

Annual Report

2018-2019



This annual report is a celebration of
Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio's vision for the
new evangelization.



Since the heart of evangelization is to introduce others to the saving presence and power of the Lord Jesus, any pastoral vision that seeks to explain in greater detail the work of evangelization must begin with an opportunity for personal reflection. If we seek to revitalize our Church, to bring new life to our mission to teach and preach the Gospel, and bring others to greater faith, then we must ask some serious questions of ourselves. What does it really mean to me to seek new life and vigor in Christ? What is really being asked of me? What attitudes must I change in my life before I can become an effective agent of evangelization in my family, parish, and neighborhood?

**Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.,
“Do Not Be Afraid”**

A Pastoral Vision for the New Evangelization, 2007.

Secretariat Annual Report 2018-2019

Secretary's Message



Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America Archbishop Christophe Pierre's statement to the people of the Diocese of Brooklyn, "So, be BOLD!", has no doubt left a lasting imprint. **The Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis Annual Report for 2018-2019**, prepared by the staff of the Secretariat, presents a sampling of BOLD evangelization and catechetical programs, processes, initiatives, and events in place to accompany those who are actively engaged in their faith as well as those seeking a relationship with God for the first time.

The boldness with which people have responded to our evangelization and catechetical efforts listed in this report has led to a more energetic and engaged Diocese. In one instance, a participant in the Why Catholic? Initiative remarked, "... we definitely formed a sense of community and trust. We were challenged to be open to a better understanding of how prayer challenges us to be in relationship with God." We are grateful to everyone who played any part in the success of this past year and look forward to celebrating our Catholic Faith joyfully as an enthusiastic family here in the Diocese in Brooklyn and Queens.

Theodore J. Musco

Theodore J. Musco
Secretary for Evangelization and Catechesis
Diocese of Brooklyn

Contents

Secretary's Message

2 Secretariat News

Celebrating 50 Years of Lay Formation in the Diocese of Brooklyn

Grants and Scholarships Total Over \$1,000,000

A Tremendous Blessing for the Universal Church
and A Message for All People of God

A Major Celebration for the Diocese and the World

MAGNIFICAT 25TH JUBILEE DAY—OCTOBER 6, 2018

Diocese of Brooklyn's Men's Conference

Diocese of Brooklyn's Women's Conference

Catechetical Congress on April 6, 2019

Bishop Franz-Peter Tebartz-van Elst's Visit
and the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization

Mid-Atlantic Catechetical Congress in Baltimore, Maryland

8 Religious Education Program Statistics for 2018-2019

9 Department for Children's Faith Formation

Fourth Annual Diocesan Religion Bee

Fourth Annual Religious Education Assessment Initiative

11 Department for Youth and Young Adult Faith Formation

SO, BE BOLD! Diocesan Plan for Outreach to Youth and Young Adults

Diocesan Youth Day

World Youth Day Panama 2019

Youth Minister Convocations

Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative (CYMI)

COHORT 7 PARISHES

COHORT 8 PARISHES

17

Department for Adult Faith Formation

The Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion

Holy Spirit Institute for Service and Leadership

Holy Spirit Institute for Service and Leadership Statistics 2018-2019

Recognition Mass and Celebration

Catholic Distance University Brochure

Haitian (Kolaj Pastoral Labib Ak Doktrin) Institute

Living and Leading by Faith Catechist and Catechetical Leader
Formation Program

LONGTIME COLLABORATION WITH MY CATHOLIC FAITH DELIVERED (MCFD)
BY THE NUMBERS

Dynamic Catholic and Dynamic Parish

Paulist Evangelization Ministries

RENEW International

32

Department for Marriage, Family Formation, and Respect Life Education

Marriage Ministry Statistics for 2018-2019

Wedding Anniversary Mass and Other Important Events

Ninth World Meeting of Families in Ireland

Treasures of the Church Family Event

Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth Initiative

Diocesan Family Catechesis Initiative

Respect Life Education

Unplanned Movie Event

38

Boards and Commission

40

Secretariat Staff Directory

Secretariat News

Celebrating 50 Years of Lay Formation in the Diocese of Brooklyn



Close to 200 people gathered at Roma View Catering in Howard Beach on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Lay Leadership in the Diocese of Brooklyn. This evening was planned by the staff of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis to highlight the importance of missionary disciples and missionary disciple parishes, an ongoing effort to promote the call to “go and make disciples”. The goal of the celebration was twofold; to honor two missionary disciples, Jennifer Baptist and Michael McGovern, and two evangelizing parishes, Holy Cross in Brooklyn (Msgr. Malagrecia, pastor) and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Astoria (Msgr. Sean Ogle, pastor) and to raise funds to support the master’s degree scholarship program of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis. Father

Joseph Gibino, chair of the 50th Anniversary committee and Secretariat staff member, paid careful attention to the details, and worked closely with many of the Secretariat staff members as well as other collaborators to make the evening truly memorable.

Although two individuals and two parishes were honored at the Gala, Bishop Raymond Chappetto, Vicar General of the Diocese of Brooklyn, noted that all gathered were honored as well for outstanding service and leadership. The theme of missionary discipleship is an ongoing one for the Secretariat, and this event builds on the many others that have been held recently in the Diocese. The Diocesan Assembly



on Evangelization and the Celebration of the V Encuentro, held at St. John’s University, the Magnificat Day held at Kings Theatre on October 6, and the Women’s Conference held on October 23 at St. John’s University are just a few of the opportunities for people of all ages and walks of life to gather to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and “put out into the deep.”

“The Church is truly stronger and richer because of the contribution of so many over the past 50 years. But let’s remember the contribution of lay people and clergy alike over the entire history of the Church, for 2000 years. Let this celebration be a reminder to all of the importance of sharing our Faith without hesitation and with joy,” said Theodore Musco, Secretary for Evangelization and Catechesis.

Grants and Scholarships Total Over \$1,000,000

The Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis is very pleased to announce that, with the assistance of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Trust and the Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens, a number of grants and scholarships were provided to parishes in Brooklyn and Queens for evangelization and catechetical purposes. To note one outstanding effort, more than \$700,000.00 was granted to twelve parishes to hire a full-time parish Director of Faith Formation and support was given to the Haitian Pastoral Institute to maintain their program coordinator.

Thank you to all who generously contribute to these funds.

A Tremendous Blessing for the Universal Church and a Message for All People of God

CHRISTUS VIVIT—CHRIST IS ALIVE

Pope Francis begins his latest apostolic exhortation CHRISTUS VIVIT, by proclaiming



Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!

Addressed to young people and the entire people of God, this exhortation provides us with a very clear message; we are to be ALIVE just as Christ is ALIVE. During the past several years, the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis, offices and agencies of the Diocese of Brooklyn, and our other collaborators in mission have worked diligently to respond to the call of Christ himself, “Go and make disciples...”

The goals of the diocesan evangelization and renewal plan for 2015-2018 The Joy of Encountering Christ—The Family’s Hope which called for attention to be paid to increasing opportunities for people to connect or reconnect to the Church and God were implemented in many and varied ways throughout the parishes, Catholic academies, parish schools, in the hearts of families and individuals.

This new exhortation requires careful reading and reflection and can be found in its entirety at w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20190325_christus-vivit.html

An extensive diocesan study and discussion plan and a variety of appropriate resources will be made available throughout this year and into the foreseeable future to assist in the task of “unpacking” all that the exhortation holds in store for the people of God.

Please go to www.meetmein.church or www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org for more information concerning diocesan and parish opportunities for study and reflection.



● Photo Courtesy of Paul Haring, CNS

A Major Celebration for the Diocese and the World

MAGNIFICAT 25TH JUBILEE DAY—OCTOBER 6, 2019

Described by many as the experience of a lifetime, the Magnificat 25th Jubilee Day held at the King's Theatre in Brooklyn on Saturday, October 6, 2018, was a tremendous blessing to all who participated either in person or by television.



