



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Pastors and Ministry Leaders
FROM: Patrick Donovan
DATE: June 7, 2021
RE: Updates from The Leadership Institute

NEXUS

As you know, in fall 2023, the age of Confirmation in the Diocese of Bridgeport will shift to the end of sixth/beginning of seventh grade. We want to do all we can to help your parish prepare. The NEXUS pilot program invites ten parishes to spend two years creating intentional outreach to middle and high school youth. A project coordinator will accompany your parish leadership team on the journey of assessing needs, creating a plan, and implementing ministry.

We have room for a few more parishes. Please email pdonovan@diobpt.org if you are interested. We are working with several funding sources if the financial commitment is a concern.

For more information on NEXUS, please visit <https://mm.formationreimagined.org/resources/nexus-pilot-experience/>.

2021-2022 Calendar

The Leadership Institute's calendar of events for 2021-2022 is now live. Some locations and times still need to be finalized, but if you would like a glimpse of all the great catechetical opportunities for next year, please download your copy today.

<https://mm.formationreimagined.org/resources/calendar-for-21-22/>

RCIA Collaborative

To date, five parishes have indicated their desire to join the RCIA Collaborative. This will provide regional formation for those wishing to enter the Catholic Church. All related celebrations and sacraments are still held in the local parish, but this is a great opportunity for those parishes who often have only a handful of catechumens. To join the collaborative, please email pdonovan@diobpt.org.



Catholic Biblical School

Beginning September 2021, The Leadership Institute will partner with the Catholic Biblical School of the Archdiocese of Hartford to offer a satellite location for classes at a discounted rate. More information will be shared in the coming weeks. The Catholic Biblical Schools has a long history of providing top notch formation to anyone who wishes to learn more about Sacred Scriptures.

For complete details, please see <https://formationreimagined.org/catholic-biblical-school/>.

Parish Reading Groups

Beginning this fall, we will host two events with authors of must-read books. If your parish wishes to participate, we can help you with study guides and bulk purchasing books at a discount. Parish Reading Groups meet at the parish, read together, study together, and then join all those from around the diocese for a meet and greet with the author.

Fall – *Real Presence: What Does It Mean And Why Does It Matter?* By Timothy O'Malley. Order deadline is September 15, 2021. Lunch and discussion is October 15, 2021.

Spring – *Everyone Leads: How to Revitalize the Catholic Church* by Chris Lowney. Order deadline is January 15, 2022. Lunch and discussion is March 10, 2022.

To order books and discussion guides, please email pdonovan@diobpt.org. Other books will be announced when details are finalized.

Bereavement Groups in Parishes

In a few weeks, we will host a webinar for parents, catechists, and anyone who wishes to learn more about how we grieve what we have lost in the pandemic.

On September 18, 2022, we will host an in-person gathering for parishes who need help forming a bereavement group or would like advice on improving current efforts.

Please see <https://formationreimagined.org/events-home/> for more details.

Positions Available

If you have someone you would like to nominate for these positions (which include stipends), please email pdonovan@diobpt.org.

Mentor Couples for Marriage – We are looking for couples (English and Spanish) who can accompany engaged couples preparing for marriage. Time commitment is one hour per month.

Spanish Marriage Preparation – We are seeking one or two couples who are fluent in Spanish with a good grasp of the Church's teaching on Marriage to lead in person presentations for couples. Time commitment is about 8 hours every other month.

Master Catechists – To get the ball rolling on our RCIA Collaborative, we are looking for one or two people who can serve as Master Catechists in the program. Time commitment is about four hours per month.

