



Pastoral Formation Institute

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

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Issue: 11

October 2011



Dear PFI Colleague,

We just completed the first of Year I Myers Briggs and Year II Discernment Formation Weekends for this academic year. As the *seasoned* Year II participants arrived for the Discernment Weekend, they felt right at home, settling in their rooms, while the Year I students arrived a little anxious about this new experience they've plunged into and slightly overwhelmed by the seminary's unfamiliar, hallowed halls. Yet, thanks to the warm welcome of our Alumni hosts, our instructors and the familiar faces of classmates, it didn't take long before all were into the rhythm of the weekend.

At this past weekend's liturgy, Fr. John Derasmo affirmed the students and staff alike: "*I feel such hope for the church whenever I come to celebrate liturgy with you on these PFI weekends.*" Yes, the personal witness of each student is so evident and the energy is contagious.

Directing his words to the Year II Discernment students, Fr. John spoke of how PFI creates the ideal environment for discernment because of its

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communal dimension. To the Year I Myers Briggs students, Father encouraged them to embrace this self discovery process for personal growth and Church ministry.

We welcomed 87 new students into PFI this year: four English-speaking class sites (*St. Rosalie's, St. William the Abbott, St. Aidan's and St. John of God*); two Spanish-speaking sites (*St. Brigid's and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Patchogue*). As usual, each person brings the gift of their uniqueness but their faith and love for Jesus are the bonding elements that make the process so fruitful.

Clarification on the "Third Year Ministry Track"

There have been some inquiries about the "Third Year PFI Track." Although PFI graduates are being encouraged to continue their formation by going into a third year, we are eliminating naming it "Third Year" because the tracks/courses are not just for PFI graduates (and have not been for quite a few years). Application to [Ministry Leadership Courses](#) are opened to any Catholic lay adult interested in a particular ministry recommended by their pastor or a member of the pastoral staff to participate. Again, PFI is not a pre-requisite to register for a Ministry Track.

Requirements for a Full Ministry Leadership Certificate

You will find a good overview [here](#). Contact [Estelle Peck](#) for further information or questions.

2011-12 Ministry Leadership Offerings

- **Catechetical:** "[Go Out to the World and Share the Good News](#)" (35 hours) with Ellen Zafonte, on 14 Wednesdays; 9-11:30 am. Fall, '11 and Winter, '12 at St. James, Seaford. Contact [Sr. Mary Alice Piil](#), CSJ or [Estelle Peck](#) for catechetical ministry scholarships.
- **Liturgy:** "[The Unending Symphony](#)": 15 hours*; Choice of 2 Class Sites: East End at St. Rosalie's with Sr. Mary Alice Piil, CSJ or western LI with Rev. Msgr. Andrzej Zglejszewski.
- **Family Ministry:** "[The Circle of Life](#)": with Kathy Logan and Sr. Joann Bonauro, SC; 10 hours*; **Thurs.** ; 9:30-11:30 am; Oct. thru Nov at St. William the Abbot, Seaford; and
- **Ochos Habititos para un Ministerio Eficaz** : Fall, '11-Winter, '12 with Jose de Jesus.

Please visit the Office of Faith Formation [homepage](#) for further opportunities in Respect Life, Inclusion Awareness, Family Ministry, Bereavement, Catechesis and more which can all be applied to help fulfill the 35 hour requirement in a particular ministry track.

Please also note that we have lowered the tuition substantially to make this more affordable and to encourage leadership formation in the

parishes. Thank you to the pastors of parish sites for the use of their space. . . "rent free" so we can pass on the savings to you!

Self-study Ministry Track

*Interested in pursuing a Ministry Leadership Certificate through a Self-study in Small Base Faith Communities or in another **ministry field** that is not being offered this year? Please contact [Estelle Peck](#). Some suggestions: [Respect Life](#), [Family Life](#), [Inclusion Awareness](#), [Children and Youth](#).*

PFI Deanery/Parish Contacts

Many thanks to the Deanery/Parish reps who promoted PFI in their parishes. Although next year's sites are not yet established, please continue to invite/recommend candidates to join PFI. Have them contact [Estelle Peck](#). Contact [Joan McGovern](#) for PFI Alumni deanery/parish representatives' contact information if you want to be more involved with the Alumni.

Alumni Gatherings

Thank you to the [PFI Alumni Events Team](#) for organizing the delightful *Summer Scripture Series*, the *Meet and Greet* at the Seminary in June, the September *PFI Family Picnic* and the "*Sight and Sound*" Trip on October 15. It is so good to come together!

Save the Dates

- **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 get away from it all" 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.
- **The Vine and Branches Retreat** scheduled for Fall of 2012. More information to follow in coming months.
- **Evening Prayer** at [St. James, Setauket](#) on Wednesday evenings, 7-7:30 pm, coordinated by the St. James PFI Alumni. All are welcome.
- Plans for **PFI Enrichment Days** are underway for Lent.

Do you have events in your parish you want to post? Let us know. Autumn blessings!

Estelle Peck
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P.S.: Have you updated the PFI census lately?