



Pastoral Formation Institute

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

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May 2011



Dear PFI Colleague,

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum is such a unique opportunity we have as Catholics. Here we can set aside the busyness of this demanding world and put our priorities in order. How often do people really *get to* do that? How blessed are we to be among the millions of Christians who come together to remember that Jesus' love story is our story; that we are an Easter people who know that Jesus always gives us a chance to begin anew?

How privileged, too, are we to have heard the many stories from the faith-filled people of PFI through the years; the dyings endured, the triumphs celebrated. These sacred, personal faith journeys we continue to share, teach us that Easter always follows Good Friday; that for those who love God, all turns out for the good, even when it is difficult to bear.

Thank you to so many who are actively inviting others to join PFI. You are doing just what Jesus asked of the holy women who greeted him at the empty tomb on that Easter morn. "*When they saw Jesus he said to them [Mary of Magdala and Mary, the mother of James and John], 'Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee.'*" Be sure to tell the good news that learning about your faith as an adult is so different from the school days of our youth; that it teaches skills for parish ministry but more importantly provides a greater understanding of oneself and his/her relationship with God and the Church. "I've never been happier" a first year student said to me last week. Tell others what PFI meant to you.

[Applications/Registration](#) are available online or by contacting [Estelle Peck](#). Class Sites with dates and times are also listed in [Spanish](#) and [English](#).

We are very excited about the Ministry Leadership opportunities for 2011-2012: "Catechetical: Go Out to World and Share the Good News"; "Social

5 [ONLINE Marriage Facilitator Training](#)

15 [NPM "And With Your Spirit" Workshop](#)

30 PFI Graduation, St. Agnes Cathedral

July

6 Scripture on the Sound, Sunken Meadow Park

August

31 Scripture on the Sound, Sunken Meadow Park

September

25 PFI Family Picnic, Seminary

October

15 [Sight & Sound, PA](#)

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Justice: Love Beyond Measure"; "Liturgy: The Heart of the Matter"; "Family: The Circle of Life"; and "Ochos Habititos para el Ministerio Eficaz: Ministeriso de Liderazgo." Leadership Training applications and schedules to be posted first week of May.

If you are interested in sharpening your ministry skills, openings for this year's [Communication Skills for Ministry](#) course with Suzanne Richards are available: Saturdays, May 7 and 14, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$125 for the two 5-hour classes. Lunch is included.

Although we have so many wonderful catechists for our children and youth here in the diocese, we also recognize the need for more teachers in our parishes. To assist this effort, the Office of Faith Formation is offering scholarships for the [2011-2012 Catechetical Ministry Leadership Training Course](#). Yes, tuition is free! Will you consider "belonging more deeply" by being a catechist? Present and future catechists, coordinators, adult/parents interested in teaching our children and youth are encouraged to attend. This 30 hour course will build confidence by teaching skills and methods in classroom management as well as provide a solid ground for catechetical formation.

This [Catechetical Course](#) will be offered several times throughout the year, beginning with a summer program on Tuesday and Thursday nights, June 28 thru July 28 at St. Jane Frances, Wantagh; 6:30-9:30 p.m. (*classroom is air conditioned*). Course will begin again this Fall in St. James, Seaford and St. John Nepomucene in Bohemia. *One does not need to have attended PFI to attend.* Contact [Sr. Mary Alice Piil, CSJ](#) or [Estelle Peck](#) for more scholarship information.

In mid-April some 40 people attended the PFI Lenten retreats in Manhasset and Riverhead. Thank you to Sr. Alice, Sr. Ronnie and Pat Leonard for a wonderfully rich and prayerful experience, as well as to the PFI Event Team members who always make it go so smoothly. Next year's retreats are already in planning stage. Please send comments/critiques/interests to [Jill Meise](#). The Next Events Team meeting is in Thursday, May 19, 6:30 p.m. at the Commack Diner.

Names with contact information of the Vicariate, Deanery and Parish reps will be posted in a couple of weeks on the PFI Alumni website. We are still in need of a few parish reps. Contact [Joan McGovern](#) if you are interested or have a recommendation.

Publicity materials for the upcoming PFI classes are [available online](#). Posters, pamphlets, and applications are available online or from your Deanery reps or Estelle at epeck@drvc.org.

The Formation weekend hosting schedule for the seminary as well as interviews for the incoming classes are now underway for the 2011-2012 year. If interested, please contact [Maria Sarra](#) for hosting; [Tina Rine DeTrano](#) for interviews. English and Spanish speaking hosts and interviewers needed.

Reminder: keep your contact information current, complete the [PFI census](#).

Important Dates:

- **Graduation:** Thursday, June 30, 7:30 p.m., St. Agnes Cathedral.
- **Scripture On the Sound:** Suzanne Richards, Wednesdays, July 6 and August 31, 6:30 p.m., Sunken Meadow Park.
- **PFI Family Picnic:** Sunday, September 25, at the Seminary.
- **["Sight and Sound"](#)** Lancaster, PA; Date: October 15, 2011.
Cost: \$85 includes bus and admission to theatre. Optional dinner at Millers is extra. Full payment (non-refundable) is required upon registration.

Easter blessings to you all!

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