The media coverage was tremendous:

A preview of the Magnificat 25th Jubilee

[netny.tv/episodes/currents/the-magnificat-pilgrimage-is-coming-to-brooklyn/#](https://www.netny.tv/episodes/currents/the-magnificat-pilgrimage-is-coming-to-brooklyn/#)

Videos of the Magnificat Day at the King Theatre (EWTN)

[youtube.com/watch?v=L8UXk7XWC9o&list=PL9CQIldupc5-kulnnAIK8sO35PVU79zHg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8UXk7XWC9o&list=PL9CQIldupc5-kulnnAIK8sO35PVU79zHg)

The report produced by the Diocese of Brooklyn for Thursday, October 4

[youtube.com/watch?v=DUuszTAnJuM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUuszTAnJuM)

Currents News coverage of the Jubilee

[netny.tv/episodes/currents/the-magnificat-pilgrimage-is-coming-to-brooklyn](https://www.netny.tv/episodes/currents/the-magnificat-pilgrimage-is-coming-to-brooklyn)

[netny.tv/episodes/currents/thousands-attend-evangelization-event](https://www.netny.tv/episodes/currents/thousands-attend-evangelization-event)

[netny.tv/episodes/currents/worshippers-react-to-magnificat-day-of-thanksgiving](https://www.netny.tv/episodes/currents/worshippers-react-to-magnificat-day-of-thanksgiving)

National Review article

[nationalreview.com/2018/10/magnificat-monthly-devotional-help-in-trying-times/](https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/10/magnificat-monthly-devotional-help-in-trying-times/)

Highlights of the day on the Magnificat Foundation website

[magnificat.net/foundation/magday/2018/index.asp](https://www.magnificat.net/foundation/magday/2018/index.asp)

The Diocese of Brooklyn is greatly blessed due to the success of this wonderful day.

The outreach to thousands of households made this truly a family gathering.

Diocese of Brooklyn's Men's Conference



PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP

Coach Bob Hurley and Father Alejandro Lopez-Cardinale were the main presenters at our biennial Diocese of Brooklyn's Men's Conference held on Saturday, November 17, 2018. Christian Rada, Director, and Theodore Musco, Secretary, from the staff of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis, organized the event. The theme was "Put Out Into the Deep."

Bishop Witold Mroziewski, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn, celebrated Mass in the Church of St. Thomas More on the campus of St. John's University. Bishop Mroziewski, in his homily at Mass, reminded those gathered that each has a special responsibility to be a leader of faith in his family, parish, and workplace.

Diocese of Brooklyn's Women's Conference

PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP

It was a day filled with the celebration, music, presentations, food, fellowship, and reflection. The biennial Diocese of Brooklyn's Women's Conference was held on Saturday, October 20, 2018, at the Queens Campus of St. John's University in Jamaica, Queens, New York.

To begin the day, the Most Reverend Paul Sanchez, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn, celebrated Mass in the Church of St. Thomas More. The keynote address was delivered in English by Leah Darrow, former model and international Catholic speaker, writer, and host. The keynote address in Spanish was delivered by Mother Adela Galindo, SCTM, founder of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary. The day also included the opportunity for the reception of the Sacrament of Penance and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

A delicious lunch and several fine exhibits rounded out the day.



● Photos Courtesy of SEC



So, be
BOLD!

Continuing the work of
the New Evangelization
as missionary disciples



Catechetical Congress on April 6, 2019

The Seventh Annual Catechetical Congress, "So, Be BOLD!", began with Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn, in the main chapel of the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston, New York, on Saturday, April 6, 2019. During the Mass, Bishop DiMarzio presented the second annual *Duc In Altum* (Put Out Into the Deep) Award to Father Frank DeSiano, CSP, for his outstanding work relating to the New Evangelization. Father DeSiano is the President of the Paulist Evangelization Ministries centered in Washington, DC. Bishop DiMarzio was the first recipient of the Award in 2018.

A crowd of over 600 people from throughout the diocese and beyond gathered for the day's program, which ran from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Outstanding speakers for both the English track and the Spanish track included:

Key note presenters were Julianne Stanz and Marlon De La Torre, and session presenters included Dcn. Kevin McCormack, Dr. Marianne Mount, Joann Roa, Fr. Manuel Rodriguez, Francisco Rosario, Ana Tavares, and Fr. Peter Wojcik.

Leisa Anslinger and Fr. Joseph Gibino served as Masters of Ceremony and panel organizers.



● Photo Courtesy of Obed Lima O&L Photography

Bishop Franz-Peter Tebartz-van Elst's Visit and the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization

In early April 2019, the Diocese of Brooklyn had the great pleasure of welcoming Bishop Franz-Peter Tebartz-van Elst, Delegate for Catechesis from the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. The purpose of Bishop's visit was to meet with Bishop DiMarzio, the staff of the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis, and our collaborators in order to learn about how we in an all-urban diocese can evangelize and catechize with such success. Bishop was also able to participate in our Catechetical Congress at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston. Bishop is an outstanding leader in the field of catechesis, and freely shares his insights and observations with the universal Church.

Bishop DiMarzio received a very positive report from Bishop Tebartz-van Elst that recognizes the work of all involved in the mission of evangelization and catechesis here in Brooklyn and Queens. In his report, Bishop Tebartz-van Elst began by saying:



This theme of the recent annual Congress of the Diocese of Brooklyn “So, Be Bold!” which has been taken from the final line of the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Christoph Pierre, at another conference in Brooklyn in 2018 is in some direction also the summary of my visit to Brooklyn-diocese in April 2019. In deep gratitude about all initiatives in the fields of evangelization and catechesis Theodore Musco, the Secretary for these departments has introduced me to, I felt very much encouraged about the spirit of an ecclesial renewal that is so alive in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

More information that will benefit the Diocese will be forthcoming from Bishop Tebartz-van Elst and the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, especially after a conference to be held in Rome in the fall of 2019.

Congratulations to the staff of the Secretariat and all who made Bishop's visit so productive.

Mid-Atlantic Catechetical Congress in Baltimore, Maryland

The Secretariat was a silver sponsor of this year's Mid-Atlantic Catechetical Congress held annually in Baltimore, Maryland. The theme of the Congress was “Prophetic Discipleship: Home, Parish, World.” A group of fifteen people from Brooklyn and Queens participated in the Masses and workshops, explored the exhibits, and enjoyed time with other catechists and catechetical leaders.

The Secretariat would like to expand our participation for the 2020 MAC.

Please go to midatlanticcongress.org for information and contact Mr. Musco at tmusco@diobrook.org for details on how to register with the Secretariat for a discount.

Religious Education Program Statistics for 2018-2019

50,153

Total student enrollment in
programs of Religious Education
and Youth Ministry

6,356

Total number of catechists for parish
programs of Religious Education and
Catholic academies/parish schools

1,298

Total number of catechetical leaders for
all catechetical programs
directors, coordinators, and principals

Department for Children's Faith Formation

Fourth Annual Diocesan Religion Bee

The Religion Bee is an annual competition co-sponsored by the Secretariat and the William H. Sadlier Company that takes place on the local, regional, and diocesan level. It is a wonderful way for Academy, Catholic School and Parish Religious Education children and their parents to learn together about our Catholic Faith and to practice good sportsmanship. As was expected, the 2018-2019 Religion Bee competitions were filled with excitement as the participants competed against other children in their grade levels, sometimes even against their own siblings. Family members and teachers sat on the edge of their seats when their favorite competitor's turn was up next and everyone couldn't help smiling when the winners were called to receive their trophies. This year the Most Reverend Witold Mroziowski, Auxiliary Bishop, addressed the children competing in the Diocesan Final Religion Bee. He commended them for participating in the Religion Bee and encouraged them to continue living their faith. Congratulations to all who participated in 2018-2019 and to the 2019 Diocesan Final Religion Bee winners!



● Photo Courtesy of SEC

FINAL RELIGION BEE WINNERS

Academies and Catholic Schools

Grade Level 3-5

- 1st Place: Sahana Haniff, St. Gregory the Great Catholic Academy, Queens
- 2nd Place: Xavier Russo, Mary Queen of Heaven Catholic Academy, Brooklyn
- 3rd Place: Alain-Christian Pawa, St. Gregory the Great Catholic Academy, Brooklyn
- Honorable Mention: Paul-Eric Pawa, St. Gregory the Great Catholic Academy, Brooklyn

Grade Level 6-8

- 1st Place: Nicholas Talusan, Immaculate Conception Catholic Academy, Jamaica
- 2nd Place: Kareem Bain, St. Gregory the Great Catholic Academy, Brooklyn
- 3rd Place: Alexandra Prettitore, St. Luke's School, Queens
- Honorable Mention: Clarice Cabrera, St. Brigid Catholic Academy, Brooklyn

Parish Religious Education Programs

Grade Level 3-5

- 1st Place: Jordan Gibbs, Christ the King Parish, Queens
- 2nd Place: Elizabeth Marquez, St. Michael Parish, Flushing
- 3rd Place: Kelly Hernandez, St. Martin of Tours Parish, Brooklyn
- Honorable Mention: Dylan Belen, Incarnation Parish, Queens

Grade Level 6-8

- 1st Place: Shanyla Desamours, Christ the King Parish, Queens
- 2nd Place: Myriam Sanon, Christ the King Parish, Queens
- 3rd Place: Veronica Kalloo, Incarnation Parish, Queens
- Honorable Mention: Andy Rosas, St. Martin of Tours Parish, Brooklyn

Fourth Annual Religious Education Assessment Initiative

This year marked the fourth time that the Religious Education Assessment was given to students in grades 3, 5, and 7 in approximately a third of the Catholic academies, parish schools, and parish programs of Religious Education here in the Diocese of Brooklyn. The students may take the assessment either online or using paper and pencil, depending on the resources of the local institution. Students are assessed using a 2 or 3 year assessment schedule. All student data collected is anonymous.

