discuss their answers together. This will provide the opportunity to reflect and share thoughts on each topic and work on any areas of concern. Provided are



continental breakfast, lunch, and all the necessary materials. The Pre-Cana program is available in English, Spanish, Italian, Polish, and Creole.

For further information or to register, go to www.bqonlineformation.org/precana. If you do not have internet access, call the office at 718-281-9540 to obtain a printed copy of the information and the registration form.

Option 2. The Engaged Encounter Weekend Retreat

This is an overnight program that begins on Friday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. The retreat is Catholic in orientation, but is open to couples of any faith. The engaged couple will have the opportunity to reflect honestly and in-depth about their future life together, and to build a strong foundation for their marriage.

For further information or to register, please call 718-253-2983, email paulmoses@optonline.net, or log onto <http://engagedencounter.org/>

Option 3. Weekday Evenings Pre-Cana Classes

Classes are from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM on a week-night for several consecutive weeks; attendance at all sessions is **required**. The sessions are presented by a qualified married couple, and the small group setting allows for sharing on topics such as: Communication, Self Awareness, Morality in Marriage, Living the Sacrament of Matrimony, Intimacy and Sexuality, Natural Family Planning, and Wedding Liturgy Planning.

For further information, please call 718-281-9540 or email precana@diobrook.org

FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory

FOCCUS stands for Facilitate Open, Caring Communication, Understanding, and Study. The FOCCUS inventory is a 156-item questionnaire designed to help engaged couples appreciate their unique relationship, learn more about themselves, and discuss topics important to their lifelong marriage.

The inventory is designed to help couples learn more about themselves and their unique relationship. It is not a test nor meant as a predictor of success or failure in marriage. It is a tool to help couples name and work through issues before marriage. After the inventory has been completed by the couple, a trained facilitator (which can be a priest, deacon, or trained layperson) will generate a personalized couple's report; this will guide the follow-up discussion with the couple on topics important to their specific situation. The FOCCUS inventory assesses nineteen different categories to help couples sort the challenges and strengths they are bringing into their marriage. For more information call 718-281-9540 or email precana@diobrook.org

Natural Family Planning

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is an umbrella term for certain methods used to achieve and avoid pregnancies; it is a holistic approach to family planning. NFP is not the "Rhythm" (or Calendar) method. Today's methods of NFP are based on scientific research and they are effective, they cooperate with God's plan for marriage and sexuality, and they strengthen the marital relationship. In addition to the NFP introductory session offered to engaged couples during their Pre-Cana class, we offer a separate NFP introductory overview class open to all catechetical leaders through the Living and Leading by Faith Catechist Formation Program. We also offer training in the Billings Ovulation Method™ to married couples. Please email us at precana@diobrook.org or call 718-281-9540 to register.

Marriage Enrichment

A healthy marriage reflects the nature of Christ and His relationship toward us, His Church. It provides a secure foundation for all other relationships, it is a source of stability and perspective, and it provides the ideal setting for children to attain family values and to receive their initial faith formation. Cultivating marriages is one of the most powerful ways to foster parish life, as St. John Paul II said in his Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris Consortio*: "The future of humanity passes by the way of the family." (FC86)



Marital support exists to help hurting couples to heal and renew their relationship. The specific focus for these couples is on repairing the foundation of their marriage. To provide this outreach effectively, multiple resources are utilized to appropriately cover the couple's specific areas of need.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends

Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers an overnight weekend experience designed to give married couples the opportunity to learn a technique of loving communication that they can use for the rest of their lives. The weekend provides an environment conducive for couples to spend time together, away from the distractions and tensions of every-day life, while encouraging them to focus on each other and their relationship. It is presented by three married couples and a priest, and is available in English and Spanish. For more information, log-on to: In English: www.wwme.org or call 1(877) 697-9936. En español: www.nycemm.com o llamas (718) 381-3661 o email nycemm@live.com

World Marriage Day

World Marriage Day is celebrated the second Sunday in February and honors the Sacrament of Matrimony; husband and wife united in Christ as the head of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice, and joy in married life. In our Diocese, many parishes and deaneries have made this day an annual celebration to support married couples in their local communities. While each parish or congregation may customize the fine points, a basic event includes a Eucharistic celebration with the renewal of wedding vows. Our office provides a sample prayer service and liturgy for World Marriage Day as well as other suggestions for this celebration in English and Spanish.



Photo courtesy of The Father

Contact your parish for details regarding their local celebration.

