



## Farewell to a Friend and Valued Team Member

-Tom Quinlan



February 9th will be a sad day for all of us at the Religious Education Office and for anyone who has had the good fortune of knowing and working with Brian Topping. It is on that day that the REO will lose Brian to Harcourt Religion Publishing, where he will serve as a sales consultant for the state of Illinois.

Brian Topping has been a wonderfully collaborative and innovative staff member for over five years. For nearly three years he has served as a trusted assistant director. During his time here, Brian has been involved in many important ministry areas, including youth ministry, the media center, technology, and most recently, whole parish faith formation.

On behalf of the entire staff here at the diocesan Religious Education Office, I want to extend my deepest thanks to Brian for who he has been and all he has done to further the catechetical mission of the Church in the Diocese of Joliet.

May God richly bless you, Brian, and your beautiful family as you undertake your new career!

## Safe Environment Reminders



Safe Environment instruction must be offered to all children and youth, grades K-12 by **June 1st** according to diocesan guidelines and parishes must report by **June 15th** how many students received, how many declined instruction. A signed receipt for the brochure *A Parent's Guide to Child Sexual Abuse* must be kept

on file for each family that declines parish instruction.

If you have already completed instruction, congratulations! Please visit the link at: [http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/safeEnvironment\\_files/SEDocumentationForm.doc](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/safeEnvironment_files/SEDocumentationForm.doc) and mail or fax your report to the REO at (815) 722-7361

Only ONE FORM should be submitted per parish for ALL grade levels. Please have the DRE or Youth Minister provide the needed information and sign the line under the grade levels he or she is responsible for. The signature reflects their commitment to accuracy in reporting.

If you have not yet completed instruction of your parish children and youth, please be sure it is scheduled, parent permission letters have been sent in advance, and that you have the instruction materials or have scheduled their rental with Jeanne Pirc in our Media Center.

Please visit the Safe Environment Instruction Center on our web page at: <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/safeEnvironment.asp> for policies, lesson plans, lists of approved resources and more, or contact Joyce Donahue (Grades K-5) [jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org) or Paul Mach (Grades 6-12) [pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org) (815-727-6411) for more information.

### Inserted in this issue of Leaven:

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Sharing Faith with Young Adolescents  
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**FEBRUARY  
2007**

## UPCOMING CLUSTER MEETINGS

Please attend your local cluster meetings for assistance, support and information. The next meetings will be as follows:

### *Directors of Adult Faith Formation*

February 22, 2007

St. Charles Pastoral Center  
12:30-2:30 p.m

DRE Clusters:

### *Northeast DuPage Cluster*

February 8-9, 2007

Overnight Retreat

### *West DuPage Cluster*

February 8, 2007

St. Thomas the Apostle  
Naperville  
10am

### *Ford-Iroquois Cluster*

February 8, 2007

St. Peter, Clifton  
6:30pm

### *Joliet-Will Cluster*

February 15, 2007

Cathedral of St. Raymond  
10:00 AM

### *Kankakee Cluster*

February 8, 2007

St Rose, Kankakee  
1 – 3 PM



Tom Quinlan  
Director

# *A Time To Sow*



In the last issue of *Leaven* I described the joint meeting day of the Religious Education Office staff and the diocesan Religious Education Board that occurred in December. Later that month, the REO staff then met to begin to engage in strategic planning for the upcoming two years, starting in July. I'd like to share in a broad sense what outcomes have resulted from this planning experience to date (at the writing of this column).

After taking considerable time to try to assess the performance of the Religious Education Office and review its Vision and Mission Statements, the staff then participated in a process of trying to discern areas of focus, from which office goals can ultimately be generated. The following four were discerned, in no particular order of importance:

#### **Evangelization**

#### **Attention to the Marginalized**

#### **External Interactions (with REO constituents)**

#### **Diocesan Dynamics (REO to other agencies and such)**

There were a great many other areas that are extremely important to the staff of the REO, but these were the finalists, of sorts, to which we are committed to giving special attention in the next two years. While these areas of focus may seem quite broad, that is by design. The goals that will be derived from each of these four areas will be both specific and measurable.