Each institution receives a report showing the average score of students in grades 3, 5, and 7. The results are ranked according to the following areas: Creed, Morality, Prayer, Sacraments, Evangelization, and Witness. The Church Averages Report compares the institution's scores with the diocesan average side-by-side. This report shows an average score for grades 3, 5, and 7 combined for each area and standard.

Following the review of the Assessment Report, catechetical leaders in the parishes, Catholic academies, and parish schools review the results and consider areas of strength and areas of challenge. This process assists in the creation of a local formation plan for catechetical leader and catechist professional development, as well as the constant updating of the Diocese of Brooklyn's Living and Leading by Faith Catechetical Leader and Catechist Formation Program.

This year's assessment results confirm that the students in the Diocese at all grade levels have benefitted from a better formed and educated catechetical staff of paid and volunteer catechists and catechetical leaders.



Department for Youth and Young Adult Faith Formation

SO, BE BOLD!

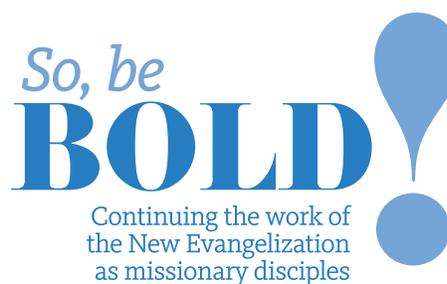
Diocesan Plan for Outreach to Youth and Young Adults

SO, BE BOLD! is the Diocesan pastoral plan and guiding document for youth and young adult outreach for the Diocese of Brooklyn. This document premiered at our Catechetical Summit on September 27, 2018 at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston, NY. The document addresses six main goals:

1. Empower parents and faith-filled families
2. Create vibrant, youth-friendly Parishes
3. Form fruitful partnerships
4. Engage in comprehensive ministry to youth with intentional and systematic faith formation
5. Develop an environment of inclusion, trust, and acceptance
6. Recognize Confirmation preparation as an integral part of a comprehensive approach to youth ministry (Confirmation is not graduation!)

This plan has been at the forefront of our meetings and gatherings with parishes, Catholic elementary and high schools, and young adult outreach groups.

The full plan is found at this link dioceseofbrooklyn.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/FINAL-So-Be-Bold-09-18-2018.pdf



Diocesan Youth Day

This year's theme for Brooklyn and Queens Catholic Youth Day was "Ignite." This event sought to gather teens from around the Diocese of Brooklyn (ages 12-19) to not only celebrate their faith but also to "ignite" it as our theme would suggest.

We had two tracks this year: one for those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation (our Pre-Confirmation track) and a Youth Day track.

Pre-Confirmation Track: This track was held at Holy Name Parish and was planned to be intentionally smaller with 400 teens participating. The day began with a welcome and Mass celebrated by Fr. James Kuroly, Chaplain for Youth and Young Adult Ministers and the Jornada Movement. Keynote presentations were given by Will Smith from the Diocese of Greensburg, PA, who also provided liturgical music for the event. Small groups were facilitated by the Saint John's University Catholic Scholars. The day concluding with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, presided by Fr. Henry Torres of St. Sebastian Parish.

Youth Day Track: This track was held at the former Bishop Ford Regional High School and was the larger event with 900 teens. We had mass with Bishop Cisneros, praise and worship music, adoration with Fr. James Kuroly, as well as opportunities for confession. The keynote for this event was Steve Eugino from the Office of Youth Ministry for the Archdiocese of New York, also a performer for Bosco Beats.

Some quotes about the event:



It made us all jump and dance and sing and it made everyone come together as a big group as a Catholic community. It really made me want to go to church more, want to pray more and come to more youth groups.

– Erin from St. Francis de Sales Parish, Belle Harbor

It was in the dialect we know, it was in Spanish and as I said, I am Mexican, so to be able to know that a person of high authority in my religion is basically one of us, to speak our language is great, connects us more, It was just something powerful to hear him [Bishop Cisneros] speak.

– Armando from St. John the Baptist, Bedford-Stuyvesant

It was amazing, it was a really nice experience. It really connected me more with God and Jesus. It's real. It just shows how important your connection with God is and how it can change your life for the better.

– Daniel

It's kind of like incredible because you don't really know how God has impacted anybody until you see it.

– Grace St. Francis de Sales Parish, Belle Harbor

I feel like the music is a way for everyone to just get up and just have fun. With music that praises god shows young people Church is lively. It inspires me to help others and to bring other people to experience what I experienced at this youth day.

– Tiffany from St. Clare Parish, Rosedale

Participating parishes were:

Blessed Sacrament (Queens)	St. Francis of Assisi-St. Blaise
Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians	St. John the Baptist
Holy Family (Queens)	St. Joseph Patron
Holy Name	St. Laurence
Our Lady of Lourdes	St. Mark, Guardian Angel
Our Lady of Presentation-Our Lady of Mercy (Brooklyn)	St. Peter and Paul
Our Lady of Refuge	St. Sebastian
Our Lady of Solace	St. Teresa
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament	St. Thomas Aquinas (Flatlands)
Queen of All Saints	St. Vincent Ferrer
Sacred Heart - St Stephen	St. Agatha
St. Brendan	Transfiguration
St. Clare	Ss. Simon and Jude
St. Dominic	St. Anselm
St. Fortunata	St. Athanasius
St. Sylvester	St. Matthias
St. Francis de Sales	St. Robert Bellarmine

Registration was so high that we had to close registrations early.

World Youth Day Panama 2019

World Youth Day is a worldwide gathering of young people with the Holy Father. Usually this event occurs every three years and moves from country to country. In 2019, World Youth Day was celebrated in Panama City, Panama, from January 22nd to 27th, 2019.

In the Diocese of Brooklyn, World Youth Day is open to young people 16-35 who want to be part of this unique encounter with Jesus Christ, on the global stage. World Youth Day is a special way to deepen faith and grow closer to Christ, by means of prayer and the sacraments, together with hundreds of thousands to millions of other young people who share the Catholic Faith.

After the opening Mass on the Cinta Costera, Mass and catechetical opportunities with English speaking bishops were presented the next three mornings. The afternoons and evenings were reserved for sight-seeing, formation, small group faith sharing, confessions, adoration, and connecting with other youth and young adults.

On Thursday evening, the Diocese of Brooklyn hosted a dinner for our group at a venue on the Panama Canal.

On Friday morning, the Diocese of Brooklyn was given the opportunity to lead one catechesis session where Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio was the principle catechist. Pilgrims provided warm up activities, liturgical music, and lectoring for the event.

Also, on Friday, the Diocese of Brooklyn organized a vocation discussion for its pilgrims. Young women had the opportunity to meet with two religious sisters, and the young men met with Bishop DiMarzio, Bishop Cisneros, and Fr. Sean Suckiel.

On Saturday, after a diocesan Mass, pilgrims began the walk to the overnight vigil site. Upon arrival, pilgrims set up spaces for their overnight experience. Music played and Penance was offered. At approximately 7:00 pm, Pope Francis arrived and led pilgrims in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

On Sunday morning, Pope Francis celebrated Mass for nearly 600,000 pilgrims. Following the Mass, Diocese of Brooklyn pilgrims headed back to the hotel for a faith sharing experience.

The following day, pilgrims began to travel back home.

● Photo Courtesy of CNS





● Photo Courtesy of CNS

Here are some quotes regarding World Youth Day Panama:



Re-birth: I feel like you're getting a second chance. Not everybody gets the opportunity to come out here and meet the pope. Just having the opportunity to go to catechism. That never happens in New York so I feel like you get a chance to talk about your feelings and ask questions. You have a second chance to change if you want, you don't have to be the same person.