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration

In an effort to reach out to families and to support the sacrament of marriage, an Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration is held annually to celebrate all anniversaries, but especially milestone anniversaries like 25, 50, 75 or above years of marriage. Couples who attend have the opportunity of being greeted by the Bishop — usually Bishop DiMarzio — and take a commemorative picture with him. There is a reception with light refreshments following the Mass. It is usually held in the spring every year. For more information, call 718-281-9540 or email precana@diobrook.org.

Retrouvaille

This overnight weekend experience provides help for troubled marriages. The word Retrouvaille simply means “rediscovery.” Thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending this program. For more information please call 718-281-9540 or 1- 800-470-2230.

Beginning Experience

This overnight weekend experience provides help for individuals suffering the heartache of divorce, separation, and widowhood. For information and reserva-



tions, call Jim at 718-474-3779, visit the website www.beginningexperience.org, or call 718-281-9540.

Respect Life Ministry

Respect Life Ministry upholds the sanctity and dignity of all human life from conception to natural death. To fulfill this vision, we rely on information and direction from the Bishops' Pro-Life Office and the USCCB's annual Respect Life Program.

Respect Life Ministry can be divided into three areas:

Education: An educational/public information effort to inform, clarify and deepen understanding of the basic issues concerning pro-life activities.

Pastoral: A pastoral effort addressed to the specific needs of women with problems related to pregnancy and to those who have had or have taken part in an abortion.

Public Policy: (This area is under the direction of Msgr. Kieran Harrington, Vicar for Communications, through the Office of Government Affairs/DeSales Media in the Diocese of Brooklyn) A public policy effort directed toward the legislative, judicial and administrative areas so as to insure effective legal protection for the right to life.

The Diocesan director of Respect Life Education is available to assist in the education of the faithful in respect life issues at the parish or organizational level.

Education

USCCB Annual Respect Life Program

Our office provides support and resources to parishes to implement the annual Respect Life Program which begins on Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday in October. Every parish receives the annual Respect Life Program packet that the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities publishes each year to call attention to numerous human life issues. The Respect Life Program is highlighted in liturgies and marked by special events; these materials are especially helpful

for clergy and lay leaders. For more information, call 718-281-9544.

Gospel of Life Course

This course is based on the USCCB's Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities. It is meant to be an introduction to Respect Life Ministry and it presents a broad view of the Church teaching on the dignity of the human person in the areas of abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, in-vitro fertilization, natural family planning, as well as any other pertinent Pro-Life issue. This class is open to all catechetical leaders through the Living and Leading by Faith Catechist and Catechetical Leader Faith Formation Program. Please check the schedule for offerings.

March For Life Grant

The March for Life grant is available for Catholic parishes and Catholic schools in the Diocese of Brooklyn who wish to apply for a subsidy to help offset the cost of chartering a bus or multiple buses to bring parishioners or students to attend the March for Life in Washington, DC. A Catholic organization sponsored by a parish may also apply for funding through this grant (i.e. Knights of Columbus council, etc.). For more information, call 718-281-9544.

Pastoral

Rachel's Helpers

There is hope after abortion. Are you burdened with memories of your abortion? Do you suffer with flashbacks? Take this opportunity to experience a beautiful plan of healing by sharing with others in a very sensitive manner with prayer and scripture reflections. This will help foster the joy of healing in the mercy of Christ. Your experience is completely confidential. The Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis sponsors a Post-Abortion Bible Study program, called Forgiven and Set Free, for women who have had an abortion and are seeking a spiritual healing from this experience. Please call 347-702-2352 (all calls are confidential).



Mass of Remembrance and Healing for Pregnancy and Infant Loss

The Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis will sponsor a Mass of Remembrance and Healing for Pregnancy and Infant Loss during the month of October. A special invitation is extended to parents, grandparents and siblings who grieve the death of children as a result of miscarriage, stillbirth, abortion or early infant death. These losses may be recent or extend over many years. For more information, call 718-281-9540 or email crada@diobrook.org

Family Faith Formation

The Catholic Church has historically been an advocate for strong family life. In keeping with this role, the Diocesan Coordinator of Family Life is available to assist in developing any or all of the initiatives in Family Ministry. Family Ministry is committed to placing the Christian family at the center of the Church's work and worship because the family is the basic foundation of both Church and society. It offers spiritual, educational, supportive and remedial programs to families. Family Ministry intends to be the model for family life ministries in parishes, and at the same time, provides pastoral ministers and family life resources for the parishes to implement programs. Family Ministry provides occasions of prayer and celebration in a familial setting by working with different lay ecclesial communities.

Family Catechesis Initiative

Families are invited to register with our office and receive monthly family Faith Formation activities to do at the home via email and text. For more information, call 718-281-9540 or email crada@diobrook.org

Catechesis for Human Sexuality— Family Life Initiative

Parents are the first and most important educators of their children. They clearly educate by word and example, and their role is irreplaceable. Many Catholic parents and guardians look to the religious education

programs and resources of the Catholic academy, parish school, and parish religious education programs for assistance, particularly in the areas of education in human sexuality and family life.

