



# Pastoral Formation Institute

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

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**Issue: 12**

**October 2011**



Dear PFI Colleague,

*"Saturday October 15th, a bright and clear day, thirty-four PFI alumni and friends boarded a tour bus for Lancaster Pa., to see a production of "Joseph" at the Sight and Sound theatre. This biblical re-enactment of the Old Testament story was beautifully preformed with original song, elaborate costumes, live animals and special effects.*

*Joseph, the eleventh and favored son of Jacob, was sold into slavery by his jealous older brothers and taken to Egypt. Many years later he gained the respect of the Pharaoh after interpreting his dream, predicting abundant harvest for seven years followed by seven years of famine. Joseph's plan to store a portion of grains from the productive years saved the people of Egypt from hunger. When his brothers arrived to beg for food for their families, they did not recognize their younger brother, but Joseph, filled with the grace and wisdom he was granted, forgave them and was once again re-united with his family.*

*The days' activities also included time for shopping at the Amish stores and a wonderful dinner buffet. Just a little hiccup developed as Sean, our bus driver, attempted to avoid a traffic jam heading to the theatre and we lost our way for a few moments. But after a delightful encounter with Joseph, forgiveness came easily. Then, in true PFI tradition, we shared our experiences of the day along with our baked goods, snacks and drinks on the long ride home. A special thanks to Maria Sara, Jill Meise and the PFI Alumni events team for organizing a day that filled our eyes with a spectacular staging of the play and our hearts with the message of forgiveness." (Anne Palmeri, 2009)*

If you have some thoughts you would like to contribute to the PFI Alumni letter, please drop me an [e-mail](#).

### **Ministry Course Update**

This past Saturday we began our 15-hour Ministry Leadership Course, "*Liturgy: the Unending Symphony*" with Msgr. Andrzej inviting each of the 26 students to briefly introduce themselves, their home parish and the ministries they serve in. Out of the 26, twenty-two parishes were represented as well as dozens of ministries. Yes, the room, almost filled to capacity, was overflowing with faith-filled 21st Century disciples eager to learn more about the liturgy so that they can draw others to "*belong more deeply*" into the life of the Church.

*"The class was awesome . . . thank you Msgr. Andrzej!  
We can't wait until next Saturday."*

By the way, if you want to join us for the next four weeks, we could squeeze about 8 more students into the class; [register here](#).

**The Catechetical Course**, also filled to capacity, is strong and filled with energy. Thanks to both Ellen Zafonte and Cathy Roberts for sharing their passion and teaching skills to form our catechists for the future. **Ochos Habitos para un Ministerio Eficaz** is also filled to capacity with almost 30 students in Patchogue, many of whom will be going on to further studies in **RICA** (Rito de Iniciación Cristian).

And speaking of awesome teachers, let us acknowledge all the professional instructors who have and continue to give endless hours to form and draw us closer to the Lord! How blessed we are!

### **Earn a Certificate in a Particular Ministry Track**

Just a reminder of [offerings from the Office of Faith Formation](#) and the other departments throughout the diocese which can be applied to your electives to complete the 35 hours in earning a certificate in Ministry. See Requirements for a Full Ministry [Leadership Certificate](#) or contact [Estelle Peck](#) for further information or questions.

**Self-study Track:** If you are interested in pursuing a Ministry Leadership track not being offered this year you may want to consider doing a Self-Study Track such as in Small Base Faith Communities, Inclusion Awareness, Respect Life or another of the many ministries in the Church. Please contact [Estelle Peck](#) for more information. This year we have two people doing Self-study Tracks: Inclusion Awareness, Small Base Communities.

### **PFI Deanery/Parish Contacts**

We will be reviewing our PFI Deanery/Parish advocate process and contacting the representatives in the near future. Thanks to so many who promoted PFI in their parishes. Please continue to invite/recommend candidates to join PFI. Forward recommendations with

name and contact information to [Estelle Peck](#).

### **Be An Active Alumni**

Get in touch with [Jill Meise](#) on the Events Team, [Joan McGovern](#) for PFI Alumni deanery/parish representatives or [Estelle Peck](#) if you want to be more involved with the Alumni. Of course we always welcome your suggestions and needs. Let us hear from you.

### **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 & all day Saturday (no overnight), April 28, 2012 at St. John Nepomucene Parish in Bohemia.
- **The Vine and Branches Retreat** planned for the Fall of 2012. More information to follow in coming months.
- Plans for **PFI Lenten Enrichment Day** is underway. *Do you have Advent/Christmas events in your parish you want to post? Let us know.*

As we enter the month of November, let us remember all our loved ones and members of our PFI Family who have gone home to the Lord. We also add prayers for the good health of so many who are dealing with serious illness.

Blessings to you all. Hoping to hear from you soon.

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

P.S.: Have you updated the [PFI census](#) lately?

### **A quote for the month**

*"My faith is like red wine mixed in water. It changes the color of my mind. It is the way I perceive the world, life and myself." -Ted Loder, "The Haunt of Grace"*