– Giselly, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Corona

Vulnerability: If you're vulnerable, you can really let yourself reap the benefits of World Youth Day. You can really let yourself feel everything that you are meant to be feeling and you're not going to feel that unless you are vulnerable and ... open up. I just feel like that is such an important part of connecting and that's what made this WYD the most intimate one for me thus far.

– Sarah, St. Patrick Parish, Bay Ridge

Pilgrimage: They made it very clear we're not on a vacation. This is to learn, to develop, to become a better person, to become a better Christian and just grow with God. With the theme being Mary being a servant to God, we're learning a lot about ourselves that I didn't think we would learn.

– Thomas, St. Patrick Parish, Bay Ridge

Good energy: Young people have the spirit to keep going and you can see that in them and it kind of makes you want to try harder, like don't give up, you got to keep going. That's what life is. It's a challenge, so if it's hard, then you push harder.

– David, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Jackson Heights

Renewing: Before coming on this trip, I wasn't doing so well spiritually. Since being here I feel like I've been fulfilled. It's just a great relief to know that you can practice your faith so freely and have others understand you and not feel uncomfortable when you're praising the Lord or engaging in songs and psalms and understanding the homily.

– Daniela, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Corona

Strength: It has strengthened my faith. For the past year, I've had a lot of struggles both spiritually and mentally. After this trip, a mountain of stress came off my back. Going back home, I'm a better person, a better friend and a better son.

– Kervens, SS. Joachim and Anne Parish, Queens Village

Liberating: I came here to see if I can change myself but it felt like all the pain and the baggage that I have carried every day just dropped. I felt more at ease so I feel really happy.

– Victoria, St. Brigid Parish, Bushwick

Colorful: There's so many colors in the flags and obviously the place we are around is very colorful too. Panama is just a very colorful country. I think it's one of the beautiful things of this country that Pope Francis chose to be here.

– Catherine, St. Dominic Parish, Bensonhurst

Redeeming: I wasn't very spiritual at home. Seeing everybody else act out their faith helps me understand that it's not something I should keep inside myself.

– Jorge, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Corona

● Photo Courtesy of CNS



Participating Parishes:

Blessed Sacrament (Queens)
 Charismatic Renewal
 Incarnation
 Immaculate Conception
 Our Lady of the Light
 Our Lady of Lourdes
 Our Lady of Sorrows
 Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

St. Athanasius
 Saint Bartholomew Church
 St. Fortunata
 St. Gerard Majella
 St. Jerome Parish
 St. Mel
 St. Patrick
 St. Thomas Aquinas (Flatlands)

Youth Minister Convocations

The Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis sponsors these gatherings for youth ministers and their teams. These events normally gather between 70-100 leaders. A light dinner, networking opportunities, and a keynote presentation round out the evening's program. This year, Mr. Musco, Secretary for Evangelization and Catechesis, presented the diocesan youth and young adult outreach plan SO, BE BOLD! in great detail at the convocation. Also, a local representative from LifeTeen made a presentation; there was promotion of their materials and Steubenville NYC.

Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative (CYMI)

Since 2012, 89 parishes have joined the Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative (CYMI), co-sponsored by the Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn and Queens and the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis. The CYMI provides support to parishes by providing financial resources as well as assistance in developing effective outreach programs, initiatives, and strategies for comprehensive outreach to youth. Youth are evangelized and formed through vibrant opportunities provided by the parish, diocese, and family.

The following are recent additions to the Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative:

Cohort 7 Parishes

(entered the Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative in the fall of 2018)

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

Cohort 8 Parishes

(will enter the Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative in the fall of 2019)

St. Brigid
St. Leo
St. Rita
St. Mary Gate of Heaven
St. Paul and St. Agnes
Our Lady of Sorrows
Holy Family-St. Thomas Aquinas
Our Lady of the Cenacle

Department for Adult Faith Formation

The Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) gives vitality to parishes. It is a witness and a blessing to have an ever-increasing number of our Chinese and Korean brothers and sisters participate in the Rite of Election; a number that increases every year. This year's celebration of the Rite of Election was privileged to have the participation of 114 parishes, from which there were 525 catechumens both adults and children seeking Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist; 481 Candidates completed their initiation through the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. There was much joy at seeing so many participate that we were even recognized in the secular newspaper.

The celebration of each of the Rites which are an integral to the catechumenal process is essential. They not only mark the transition of one stage of growth in the process to another but also should express the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts leading them to conversion and becoming faithful followers of the Lord. These Rites well celebrated can also serve as a tremendous witness for the entire parish and local community even at times being the "instrument" by which others receive the calling to begin the catechumenal journey.

The *General Directory for Catechesis* and the *National Directory for Catechesis* both emphasize strongly that all catechesis should be modeled on that of the catechumenal process. Therefore, the key elements should be reflected in our catechetical ministry with children, youth, and adults.

114

Participating parishes

525

Catechumens seeking Baptism

481

Initiations completed



● Photo Courtesy of DeSales Media



HOLY SPIRIT INSTITUTE *for Service and Leadership*

*Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis
Diocese of Brooklyn*



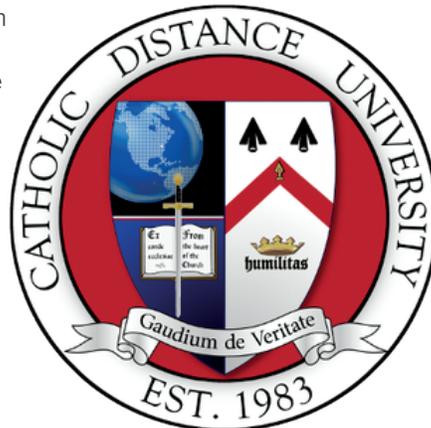
The New Evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are “disciples” and “missionaries”, but rather that we are always “missionary disciples.” — Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, #120

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 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.

We are pleased to announce that we had 39 Spanish-speaking adults complete the requirements of the two-year Volunteer Lay Leadership Track program from Cohort 1. They received their Diocesan Lay Leadership certificate conferred by Catholic Distance University in collaboration with the Diocese of Brooklyn. Four students in the Professional Lay Leadership Track completed the requirements to receive the Certificate for Catholic Educators at Catholic Distance University.

We currently we have over 50 students studying in English or in Spanish both for credit and non-credit towards a holistic formation in the Faith in preparation for making them missionary disciples. These students have participated in theological studies, pastoral formation, spiritual formation, and human development.

Pastors/Administrators are encouraged to 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 Development.



Volunteer Lay Leadership Track

Volunteer Lay Leadership Track in English or Spanish— Leads to a Diocesan Lay Leadership Certificate granted by Catholic Distance University

Professional Lay Leadership Track

Professional Lay Leadership Track—Leads to a certificate or degree in Theology or related area of study.

Why Participate in the Holy Spirit Institute?

- To become a parish volunteer lay leader
- To receive a professional academic degree or certificate in Theology, Religious Education, or another related field
- To further one's religious education and faith formation
- To become a well-formed and educated missionary disciple



● Photo Courtesy of SEC

Holy Spirit Institute for Service and Leadership Statistics 2018-2019

VOLUNTEER LAY LEADERSHIP TRACK

Cohort 1

- Total number of students - **42**
- Number of English speaking students - **0**
- Number of Spanish speaking students - **42**
- Number of parishes in Queens - **15**
- Number of parishes in Brooklyn - **4**
- Number of students that graduated - **39**

Cohort 2

- Total number of students - **39**
- Number of English speaking students - **8**
- Number of Spanish speaking students - **31**
- Number of parishes in Queens - **3**
- Number of parishes in Brooklyn - **3**

PROFESSIONAL LAY LEADERSHIP TRACK

Cohort 1

- Total number of students - **7**
- Number of English speaking students - **4**
- Number of Spanish speaking students - **3**
- Number of parishes in Queens - **4**
- Number of parishes in Brooklyn - **3**
- Number of students that graduated - **4**

Cohort 2

- Total number of students - **11**
- Number of English speaking students - **5**
- Number of Spanish speaking students - **6**
- Number of parishes in Queens - **5**
- Number of parishes in Brooklyn - **3**

Recognition Mass and Celebration

The annual Diocesan Recognition Mass and Celebration honors those who have served tirelessly in the formation of others as catechists or catechetical leaders. It is also the event in which we celebrate individuals who have completed their initial or ongoing requirements for the Diocese. This year we recognized 49 catechists who completed their Initial Formation, 14 who completed their Ongoing formation, and 8 who retired. We were pleased to have 172 persons recognized for years of service ranging from 5-50 years. The Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative recognized 5 youth ministers and the Holy Spirit Institute recognized 43 students. Each year, the number of participants grows and the generosity of missionary disciples to be formed is ever greater.

