



Office of the Bishop

DIOCESE OF SAINT JOHN

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September 3, 2013

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As summer vacation time draws to a close and parish activities begin once again in earnest, I would ask you to consider being part of a two-year process which will begin in November entitled: **Lay Pastoral Ministry Formation Program**. The two-year process involves ten weekends each year.

All Catholic Christians are called to play a role in the life and mission of the Church, a role that is ours through baptism. Called specifically to be 'co-responsible' for the Church's life and mission, lay women and men are challenged by the documents of Vatican II and subsequent papal encyclicals to be well-informed in faith, enthusiastic for God's work and capable of leadership in the Church and in society. Those called to particular roles in parishes and communities need ongoing support and faith development. This is reflected in our *Diocesan Pastoral Plan* on pages 40-41.

This program is a two-year journey of faith formation, specifically designed for adult lay women and men, already serving in some aspect of ministry and seeking further spiritual, intellectual and community nurturing and formation.

Whatever might be your present involvement, you are invited to consider enrolling in the program to enrich your faith and support your involvement in new and rewarding ways.

You are expected to be supported by your parish priest and community. The cost is co-sponsored by the candidate, his or her parish and the Diocese.

Those of you who are being called and are interested in receiving more information or are ready to apply for admission, should contact Claudette Derdaele at the Diocesan Centre at 506-653-6800.

The deadline for application is September 30, 2013.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ Robert Harris
Bishop of Saint John