



Office of Faith Formation

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The Pastoral Resource Center exists to serve the pastoral ministers of the diocese and all are encouraged to take full advantage of what we currently offer and will continue to offer as we enhance our center.

The Office of Faith Formation invites all parish personnel to visit the Pastoral Resource Center during business hours (Monday – Friday 8am -Noon & 1pm – 4pm) or by other arrangement. Please contact Clare M. Byrne at 718-229-8001 ext. 254 for further information.

The following is a summary of the progress that has been made to improve the Pastoral Resource Center in the past year.

- ✓ The periodical collection was reviewed and a total of 60 religious newspapers and periodicals are now available.
- ✓ A purchase order account was established at Barnes & Noble. This allows us to take advantage of both the on-line and 5% library discounts. In addition, all orders of over \$25 have no mailing charge and there are other special promotions like buy 2 and get 1 free that make this an economical and convenient way to shop.
- ✓ As a Resource Member of the USCCB, we get a 40% discount on all on-line orders and we are also eligible for the year end sales and bulk order discounts.
- ✓ The old stand alone PCs running Windows 95 and 98 have been replaced with new networked PCs running XP. These PCs have energy efficient flat screen monitors and some have DVD drives.
- ✓ All of the new PCs have internet access. The wiring was expanded in December to include additional outlets. There are 12 more outlets on the main floor and 13 new outlets in the new Media Room so there is plenty of room for expansion or plugging in laptops.
- ✓ A new Media Room is being created in what used to be a storage room. The shelves were removed and it was repainted in December. It is expected that the carpet will be laid in March so more PCs can be set-up in this area.
- ✓ In 2005, the last year the library was officially open for a complete year, there were 731 visitors. In the nine months from April to December of 2007, there were 1,162 visitors to the Resource Center that signed the register.
- ✓ The current collection is maintained in three separate catalogs with most of the books in the paper card catalog. After several months of evaluation of various systems, a new web-based catalog was selected. We are in the process of converting the 10% of the system that is in electronic format to the new system. After this, the remaining items will need to be manually reentered.
- ✓ In order to make room for more religious resources and reduce the items to be cataloged, a weeding process is under way. Several of the retired priests and the librarians from the Diocesan Archives have been helping to evaluate the collection and determine which resources should be retained. The resources from the former academic collection will be offered first to Cathedral Prep for their collection.
- ✓ On February 15, the new web pages went live. The link is

<http://www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/OFF/resourcecenter/index.htm>

It can also be found from the Diocese of Brooklyn home page at <http://www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/index2.html> by selecting "Faith Formation/Religious Ed" from the Quick Find drop down at the top right of the screen. From the Faith Formation home page, select the teal color "Pastoral Resource Center" item on the left side of the page.