A FIRST IN THE DIOCESE AND THE NATION!

Dr. Marianne Mount, President of Catholic Distance University, and longtime collaborator with the Diocese of Brooklyn, was present at the Diocesan Recognition Mass and Celebration to assist in awarding the non-credit Diocesan Lay Leadership Certificates to those who completed the two-year Holy Spirit Institute for Service and Leadership. This was the first time that these official certificates were awarded as part of the Holy Spirit Institute. These certificates are valuable because they are issued by an accredited Catholic university.



HOLY SPIRIT INSTITUTE FOR SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

The Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis of the Diocese of Brooklyn is teaming up with Catholic Distance University to prepare lay leaders to lead and serve.



About the Holy Spirit Institute

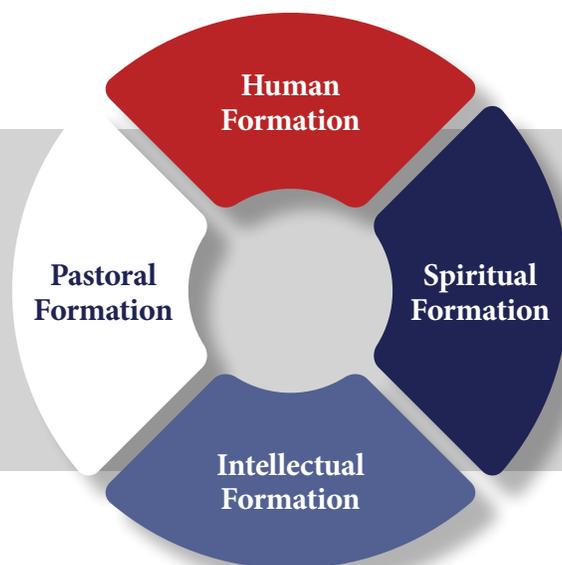
The Holy Spirit Institute for Service and Leadership of the Diocese of Brooklyn provides high quality formation and education to lay men and women who are called to serve as missionary disciples. The Institute was established in 2017 in tandem with the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis, which Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D., formed in response to Pope Francis' invitation at the start of his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel).

About Catholic Distance University

CDU offers accredited online undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates as well as continuing education programs. Founded in 1983, CDU has educated thousands of students worldwide who wish to deepen their faith through programs that provide the academic and spiritual growth students seek with the flexibility and convenience they need. CDU graduates touch the lives of many as they use their knowledge to help form others in the Faith and educate the next generation of missionary disciples. CDU's online programs allow you to study from your computer, device, or phone anytime, anywhere!

Lead and Serve

Our programs prepare you to lead and serve through four components—human formation, spiritual formation, pastoral formation, and intellectual formation. Convenient online courses provided by Catholic Distance University provide the intellectual formation, and conferences and seminars within the diocese provide the human, pastoral, and spiritual formation.





Volunteer Lay Leadership Track in English and Spanish

This 2-year program leads to a Diocesan Lay Leadership Certificate granted by Catholic Distance University. Candidates must successfully complete all four components of the Institute, including six courses, at least three of which must be taken online through Catholic Distance University's Continuing Education program.

Students complete six courses in English or Spanish, including one conference or seminar in human development, one in pastoral development, and a reflection that provides the spiritual formation component required. The numbered courses are offered completely online through Catholic Distance University.

The Diocesan Lay Leadership Certificate provides certification for the following positions:

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

Additional training may be required for certain positions.

Volunteer Lay Leadership Track in English and Spanish

Students can choose from the following offerings:

FIRST SEMESTER

- Orientation Conference
- THEO N005 Profession of Faith
- Women's / Men's Conference
- Advent Reflection
- Human Development: Strength Finder I
- Pastoral Development Day

SECOND SEMESTER

- THEO N105 Constitution of the Church
- THEO N006 Celebration of the Christian Mystery
- Lenten Reflection
- Human Development: Strength Finder II
- Catechetical Assembly
- Seminar: *Christi Fidelis Laici*

THIRD SEMESTER

- SCRPT N004 Introduction to Scripture and the Gospel Message
- Advent Reflection
- Human Development: Strength Finder III
- Seminar: Mariology
- Workshops

FOURTH SEMESTER

- THEO N007 Life in Christ
- THEO N008 Christian Prayer
- Final Reflection
- Human Development: Strength Finder IV
- Pastoral Development: *Evangelium Nuntiandi*
- Exit Presentation
- Workshops

Professional Graduate Certificate Track

Students participate in the following conferences, seminars, and reflections offered in the Diocese of Brooklyn:

- Orientation Conference
- Women's / Men's Conference
- Advent Retreat
- Human Development: Strength Finder I
- Pastoral Development Day
- Lenten Retreat
- Human Development: Strength Finder II
- Catechetical Congress
- Human Development: Strength Finder III
- Catechetical Conference
- Human Development: Strength Finder IV
- Exit Presentation
- Human Development: Strength Finder V
- Retreat
- Human Development: Strength Finder VI
- Exit Seminar

Upon successful completion of professional certificates, students are encouraged to complete a degree at CDU. Credits earned toward certificates can be applied toward degree requirements!

Professional Undergraduate and Graduate Certificate Tracks

Earn an **Undergraduate Catechetical Coordinator Certificate** or **Graduate Certificate for Catholic Educators** through Catholic Distance University.

Students complete six online courses through Catholic Distance University plus one conference or seminar in the Diocese of Brooklyn in human development, one in pastoral development, and a reflection that provides the spiritual formation component required.

CATHOLIC DISTANCE UNIVERSITY ONLINE COURSES

Undergraduate Courses

- THEO 304
Foundations of Catholicism
- SCRPT 330
Introduction to Scripture and Salvation History
- THEO 332
Jesus Christ: God, Man, and Savior
- THEO 353
Sacraments: Masterworks of God
- THEO 468
Principles of Moral Theology
- RELED 432
General Catechetics for the New Evangelization

Graduate Courses

- THEO 503
The Catholic Theological Tradition
- RELED 560
Principles of Catholic Education
- THEO 682
Forming a Catholic World View: Catholic Social Teachings
- SCRPT 530
Introduction to Scripture and Salvation History
- SPIR 501
Applied Catholic Spirituality
- THEO 640
Presenting the Faith in the Modern World: Dealing with the Hard Questions

Professional Degree Track

Earn a degree through Catholic Distance University, which has provided distance education for lay leaders in service to the New Evangelization for 35 years.

This track, which requires a 3-year commitment and successful completion of all four components of the Institute, leads to one of four degrees:

- **Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts with a Concentration in Catholic Studies** (60 credits)
- **Bachelor of Arts in Theology** (120 credits)
- **Master of Arts in Theology** (36 credits, no thesis required)
- **Master of Arts in Theology and Educational Ministry** (36 credits, program portfolio and practicum required)

Those without a Bachelor of Arts degree will begin with six courses towards an Associate of Arts degree or complete the 18-credit Undergraduate Catechetical Coordinator Certificate.

Those with a Bachelor of Arts degree in a non-religious area will pursue the 18-credit Graduate Certificate for Catholic Educators or one of the two Master of Arts degree programs listed above.

For information about CDU's degree program requirements and courses, visit cdu.edu and select Academics from the menu to find the degree program best suited for you.

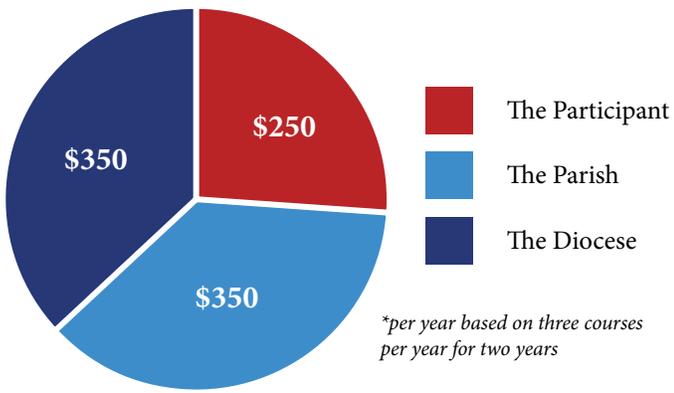


Get Started Today!