For this reason, the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis has prepared a Curriculum Guide of standards and outcomes for parents, catechists and students. The purpose of this Curriculum Guide is to offer an understanding of basic life issues that is consistent with Catholic teaching. For example, family and sexuality education in a Catholic context seeks to foster family values, to promote the right to life and the dignity of each human person, to stress the importance of wholesome relationships and personal responsibility, to teach the value of conscience formation, and to give inspiration for living lives that are moral and chaste. The resource that has been chosen is the RCL-Benziger Family Life Program. In addition to each parish and school/academy which uses this resource, you can find information by going to www.rclbenziger.com and selecting Family Life.

Infant Baptism Preparation

Parents are the first evangelizers of their children; however, they can't give what they don't have. It is crucial that parents are catechized, evangelized, and equipped properly so that they can pass on their faith to their children. We offer Infant Baptismal Preparation workshops in English and Spanish. These workshops provide instruction for the parish's baptismal team members on the basics of Infant Baptism. They also provide practical ideas on how to use the preparation session with the parents and godparents as an evangelization opportunity. Participants receive resources that can be utilized in their parish's infant baptismal preparation program to assist parents in becoming the first evangelizers of their children and godchildren. This workshop is open to members of the parish baptismal teams through the Living and Leading by Faith Catechist Formation Program. Please check the schedule for offerings.



Department for Youth and Young Adult Faith Formation

It is both a joy and a sacred responsibility to accompany young people on their journey of faith and discernment. Young people are more receptive to a “literature of life” than an abstract theological discourse; are conscious and receptive and are also committed to being actively engaged in the world and in the Church. To that end, it is important to understand how young people perceive faith and vocation, and the challenges facing their discernment.

SYNOD OF BISHOPS
XV ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
YOUNG PEOPLE, THE FAITH AND VOCATIONAL
DISCERNMENT, PRE-SYNODAL MEETING
FINAL DOCUMENT

Young Adult Faith Formation

OVERVIEW

The Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis offers support to parishes who wish to minister to Catholic young adults (ages 18-39). Using the document issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) *Sons and Daughters of Light*, we work to help parishes reach the following goals:

- Goal One: Connecting Young Adults with Jesus Christ
- Goal Two: Connecting Young Adults with the Church
- Goal Three: Connecting Young Adults with the Mission of the Church in the World
- Goal Four: Connecting Young Adults with a Peer Community

To accomplish these four goals, parishes are encouraged to provide events and activities to engage young adults in the following categories:

- Service: Opportunities that allow them to help others both inside and outside the parish. With today’s growing digital world, we are more of a global community and there are many more

opportunities to connect and to get involved in some way.

- Spiritual: Opportunities for Young Adults to gather and experience God.
- Serious: Gatherings and events can be more than just reasons to catch up with friends. Stimulating and intellectual conversations will provide a foundation for those who are looking to deepen their faith life.
- Social: Opportunities to come together in fellowship. This is a component that is sometimes overlooked, seen as not truly engaging young adults into the life of the parish; however it is where a lot of the relationships for the ministry take place.

DIOCESAN OFFERINGS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap is a national initiative provided through Renew International and is an invitation for young adults to learn more about the Catholic Faith and to share in the Catholic community, and serves as a springboard for other young adult initiatives.

In the Diocese of Brooklyn, these events are held periodically throughout the fall and spring in locations in both Brooklyn and Queens.

Young Adult Masses

Catholic young adults are often looking for a worship community with peers. The Diocesan Young Adult Mass allows for young adults to gather for worship and fellowship/socializing with other young adults.

Young Adult Day of Reflection

The Diocese offers annual opportunities for young adults to share in a day of reflection. These days will allow for spiritual growth for Catholic young adults.



Grilling With God

This is an opportunity for young adults to spend time together in prayer and discussion. Beginning with a Holy Hour, the event is followed by a BBQ with a presentation from a guest speaker and ends with Q&A sessions and discussions.

Young Adult Bible Study

To foster community and faith sharing, bible studies are offered as a way for young adults to learn more about scripture and build their community.

Midnight Run

This is a service opportunity where young adults feed and clothe the homeless in New York City.

