



# Pastoral Formation Institute

*Alumni* "You are the light for all the world." Mt.5:16

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"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Lk 1:31-33



Dear PFI Colleague,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Of all the imagery of Christmas perhaps light is the most provocative. Darkness surrounds us in so many forms. John Shea, story-teller/theologian in his book, [Starlight: Beholding the Christmas Miracle All Year Long](#) stirs the embers of our hearts proving that the Christmas miracle can be sustained all year long. If the "after Christmas blues" have hit you, try reading it. It will inspire you and can significantly impact parish life.

PFI'ers filled the classroom at St. Elizabeth's in Melville this past Fall to attend **Liturgy: The Unending Symphony** with Rev. Msgr. Andrzej Zglejszewski.

*"I know I speak for the entire group who attended this course when I say that we only wish it were unending! Msgr. Andrzej left us hungering for more each week. His explanations of liturgy, Trinity and relationship were amazing in their clarity and insight. Concepts that are often thought of as difficult to understand much less explain, he made simple. I personally felt I learned a lot to help me in my ministries - each week there was a different story I could remember and share. I look forward to the next installment with Msgr. Andrzej - we will probably need a bigger space when more people find out how great he is!" -Toni Chebat, Class of 2004*

Please consider attending **Liturgy: The Unending Symphony Part II on the Eucharist** also with Msgr. Andrzej on Saturdays, 9 am to 12 pm, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, 25, Mar. 10 and 17, 2012 at the Spiritual Life Center St. Elizabeth's, Melville. We are using a larger room to accommodate the demand but it will be first come first served. Cost: \$30.

17 Bereavement Conference, Uniondale

25 The Rise and Fall of Peter, Medford

#### April

20 [Formation Weekend: Collaborative Skills \(Spanish\), Huntington](#)

27 Bethany Retreat,  
28 Bohemia

#### May

18 [Formation Weekend: Collaborative Skills \(English\), Huntington](#)

#### June

21 PFI Graduation & Religious Awards Ceremony, RVC

#### November

4 The Vine and Branches, Riverhead

#### Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

If you are a RCIA catechist, team member or Coordinator, please register for the annual **RCIA Catechist's Retreat: Casting the nets... Discerning our Call to Discipleship** scheduled for Sunday, January 22, 2012 at the Spiritual Life Center, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Melville, 2:30-7:00 pm. Contact Suzanne Lynn at [Slynn@drvc.org](mailto:Slynn@drvc.org) or 516-678-5800 x 207 for information and registration. Cost: \$20.

The next PFI Alumni Events Team meeting is Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 6 pm at a lovely Italian Restaurant/Pizzeria: Porsia's, 146 Wheeler Road, Central Islip, New York (631) 582-1111. All are welcome! Contact Jill, [jillmeise@hotmail.com](mailto:jillmeise@hotmail.com) to suggest agenda items.

#### Save the Dates

- Prepare for Holy Week 2012. Join us for an afternoon of reflection with Fr. Andrejz: **The Rise and Fall of Peter** on Sunday, March 25, 2012, St. Sylvester's in Medford, 1-4:00 pm. Cost: \$20.
- **Bethany Retreat:** When Jesus needed to get away from it all he visited his friends Lazarus, Martha and Mary in Bethany. We invite all men and women to do the same at the PFI Bethany scheduled for Friday night, April 27 (*no overnight*) and all day Saturday, April 28, 2012 at St. John Nepomucene Parish in Bohemia.
- **Pastoral Formation Graduation and Religious Awards Ceremony**, Thursday, June 21, 2012, 7:30 pm St. Agnes Cathedral. Evening Prayer. Msgr. Robert Brennan, presiding.
- **The Vine and the Branches** on Sunday, November 4, 2012 presented by Rob Cammarata and Laurie Whitfield at Martha Clara Vineyard, Riverhead. Particulars TBA.

#### Belong More Deeply

Last Advent/Christmas season, Bishop Murphy encouraged all of us, those who have been away from the Church for a long time to those of us who live our Catholic life each day, to "[Belong More Deeply](#)." As a "PFI-er" you know so well what a journey in faith entails, just as the shepherds and the wise men did some 2000 years ago. Invite someone you know to "Belong More Deeply" by [joining PFI](#). Chat with your pastor... perhaps your parish would host PFI classes in Spanish or English. Please contact [Estelle Peck](#) to request brochures, register or inquire about the upcoming 2012-2013 academic year. Class sites TBA.

#### The Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington NY

The changes in the program at the [Seminary of the Immaculate](#)

[Conception](#) and the creation of the Sacred Heart Institute are part of a larger inter-diocesan partnership between the Dioceses of New York, Brooklyn and Rockville Centre. The mission of this partnership is "to form future priests and their co-workers in ministry" to serve the people of God in these three Dioceses. SIC will continue to offer a Master of Arts in Theology and Pastoral Studies to permanent deacon candidates and the laity. Be assured that SIC will also continue, as they have for over 20 years, to welcome and support the mission and students of the Pastoral Formation Institute of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. If you would like to host a weekend at the seminary in 2012-13 contact [Maria Sarra riasarra@gmail.com](mailto:MariaSarria@gmail.com). If you are interested in being trained as an interviewer for future PFI candidates contact [Tina Rine-DeTrano, trustnangels@aol.com](mailto:TinaRine-DeTrano@trustnangels@aol.com).

May the miracle of Christmas be with you all year long.

Estelle Peck  
Director of the Pastoral Formation Institute,  
Diocese of Rockville Centre