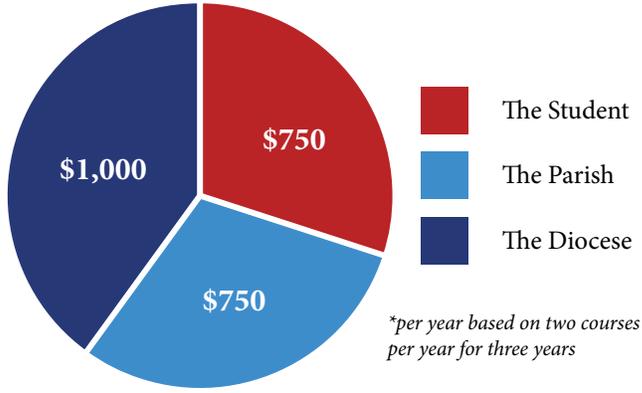
Are you an active parishioner who is ready to become a missionary disciple? If so, ask your pastor to nominate you for participation in the Holy Spirit Institute. Email Joann Roa at jroa@diobrook.org or 718-965-7300 ext. 2440 for more information. Candidates should possess adequate reading and writing skills and the ability to work well with others.

About the Holy Spirit Institute

For those in the **Volunteer Lay Leadership Track**, payment is due annually by November 1st. A bill will be issued. The total costs include*:



For those in the **Professional Certificate and Degree Track**, payment is due annually by November 1st. A bill will be issued. The total costs include*:



This financial arrangement is made in partnership with CDU. Additional costs are the responsibility of the student.



Haitian (Kolaj Pastoral Labib Ak Doktrin) 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 Kolaj Pastoral as part of the Diocesan Holy Spirit Institute for Service and Leadership. 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, and then many books are studied one after the other.

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 10:00 am to 4:00 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 DeSales Media

Living and Leading by Faith Catechist and Catechetical Leader Formation Program

Sponsored by the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis, the Living and Leading by Faith Catechist and Catechetical Leader Formation Program has been developed to educate adult Catholics in the Catholic Faith. While at least ten hours of approved faith formation is required of all who administer or teach in Catholic academies/parish schools and parish programs of Religious Education, the courses are open to all adult learners and can be found at bqonlineformation.org

This past year, the Secretariat offered more than 100 courses and events locally and provided access to over 100 approved courses online.

LONGTIME COLLABORATION WITH MY CATHOLIC FAITH DELIVERED (MCFD)



My Catholic Faith Delivered provides an online learning system and courses to help Catholics in the Diocese of Brooklyn grow, communicate, learn, and evangelize the beauty and truth of Catholic Faith. We use MCFD's platform for all our courses, events, and ministries and to share resources with other groups or individuals.

Our collaboration with MCFD enables us to strengthen the overall faith community and to be able to provide our catechists and catechetical leaders with information on all the courses that we offer.

We encourage you to go to bqonlineformation.org for more information.





BY THE NUMBERS

powered by:
my Catholic Faith
DELIVERED™

(March 2013 - May 2019)

13,400+
total unique users

607
live classes created

22,373
attendance in live classes

265,000+
hours completed from all course requirements

16,850+
total courses completed

21,000+
students assessed anonymously

Dynamic Catholic and Dynamic Parish

This pilot program offered by the Dynamic Catholic organization which is dedicated “To re-energize the Catholic Church in America by developing world-class resources that inspire people to rediscover the genius of Catholicism.”

In 2018, the leadership of Dynamic Catholic chose the Diocese of Brooklyn as one of four pilot dioceses to participate in a new initiative, Dynamic Parish. Dynamic Parish will focus on the renewal of the parish using the following themes:

1. Invitation
2. Prayer
3. Study
4. Generosity
5. Evangelization

The pilot parishes in the Diocese of Brooklyn are:

1. St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Flatlands
2. Holy Child Jesus Parish
3. Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish
4. St. Brigit Parish
5. Transfiguration-St. Stanislaus Parish

In collaboration with Dynamic Catholic, we hope to “increase the number of dynamic Catholics who are highly engaged members of the parish.”



Paulist Evangelization Ministries

This ministry focuses on “Reaching the Unreached” and assisting “Catholics with programs to share their faith, to reach out to seekers and those who are disconnected.”

Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP, President of the Paulist Evangelization Ministries, was presented by Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio the Duc In Altum (Put Out Into the Deep) Award on the occasion of the Annual Catechetical Congress held this year at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston, New York, on April 6.

The Diocese of Brooklyn has benefited greatly from the wealth of knowledge that Fr. Frank DeSiano and Fr. Kenneth Boyak bring to the Diocese of Brooklyn regarding outreach efforts.



RENEW International

Through **ARISE Together in Christ** and **LEVÁNTATE Unámonos en Cristo** in the Diocese of Brooklyn, we envisioned a process that would provide fertile ground for an encounter with Christ and deepen spirituality through faith sharing in small communities. Through five seasons of faith sharing, ARISE moved participants from encountering Christ to conversion, discipleship, and reconciliation with the Church, to become missionary disciples—men and women who proclaim the Gospel with their words and their lives. In addition, it led participants to put the Gospel faith into action in daily life. All of these efforts promote the Good News of the Spirit’s presence in the people of God and revitalize parish life in the diocese.



FAITH SHARING BY THE NUMBERS...

Over the last three years, 70 parishes launched small groups with more than 27,025 participants during those seasons. In the fall of 2018, there were parishes in 3 stages of the ARISE process. Some parishes started with Season 1, others were in Season 3, and the largest group of 55 parishes finished ARISE with Season 5.



SMALL GROUP PARTICIPANTS

(participation levels remained steady from Season 4 to Season 5)

4,523 in English

3,526 in Spanish

348 in Haitian Creole

125 in Chinese



● Photo Courtesy of SEC

Good News Stories

- One group did volunteer a day at the St. John Bread and Life Organization. This was our second time as a group volunteering there and we enjoy it very much. They assigned us with different tasks for the day and it was very fulfilling knowing that you're able to help a community that is very much different than your own.
– St. Bernard, Brooklyn
- We had a member in our last year's ARISE group who took on a Greeting Card Ministry for the sick homebound in our parish. The member, Carol, passed away very suddenly. This year our group leader asked if anyone would like to take on that ministry. A member, Agnes immediately said 'yes'. I'm certain that Carol is smiling down on us from Heaven! – Holy Name of Jesus, Brooklyn
- The participants were touched by the unity and sharing experiences that were related to the readings and our personal lives. – St. Michael, Brooklyn
- As our group remained the same over the seasons of ARISE, we definitely formed a sense of community and trust. – Our Lady of Angels, Brooklyn



All parishes in the Diocese of Brooklyn were invited to make a commitment to faith sharing through small groups. For Lent, twenty-nine parishes which participated in ARISE and finished Season 5 began the transition to **Why Catholic? Por Que Ser Catolico?**

Catholics often face opportunities to share their faith with others, but lack the basic knowledge and confidence to do so. *Why Catholic?* has a rich scriptural and catechetical approach that gives a solid foundation for every Catholic to express their faith and be able to reach out to others in faith. This process offers a concrete approach to help adults deepen their Catholic faith and connect its teachings to their everyday lives. We explore Catholic teaching with direct quotes from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the US Catechism for Adults, scriptural references, and reflection questions. Participants will journey together in small groups using 4 books - **Book 1—PRAY, Book 2—BELIEVE, Book 3—CELEBRATE and Book 4—LIVE.**

FAITH SHARING BY THE NUMBERS...DURING LENT 2019

29 Parishes with groups participating in English

Number of small groups - **144**

Number of trained facilitators - **174**

Number of parishioners participating - **1269**

19 Parishes with groups participating in Spanish

Number of small groups - **116**

Number of trained facilitators - **239**

Number of parishioners participating - **1230**

Participation in Haitian-Creole

Number of small groups - **10**

Number of trained facilitators - **12**

Number of parishioners participating - **90**

Participation in Chinese

Number of small groups - **3**

Number of facilitators - **3**

Number of parishioners participating - **48**

Participation in Tamil

Number of small groups - **1**

Number of facilitators - **1**

Number of parishioners participating - **15**

Good News Stories

- At the end of the first Why Catholic Season, we had a night of reflection in Spanish in Church with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. We invited Deacon Guillermo Gomez who summarized the first six sessions. The night of reflection was for two hours. We had around 175 people who attended. - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Astoria
- We did outreach to the entire Church community to answer Why Catholic? We displayed the answers the lobby. We are PRAYER WARRIORS!! We love the format and readings in the books!! – St. Laurence, Brooklyn
- The response from all groups was very positive. We had a number of people take part in the groups for the first time. We had a group of parents who met during the time that their children were in Faith Formation. None of them had ever been part of a small group before. All of them attend Mass regularly but they did not participate in any other way in parish life. I invited each one personally to join the group. They had a wonderful experience and formed some real connections among themselves as young mothers. They are now much more engaged and want to continue with the group in the fall. We also started an all-men group. This group was small but the men want to continue with it and reach out to other men to join in the fall. – St. Mary Magdalene, Springfield Gardens