For current information, please consult www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org

Youth Faith Formation

OVERVIEW

The Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis seeks to fully form people from all stages of life in the true faith in Jesus Christ. Today, many excellent resources are available to assist in the work of evangelizing and catechizing our young people, their parents, family members, and those who aid in their education and formation. As part of our developing Diocesan plan for youth and young adults titled *So, Be Bold!*, we are drawing on the information and research found in these documents:

- *Renewing the Vision*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1997
- *The Joy of Adolescent Catechesis*, A Publication of the Partnership on Adolescent Catechesis, 2017
- *The Art of Forming Young Disciples*, Everett Fritz, Sophia Institute Press, 2018

We have identified and adopted six priorities to be addressed on both the local level and the Diocesan level. The first five priorities are found in *The Joy of Adolescent Catechesis*.

- Empowering parents and faith-filled families
- Creating vibrant, youth friendly parishes
- Forming fruitful partnerships
- Engaging in comprehensive ministry to youth with intentional and systematic faith formation
- Developing an environment of inclusion, trust, and acceptance

An additional priority has been added:

- Recognizing Confirmation preparation as an integral part of a comprehensive approach to youth ministry

Links to additional resources including videos, events, courses, workshops, conventions, etc. are available on our web page www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org to assist in the implementation of these priorities locally.

Saint Pope John Paul II tells us that “Catechesis cannot be dissociated from the Church’s pastoral and missionary activity as a whole.” The entire parish community is faced with the task of ministering to youth. The comprehensive ministry approach includes a variety of roles:

- Pastor/Administrator: spiritual, liturgical, and administrative leader
- Youth Minister: the facilitator for parish ministries for youth
- Youth Ministry Coordinating Team: youth and adults who organize the programs and initiatives
- Program Leaders: adults and youth who lead specific programs and ministry strategies
- Supporting Role Leaders: adults and youth who provide support for youth ministry through a variety of roles including clerical, hospitality, transportation, etc.

Contact your pastor/administrator to get involved.



DIOCESAN OFFERINGS FOR YOUTH MINISTERS, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

The Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative (CYMI) provides parishes and groups of parishes with a paid and trained Coordinator of Youth Ministry.

If you wish to find out more about the Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative, please contact Lucia Morales, Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative Specialist, 718-965-7300 ext. 5418.

Diocesan Confirmation Retreats are offered as a service to the parishes. This day includes Mass with the Diocesan Vocation Director with a vocation talk after Mass, a Confirmation workshop facilitated by a trained retreat leader, lunch, and holy hour with an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Catholic High School Confirmation takes place annually. The staff of the Secretariat assists in the planning of these celebrations.

Catholic High School Leadership Day brings together student leaders from Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Brooklyn for leadership training.

Strong Catholic Families is a collaborative effort by four national Catholic organizations to assist in envisioning how the Catholic Church can more effectively partner with parents and other family members to help bring home the Faith.

Youth Ministry Convocations are held twice a year. These gatherings are opportunities for youth ministers to come together, hear presentations about their ministry, and to obtain resources.

Catholic High School Gatherings are held twice a year to allow our high school chaplains, campus ministers and religion chairpersons to gather to share best practices and learn more about the Diocesan and national programs for the high schools. A third meeting, with a slightly different focus, is held every Summer.

College Campus Minister Gatherings are held four times a year. The College Campus Ministers meet to

share experiences and discuss collaborative ways to best meet the needs of college students in Brooklyn and Queens.

Young Adult Minister Gatherings bring together young adult ministry leaders from around the Diocese of Brooklyn for opportunities to share best practices, learn about Diocesan updates, and participate in an in-service training.

Junior High School Rally gathers students from the Catholic academies and parish schools for a program which includes retreat activities, a keynote presentation and a Mass. This event occurs several times during the academic year.

Brooklyn and Queens Diocesan Catholic Youth Day helps to engage parish youth programs that minister to junior high and high school aged teens. There are separate tracks for different age groups. The day includes Mass with a bishop, a keynote, praise and worship music, adoration and fellowship.

Brooklyn and Queens Catholic Youth College Night occurs annually and gathers Catholic college students for an evening of confessions, Mass with a bishop, a keynote, and fellowship.

Diocesan Confirmation Retreats are offered for those in junior high school or high school who are preparing for Confirmation.

Holy Hour and Fellowship for Vocations is an opportunity for teens from Brooklyn and Queens to join in prayer, with adoration, contemporary music, and fellowship.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry is sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. The National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM) is the largest conference in the country for adults who minister to and with Catholic youth. Join thousands of your



colleagues—youth and campus ministers, religious education leaders, clergy and religious, young adult ministers, performers, artists and volunteers—for three days of inspiring keynotes, challenging workshops, dynamic prayer and worship, extensive networking, hundreds of resource exhibits, and good-hearted entertainment.

