



# THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: All Pastors and Ministry Leaders  
FROM: Patrick Donovan  
DATE: August 29, 2021  
RE: Updates from The Leadership Institute

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### Events Postponed

As we all try to get a handle on when to resume large scale face-to-face events, we have decided to postpone the following events. Both events will be rescheduled for a later date.

- Best Practices in RCIA (scheduled for September 12)
- Establishing Parish Bereavement Ministry: A How-To Workshop

### Clergy Check In

This year, we want to offer a chance for clergy to join in a virtual opportunity to touch base with Institute staff to ask questions about sacramental formation, marriage formation, or just to make suggestions or get help in reimagining faith formation in their parishes.

Each meeting is via Zoom beginning at 1:30 pm and links are available on the Institute website. The first meeting is September 15. There is no need to pre-register.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85916902712?pwd=RnNROFljY2dVTFdtbnNjUngRSM0I5UT09>

### Day of Prayer for Parish Staff

The Leadership Institute will host a workshop for all parish administrative staff on Friday, September 17, 2021, at Holy Spirit Parish, Stamford. The day will begin at 9:30 am and end at 2 pm. Lunch will be included and there is no cost or limit to the number of people your parish can send. This day is open to all receptionists, bookkeepers, secretaries, and other parish staff who work so tirelessly to offer a great first impression for our parishes. Email [institute@diobpt.org](mailto:institute@diobpt.org) to sign up.

### Ambassador Formation – Phase Three

Bishop Caggiano invites all Ambassadors to take part in formation for phase three beginning September 11, 2021. Most formation will be online and complete details will be emailed this week to the Ambassadors.



### **Catholic Biblical School**

Beginning September 2021, we will partner with the Catholic Biblical School of the Archdiocese of Hartford to offer a satellite location for classes at a discounted rate. 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 no cost). 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 are October 15, 2021.

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

To order books and discussion guides, please email [pdonovan@diobpt.org](mailto:pdonovan@diobpt.org). Other books will be announced when details are finalized.

### **Positions Available**

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