- The group always enjoys the sessions especially the music and group prayer. We set intentions for others and also use a prayer box which works well. We write down an intention and everyone puts theirs in the box. We pray with it in the middle. At the end everyone passes it around again and takes one intention out. During the week, each individual prays for the intention they picked. – Holy Name of Jesus, Brooklyn
- Cada sesion semanal invita a profundizar en el conocimiento, entendimiento, dialogo, reflexion, y compartir la practica de la Oracion con una nueva espiritualidad. Hay algunos grupos que continúan verse con frecuencia para compartir lo que aprendieron en las sesiones y que siguen creciendo en la vida de fe. – St. Matthias, Ridgewood
- A few expected a priest to conduct these meetings, but the encounter with each other was amazing; many appreciated and compared similar prayer sessions that they encountered back in our country. – Faith sharing group in Tamil at Our Lady of Lourdes, Queens Village
- There were definitely those moments when the faces on kids would change - they finally saw something and God had touched their heart. They might not realize it now, but I do believe that anything that was said in the group will always stay and grow in their hearts. – Youth Group at St. Matthew, Ridgewood

Be My WITNESS

Presented by RENEW International

In consultation with the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis, three parishes were selected to implement **Be My Witness**. Holy Trinity, St. Sebastian, and St. Nicholas of Tolentine are currently forming their parish teams. These teams will begin the parish planning phase in the fall of 2019.

This process is based on The Joy of the Gospel in which Pope Francis highlights the importance of pastoral conversion and personal conversion. Pope Francis notes the many challenges we face in parish life. In pastoral conversion Pope Francis calls our parishes to change. He invites us to look at our parish communities through a lens of evangelization and with a missionary heart. He encourages us to look at themes in our parishes - our Sunday experience, our sense of welcome and belonging, our living witness to faith, and our missionary call. Parish teams will look at these areas in their parish and work to develop a pastoral plan focused on these themes.

After the parish planning phase, teams will work to engage all parishioners. We are all called to personal conversion, deepening our relationship with Jesus and experiencing the Holy Spirit in our lives. Parishes will use the twelve-session *Be My Witness* faith sharing book, which is available in English and Spanish.

Department for Marriage, Family Formation, and Respect Life Education

Marriage Ministry Statistics for 2018-2019

The following are statistics relating to our Marriage Ministry programs and processes:

22 couples presenting Pre-Cana

- 15 couples in English
- 4 couples in Spanish
- 2 couples in Creole
- 1 couple in Italian

2 couples presenting Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend

1 Couple presenting a Celebrate Marriage Enrichment Weekend

16 couples presenting Marriage Encounter weekends

- 10 in English
- 6 in Spanish

12 couples presenting Retrouvaille weekends

1 couple teaching the Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning

PRE-CANA (MARRIAGE PREPARATION)

52 Diocesan Pre-Cana sessions held:

- 16 sessions at 310 Prospect Park West
- 10 sessions at the Immaculate Conception Center
- 26 sessions at parishes across the diocese

The breakdown per type of session:

45 classes in English

- 35 Catholic
- 5 Interfaith
- 5 Re-Marriage

10 in Spanish

6 in Polish

A total of **1878** couples participated in the **Diocesan Pre-Cana program** from September 1, 2018 through June 7, 2019.

Co-sponsored **2 Engaged Encounter weekends** with **20** couples attending.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

Co-sponsored:

11 Marriage Encounter Weekends

- 7 in English
- 4 in Spanish

4 Retrouville Weekends (for couples in crisis)

2 Beginning Experience Weekends (for the widowed/divorced)

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

5 training sessions in the Billings Ovulation Method

1 training session in the Creighton Ovulation Method

A total of **20** couples **registered** for these trainings.

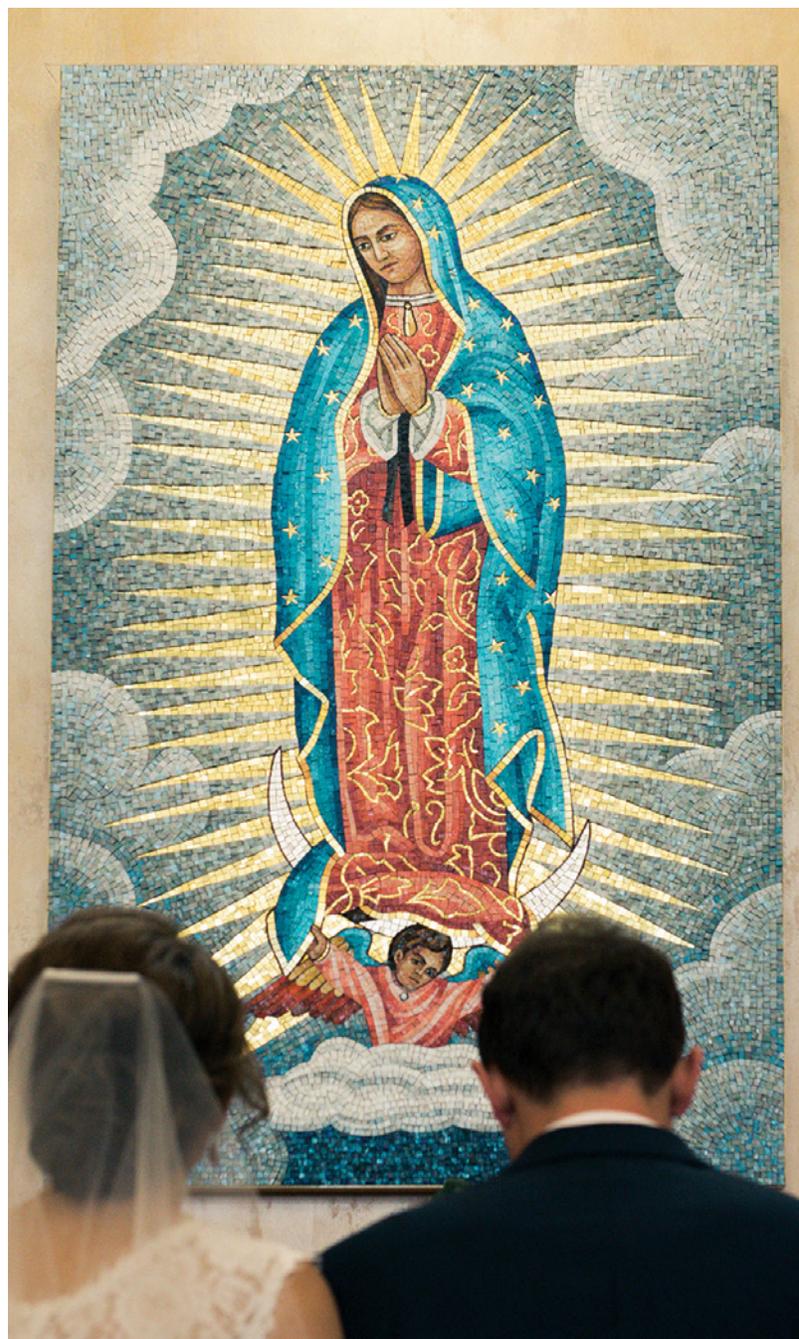
1878 engaged couples received the **NFP introductory session** during their Diocesan Pre-Cana class.

FOCCUS PRE-MARRIAGE ASSESSMENT

5 training sessions in the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Assessment

Total of **35** new facilitators **registered** for these sessions

135 couples participated in the **FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Assessment** during their marriage preparation



● Photo by Josh Applegate on Unsplash

Wedding Anniversary Mass and Other Important Events

The Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass was celebrated by Most Reverend Paul Sanchez, DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn, at Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston, New York, on Saturday, May 18, 2019, with **77 couples** participating.

The annual World Marriage Day celebration was held on the second weekend in February. All parishes received a planning kit and resources, in English and Spanish, from our office. Numerous parishes and deaneries in Brooklyn and Queens hosted a local celebration.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) dedicated the week of July 21-July 28, 2019 as National Natural Family Planning Awareness Week. This year's theme was "Love, Naturally! Natural Family Planning Cooperating with God's design for married love." The dates of Natural Family Planning Awareness Week highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (July 25) which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, conjugal love, and responsible parenthood. The dates also mark the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (July 26), the parents of the Blessed Mother. The department also collected several resources that pastors, administrators, priests, deacons, and catechetical leaders could use to provide Natural Family Planning sessions within their respective parishes. Homily notes and special petitions were distributed for use during NFP week. Additionally, parishes were provided both English and Spanish posters.