World Youth Day (WYD) is a worldwide encounter with the Pope typically celebrated every three years in a different country. The staff of the Secretariat works with the Diocesan Pilgrimage Office to plan and organize the Diocesan group for WYD. As part of the preparations, there are formation events geared to engage the pilgrims to build relationships and prepare them for their WYD experience. In addition to our gathered meetings, monthly email blasts are sent to group leaders with updated information as well as resources to prep their parish groups for this experience.

Continuing the Journey is a weekend long adult conference for all those that minister and work with youth - Catechists, Youth Ministers, Volunteers, Priests, Consecrated Life, and Campus Ministers.

Steubenville NYC Youth Conference takes place annually on the campus of St. John's University in Queens, New York. The 105-acre Queens campus offers a traditional university environment in the world's most dynamic city. The event strengthens and inspires teens in their journey to Christ. Evangelistic in nature, these weekend conferences are both a great "introduction" to the Gospel message for new or younger teens, while offering deep and moving experiences of prayer and fellowship for even your Youth Group regulars.

National Catholic Youth Conference is an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones. The schedule includes keynote addresses and workshop sessions addressing a wide variety of topics. There are also opportunities for Mass, reconciliation, prayer and worship, recreation, and special activities such as concerts, exhibits, and the interactive thematic park.

NCYC is open to high school age young people and their chaperones. Many youth participants are leaders in their local parishes, schools and/or Diocese, though many are just beginning to connect to their faith.

Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative (CYMI)

OVERVIEW

The Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis seeks to assist people of all ages in their faith formation. With a good vision, as well as good programming, parents, parishes, and the Diocese can reach out to the multicultural youth in grades six through twelve (ages 13-17) of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

The Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis, in conjunction with the Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens, sponsors the Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative (CYMI). The Initiative was formed in 2012 to provide parishes with financial and professional development resources to hire and support a Youth Minister. The professional development component includes initial and ongoing formation of the appointed youth minister and the youth ministry team. A parish, or groups of parishes from a deanery, may apply for inclusion into the Initiative by completing the application process, which is available to the Pastors. Those parishes and groups of parishes selected for the Initiative are responsible for selecting team members who will attend at least three professional development sessions each year for three years and other required meetings and events, as well as design and implement Catholic youth ministry programs in their designated parish or parishes.

Saint Pope John Paul II tells us that, "Catechesis cannot be dissociated from the Church's pastoral and missionary activity as a whole." As we strive to best serve the youth in our local parishes, we look to what the Bishops of the United States provide as guidelines for youth ministry. *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry* is the bishops' document for Catholic youth ministry in the United States. Here



we find detailed goals, themes, and components for effective youth ministry.

The entire parish community is faced with the task of ministering to youth. The comprehensive ministry approach includes a variety of roles:

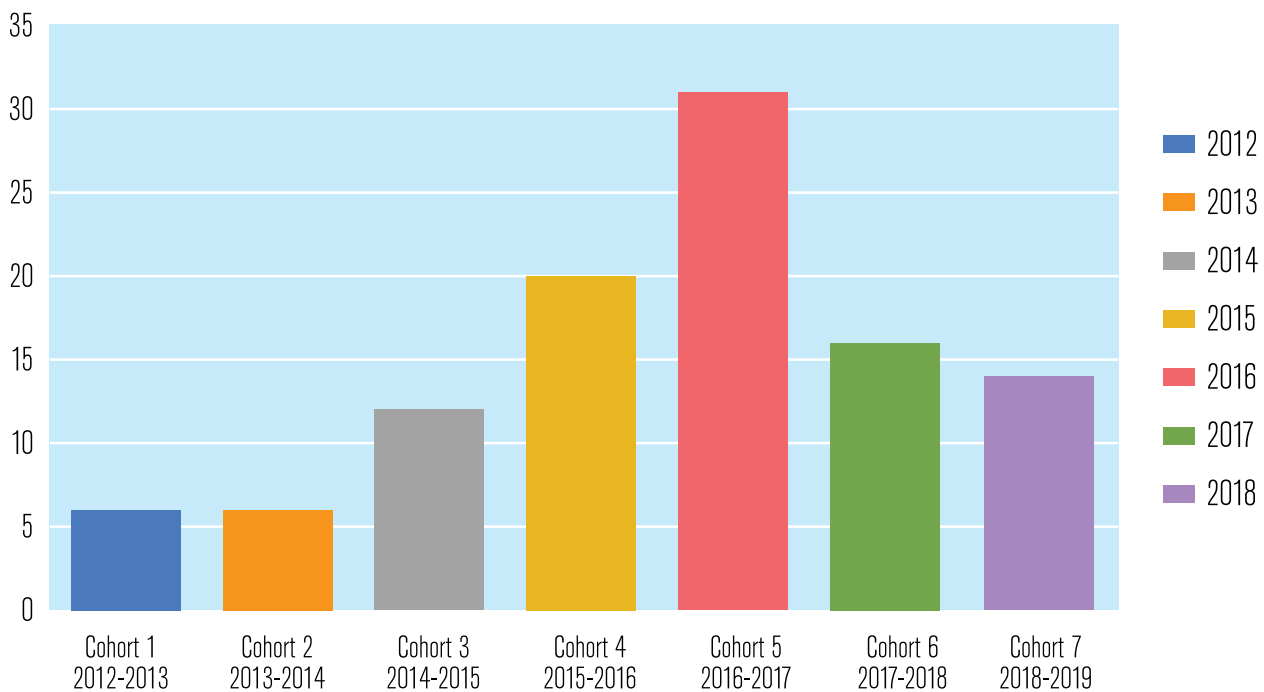
- Youth Minister: the facilitator for parish ministries for youth
- Youth Ministry Coordinating Team: youth and adults who organize the programs and initiatives

- Program Leaders: adults and youth who lead specific programs and ministry strategies
- Support Roles: adults and youth who provide support for youth ministry through a variety of roles including clerical support, hospitality, transportation, etc.

For further information on the program or application process, please contact Lucia Morales at 718.965.7300 ext. 5418, or email lmorales@diobrook.org.

See if your parish is involved with the Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative by checking the chart on the following page.

Parishes Involved in the Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative 2012–2018





Participating Parishes

COHORT 1 (ENTERED IN 2012 – 2013)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sacred Heart - St. Stephen	St. Margaret St. Mel	St. Paul - St. Agnes Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
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COHORT 2 (ENTERED IN 2013 – 2014)

Holy Trinity St. Augustine	St. Francis Assisi - St. Blaise St. Francis Xavier	St. Joseph St. Michael
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COHORT 3 (ENTERED IN 2014 – 2015)

Guardian Angel Immaculate Conception Incarnation Our Lady of Fatima	Our Lady of Mercy Our Lady Queen of Martyrs St. Bernard St. Joan of Arc	St. Margaret St. Mark-St. Margaret Mary St. Nicholas of Tolentine
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COHORT 4 (ENTERED IN 2015 – 2016)

All Saints Annunciation Our Lady of Grace Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Angels	Ss. Simon and Jude St. Adalbert St. Andrew Avellino St. Barbara St. Brigid St. Finbar	St. Gerard Majella St. Joseph Patron St. Kevin St. Martin of Tours St. Rosalia - Regina Pacis St. Teresa
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COHORT 5 (ENTERED 2016 – 2017)

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Blessed Sacrament Blessed Virgin Mary Help of Christians Divine Mercy Good Shepherd Holy Name of Jesus Mary Mother of Jesus Mary, Mother of the Church Our Lady Help of Christians Our Lady of Grace Our Lady of Solace	Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Resurrection Sacred Heart of Jesus St. Anastasia St. Athanasius St. Bartholomew St. Boniface St. Columba St. Dominic St. Ephrem St. Fortunata	St. Josaphat St. Joseph Co-Cathedral St. Martin de Porres St. Michael - St. Malachy St. Rita St. Rose of Lima St. Sebastian St. Sylvester St. Thomas Aquinas
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COHORT 6 (ENTERED IN 2017 – 2018)

Holy Child Jesus Holy Spirit Most Holy Trinity - St. Mary Most Precious Blood Our Lady of the Angelus	Our Lady of Hope Our Lady of Mercy Our Lady of Presentation St. Brendan St. Clare	St. Francis Cabrini St. Francis de Sales St. Matthias St. Therese of Lisieux
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COHORT 7 (ENTERED IN 2018-2019)

Holy Family Immaculate Heart of Mary Our Lady of Light Our Lady of Lourdes Sacred Heart of Jesus Ss. Peter and Paul - Epiphany	St. Agatha St. Bonaventure - St. Benedict Moor St. Laurence St. Pius V St. Pius X St. Raphael	St. Robert Bellarmine
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Other Groups

The Catholic Teachers Association

If you are a Catholic who teaches or serves as an administrator in a public school of New York City, please consider joining this association.

The Catholic Teachers Association:

- Helps foster the religious, professional, and social formation of its members.
- Furthers the moral and spiritual education of the children and youth in the schools of New York City.
- Develops effective communication with the Bishop, organizations of the Diocese, and with

all others having similar purposes and objectives.

- Informs the general public in matters affecting the welfare of the children and youth in the schools, of teachers and parents, and of the Church and society as a whole.
- Monitors and reacts to policies and issues regarding moral and spiritual values affecting the welfare of children.