● Photo Courtesy of John McElroy, CNS

Ninth World Meeting of Families in Ireland

Forty-five pilgrims attended the Diocesan pilgrimage to the Ninth World Meeting of Families in Dublin, Ireland in August of 2018. The pilgrims visited Trinity College, Connemara, Kylemore Abbey, The Shrine to Our Lady of Knock, Clonmacnoise, and Dublin. They participated in the World Meeting of Families Congress, where they reflected on the theme "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World" chosen by the Holy Father and listened to keynote presenters, participated in workshops, talks, testimonies, and discussions. The Festival of Families included a reflective concert style event within a prayerful and joyful atmosphere, in which personal stories of faith was shared by families from all continents. The World Meeting of Families concluded with Mass celebrated by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, in Phoenix Park.

Treasures of the Church Family Event

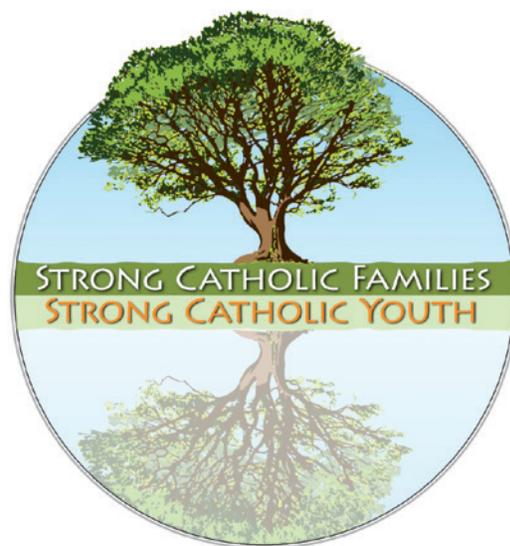
In response to Pope Francis' mission for the family that was given at the World Meeting of Families, the Diocese of Brooklyn hosted a multi-parish event focused on the saints of the Church. Treasures of the Church is a ministry of evangelization of the Catholic Church. Run by Fr. Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross, its purpose is to give people an experience of the living God through an encounter with the relics of his saints in the form of an exposition. Each exposition began with a multi-media presentation on the Church's use of relics that is scriptural, catechetical, and devotional, leading to a renewal of the Catholic faith for many people.

Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth Initiative

On February 11, 2019, Michael Theisen from National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry gave a presentation on a new Diocesan initiative called Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth. This program aims to increase family participation within the life of the parish. The Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth national initiative and resources are designed to motivate parents to take responsibility for the faith development of their children and motivate parishes, Catholic academies, and parish schools to support and equip parents and families in passing the Catholic Faith to their children. It is a strategic process designed to equip parishes, Catholic academies, and parish school leaders in empowering and supporting parents in leading their children and teens toward a vibrant faith that embraces discipleship.

This process provides an excellent perspective of empowering parents and families that can be incorporated into all of parish life, particularly sacramental preparation, adult and child faith formation, as well as all parish areas. Overall, it engages families to become "domestic churches" and evangelize their communities. Each parish, Catholic academy, and parish school will decide its best direction given the unique resources, culture, and history of its community. The benefit of this program is the involvement of both parents and the larger community. In other words, it is a great evangelization tool.

The Secretariat held training sessions on June 19 and 20, 2019, and the pilot parishes will begin implementation during the 2019-2020 catechetical year.



● Photo Courtesy of photo/L'Osservatore Romano, CNS

Diocesan Family Catechesis Initiative

On December 8, 2018, the Department of Marriage, Family Formation, and Respect Life Education announced the Diocesan Family Catechesis Initiative. The Diocesan Family Catechesis Initiative is designed to motivate parents to take responsibility for the Catholic Faith development of their children, and to motivate parishes, Catholic academies, and parish schools to support and equip parents and families in passing the faith to their children. It is a strategic process designed to equip parish, Catholic academy, and parish school leaders to empower and support parents in leading their children and teens toward a vibrant faith that embraces discipleship. Families simply register to receive free monthly catechetical activities, resources, and materials to help their family grow in their faith.

Sign up by texting **FAMCAT to 84576** to receive the materials via text message.

Today, we have over 100 families registered in the Flocknote system.

Respect Life Education

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 is organized across several 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 efforts to insure effective legal protection for the right to life.

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.

Each parish in the Diocese received 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 priests, parish groups, and other organizations.

In addition, the Department of Marriage, Family Formation, and Respect Life Education sponsored:

- Ten buses to participate in the Annual March for Life on January 22, 2019 in Washington, DC. Over 400 people from Brooklyn and Queens participated in this national event.
 - One post-abortion healing program.
-



Unplanned Movie Event

Two private screenings of “Unplanned” were offered in Brooklyn and Queens.

The movie is about “Abby Johnson, one of the youngest Planned Parenthood directors in the US. After she is asked to assist in an abortion at thirteen weeks gestation she instead resigns, becoming a pro-life activist.”

More than 300 youth and young adults attended both screenings held locally.

Boards and Commission

Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis Advisory Board

The following served as members for the 2018-2019 catechetical year:

Theresa Andersen	Edwin Perez
Fr. Jeremy Canna	Juan Perez
Dcn. John Cantirino	Fr. Marc Swartvagher
Carmina DelaRosa	Fr. Joseph Gibino*
Fr. Vincentius Do	Paul Morisi*
Krzysztof Gospodarzec	Theodore Musco*
Joanne Heppt	Christian Rada*
Sandra Jean	Joann Roa*

* Ex-officio member

Special Needs Religious Education Commission

The following served as members for the 2018-2019 catechetical year:

Roseanne Bourke	Georgette Lyons
Helen McCleary	John Bourke
Marylyn Crum	Sr. Alice Michael
Theodore Musco*	Joan DiMarco
Nelly Gutierrez	Fr. Joseph Gibino*
Donna Spoto	Helen Teifer

* Ex-officio member

Catholic Youth Organization Board

The following served as directors for the 2018-2019 catechetical year:

Brendan Grady

Eileen Long

Michael McGovern

John O'Brien

Michael Healy

Carl Quigley

Brian Cosgrove

Paul Morisi*

Marie Raico

Theodore Musco*

* Ex-officio member

Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative Advisory Board

The following served as members for the 2018-2019 catechetical year:

Ana Puente

Ellen Rhatigan

Joan McMaster

Lucia Morales*

Michelle Fox

Paul Morisi*

Rev. James Kuroly

Robert Caldera

John Notaro*

Rhonda Willi

* Ex-officio member

Secretariat Staff Directory

NAME

CONTACT

Theodore Musco
Secretary for Evangelization and Catechesis

718.281.9544
tmusco@diobrook.org

Nelsa Elías
Facilitator, Catechetical Program Outreach

718.965.7300 ext. 5558
nelias@diobrook.org

Christine Georgi
Registrar

718.965.7300 ext. 5417
cgeorgi@diobrook.org

Reverend Joseph Gibino
Coordinator, Curriculum and Degrees

718.965.7300 ext. 5559
jgibino@diobrook.org

Krzysztof Gospodarzec
Liaison with the Polish Community

718.281.9544
cgeorgi@diobrook.org

Martha Hernandez
Administrative Assistant

718.965.7300 ext. 5540
mhernandez@diobrook.org

Reverend James Kuroly
Chaplain, Youth and Young Adult Formation

718.281.9544
jkuroly@diobrook.org

Lucia Morales
Specialist, Catholic Youth Ministry Initiative

718.965.7300 ext. 5518
lmorales@diobrook.org

Paul Morisi
Director, Youth and Young Adult Faith Formation

718.965.7300 ext. 5556
pmorisi@diobrook.org

Maria Plasencia
Administrative Assistant

718.965.7300 ext. 1036
pmorisi@diobrook.org

Christian Rada
Director, Marriage, Family Formation, and Respect Life Education

718.965.7300 ext. 5541
crada@diobrook.org

Joann Roa
Director, Adult Faith Formation

718.965.7300 ext. 2440
jroa@diobrook.org

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION STAFF

Robert Caldera
Director

718.281.9549
rcaldera@diobrook.org

Anmarie Creighton
Administrative Assistant

718.281.9548
acreighton@diobrook.org

Keith Goldberg
Sports Coordinator

718.281.9550
kgoldberg@diobrook.org

George Simone
Technology/Sports Coordinator

718.399.5928
gsimone@diobrook.org



So, be
BOLD!

Continuing the work of
the New Evangelization
as missionary disciples