Contact information:

Theodore Musco
Email: tmusco@diobrook.org

Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting

For information about Scouting for boys and girls, contact the following:

Catholic Committee on Scouting

Website: <http://ccosbq.org/>

Paul Stanton, Chairman
2 Hinckley Place, Apt. 1L
Brooklyn, NY 11218
Tel: 718-438-4575 (Home)
347-446-8608 (Cell)
Email: pdstanton@aol.com

Queens Scouting Chaplain

Deacon Vincent Lino
Saint Anastasia Church
45-14 245th Street
Douglaston, Queens, N.Y. 11362
718-423-2543 (H)
347-453-2543 (Cell)
Dcvin2015@gmail.com

Brooklyn Scouting Chaplain

Deacon James Noble
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
2805 Fort Hamilton Parkway
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218
718-871-1310 X 34 (Rectory)
718-854-8960 (Home)
917-882-3101 (Cell)
deaconJim@IHMBrooklyn.org

Greater New York Councils - Boy Scouts of America

General Information, contact 212-242-1100

Girl Scout Council of New York

General information, contact 212-645-4000.



Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis Major Events Calendar for 2018–2019

Information regarding each event is available at www.bqonlineinformation.org and posted on DioNet (First Class) throughout the year.

www.bqonlineinformation.org. Please register online unless otherwise instructed or contact the registrar if you do not have access to a computer.

All Living and Leading by Faith courses are listed on

All calendar dates and locations are subject to change.

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Session One: New or First Year Catechetical Leaders	Thursday September 6, 2018	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Creditable Catholic Training Sessions	Tuesday September 11, 2018	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Creditable Catholic Training Sessions	Tuesday September 11, 2018	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Creditable Catholic Training Sessions	Wednesday September 12, 2018	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Diocesan Offices 310 Prospect Park West Brooklyn
Creditable Catholic Training Sessions	Wednesday September 12, 2018	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Diocesan Offices 310 Prospect Park West Brooklyn
Catechetical Sunday “Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ” Catechetical year begins today	Sunday September 16, 2018	To be announced by individual parishes	Parishes
Parish Programs of Religious Education begin this week	Week of Sunday September 16, 2018	To be announced by individual parishes	Parishes
ARISE/LEVANTATE Season Five Training Workshops	Tuesday September 18, 2018	1:30 pm – 3:30 pm (English)	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
ARISE/LEVANTATE Season Five Training Workshops	Tuesday September 18, 2018	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm (Spanish and English)	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
ARISE/LEVANTATE Season Five Training Workshops	Wednesday September 19, 2018	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm (Spanish)	Blessed Sacrament Church Jackson Heights
ARISE/LEVANTATE Season Five Training Workshops	Thursday September 20, 2018	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm (Spanish)	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Brooklyn
ARISE/LEVANTATE Season Five Training Workshops	Friday September 21, 2018	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm (English, Spanish, and Creole)	St. Brendan Church Brooklyn



EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
ARISE/LEVANTATE Season Five Training Workshops	Saturday September 22, 2018	10:00 am – 12:00 pm (English and Spanish)	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Third Annual Catechetical Summit with Bishop DiMarzio for all Pastors /Administrators and Catechetical Leaders	Thursday September 27, 2018	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
ARISE/LEVANTATE Season Five Prayer Commitment	Sunday September 30, 2018	To be announced by individual parishes	Parishes
Magnificat's 25th Jubilee Celebration	Saturday October 6, 2018	9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Kings Theatre Brooklyn
ARISE/LEVANTATE Season Five Small Faith Sharing Groups begin this week	Week of October 7, 2018	To be announced by individual parishes	Parishes and Homes
Annual Marriage Ministry Convocation	Thursday October 11, 2018	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Fall Catechetical Leaders Update Meeting (choose one of three)	Monday October 15, 2018	10:30 am – 1:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Fall School/Academy Religion Coordinators Meeting (choose one of two)	Monday October 15, 2018	4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Fall Catechetical Leaders Update Meeting (choose one of three)	Monday October 15, 2018	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Fall School/Academy Religion Coordinators Meeting (choose one of two)	Tuesday October 16, 2018	4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Diocesan Offices 310 Prospect Park West Brooklyn
Fall Catechetical Leaders Update Meeting (choose one of three)	Tuesday October 16, 2018	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Diocesan Offices 310 Prospect Park West Brooklyn
Annual Women's Conference	Saturday October 20, 2018	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	St. John's University Jamaica
Celebrating 50 Years of Formation and Master's Degree Scholarship Fundraiser	Tuesday October 23, 2018	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Roma View Catering Howard Beach
Catechist Information Report and Enrollment Numbers (PDC)	Due by Wednesday October 31, 2018	Not applicable	Not applicable
RENEW International's Why Catholic? Information Session	Monday November 5, 2018	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm (English and Spanish)	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
RENEW International's Why Catholic? Information Session	Monday November 5, 2018	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm (English and Spanish)	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston



EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
RENEW International's Why Catholic? Information Session	Tuesday November 6, 2018	10:30 am –12:30 pm (English)	Diocesan Offices 310 Prospect Park West Brooklyn
RENEW International's Why Catholic? Information Session	Tuesday November 6, 2018	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm (English and Spanish)	Diocesan Offices 310 Prospect Park West Brooklyn
RENEW International's Why Catholic? Information Session	Thursday November 8, 2018	10:30 am –12:30 pm (English)	Diocesan Offices 310 Prospect Park West Brooklyn
RENEW International's Why Catholic? Information Session	Thursday November 8, 2018	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm (English and Spanish)	Diocesan Offices 310 Prospect Park West Brooklyn
Annual Men's Conference	Saturday November 17, 2018	8:00 am –1:00 pm	St. John's University Jamaica
Advent Reflection	Tuesday December 4, 2018	4:00 pm – 6:30 pm (Dinner at 5:30 pm)	Diocesan Offices 310 Prospect Park West Brooklyn
Advent Reflection	Tuesday December 4, 2018	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm (Dinner at 5:30 pm)	Diocesan Offices 310 Prospect Park West Brooklyn
Session Two: New or First Year Catechetical Leaders	Tuesday January 15, 2019	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Diocesan Offices 310 Prospect Park West Brooklyn
March for Life	Friday January 18, 2019	To be announced	Washington, DC
World Youth Day in Panama	January 21 through January 29, 2019	All day	Panama
Winter School/Academy Religion Coordinators Meeting (choose one of two)	Monday February 11, 2019	4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Diocesan Offices 310 Prospect Park West Brooklyn
Winter Catechetical Leaders Update Meeting (choose one of three)	Monday February 11, 2019	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Diocesan Offices 310 Prospect Park West Brooklyn
Winter Catechetical Leaders Update Meeting (choose one of three)	Tuesday February 12, 2019	10:30 am –1:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Winter School/Academy Religion Coordinators Meeting (choose one of two)	Tuesday February 12, 2019	4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Winter Catechetical Leaders Update Meeting (choose one of three)	Tuesday February 12, 2019	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Diocese of Brooklyn's Formation Sunday	Sunday March 3, 2019	To be announced by individual parishes	To be announced by individual parishes



EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Children's Rite of Election	Saturday March 9, 2019	2:00 pm	Cathedral-Basilica of St. James Brooklyn
Call to Continuing Conversion	Saturday March 9, 2019	3:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Center Douglaston
Call to Continuing Conversion	Saturday March 9, 2019	3:00 pm	St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church Queens
Call to Continuing Conversion	Saturday March 9, 2019	3:00 pm	St. Thomas Aquinas Church Flatlands, Brooklyn
Rite of Election	Sunday March 10, 2019	3:00 pm	Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph Brooklyn
Tenth Annual Catechetical Gathering	Tuesday March 12, 2019	4:00 pm – 6:30 pm includes dinner	Immaculate Conception Center Douglaston
Religious Education Assessment Initiative	Saturday, March 2 to Saturday, March 23, 2019	Not applicable	To be announced by individual schools, academies, and parishes
Lenten Reflection	Tuesday March 28, 2019	4:00 pm – 6:30 pm (Dinner at 5:30 pm)	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Lenten Reflection	Tuesday March 28, 2019	5:30 pm – 8:00 pm (Dinner at 5:30 pm)	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Annual Brooklyn/Queens Catholic Youth Day	Saturday March 30, 2019	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	To be announced
Diocesan Evangelization and Catechesis Congress	Saturday April 6, 2019	8:00 am – 4:00 pm	St. John's University Jamaica
Mass of the Neophytes and Candidates with Conference and Lunch	Saturday May 4, 2019	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Annual Diocesan Recognition Mass and Celebration	Thursday May 16, 2019	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church Queens
Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass	Saturday May 18, 2019	11:00 am – 1:00 pm	St. Thomas Aquinas Church Flatlands, Brooklyn
Catholic High School Confirmation (Queens)	Sunday May 19, 2019	3:00 pm	St. Kevin Church Flushing, Queens
CYO Hall of Fame Dinner and Awards Night	Friday May 31, 2019	6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Center 7200 Douglaston Pkwy Douglaston
Catholic High School Confirmation (Brooklyn)	Sunday June 2, 2019	11:00 am	Cathedral-Basilica of St. James Brooklyn



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310 Prospect Park West · Brooklyn, New York 11215

www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org

718-281-9455