I am extremely proud of how diligently the staff of this office worked the initial steps of our strategic planning. By bringing diverse experience and perspectives to the table, we were able to produce a platform upon which, I am confident, we will be able to lead and serve our diocesan Church effectively in evangelization and catechetical ministry. On behalf of the staff, I can assure you of our ardent and eager enthusiasm for the wonderful ministry opportunities that lie ahead.

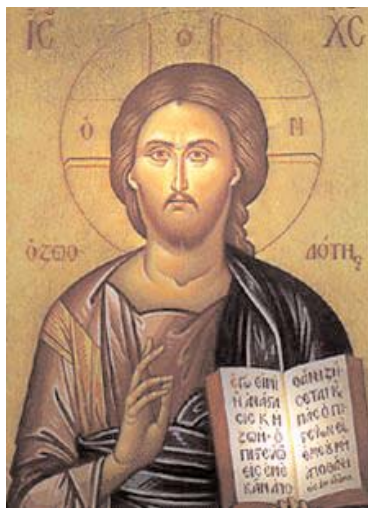
The last word on this topic should be given to the slightly revised Vision and Mission Statements that will guide your diocesan Religious Education Office in the next two years:

#### **STATEMENT OF VISION**

Jesus Christ's call, "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations," expresses the evangelical mission of the Church. As an agent of the Bishop, the REO furthers this mission by providing servant leadership for the people of our Diocese, as this local Church proclaims Catholic Faith in the world and animates the Body of Christ.

#### **STATEMENT OF MISSION**

The Religious Education Office promotes and cultivates the ministry of evangelization and its call for lifelong catechesis by guiding and supporting parish catechetical leaders, to make the Gospel known and lived in the Diocese of Joliet.



(From the Director...Continued from Page 2)

## Embracing the Grace of Those with Special Needs



Recently I heard that fewer children are being born with Down Syndrome than ever before. I was told this is because more than ever Down Syndrome is being detected in early pregnancy and abortion is more frequently chosen in such cases.

In the wisdom of the world, as St. Paul puts it, this makes perfect sense. Why not use medical advancements in genetic testing to help rid the world of its next generation of "imperfect" people? In the wisdom that is Christ, however, people with imperfections, difficulties, and disabilities are to be loved as special signs of the sacred among us. Indeed, aren't we all, in one way or another, frail, limited and vulnerable?

Certainly, given enough time we will be, whether from illness or age.

The wisdom of Christ calls each individual and each community of believers to embrace people with special needs and welcome them as our own. In a recent issue of the Catholic Home Missions newsletter, Bishop Sartain, who happens to be the chairman of the Committee on the Home Missions, wrote the following:

*More than anything else, parishes must experience a Spirit-filled change of attitude in order to welcome Catholics with handicapping conditions into full participation. One can build ramps and make other physical accommodations without actually building community. Much of the pain that Catholics with disabilities suffer, even if they can access the church, is a sense that they do not truly belong.*

*My favorite sentence from the 1978 Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on Persons with Disabilities says, "We are one flock that follows a single shepherd" (no. 33). It is truly missionary work to make this vision a reality – to broaden Christian community in our parishes by truly accepting and including those with disabilities.*

It seems to me that the work of embracing those with special needs and celebrating their full and active presence in the community begins with an exploration of the Gospel. Clearly, Jesus, in his reaching out to the marginalized of his world, was modeling for us the kind of care and attention that he desires for all those with special needs.

The full participation that Bishop Sartain writes of is certainly a worthy, if challenging, goal, one that parishes ought to strive for even within the limitations that we all encounter in ministry. The one place we need not be limited, however, is in our ability to imagine the reign of God, where everyone has an honored place at the table.

**(More information from Tom Quinlan on Grant Opportunities...on Page 8)**

### Register Now for Leadership Day #2

#### "Moving from Instruction to Formation"-

#### The NDC Part Two - A Practical Plan for Catechetical Ministry

This one-day program is being offered in two locations for your convenience:

**March 8, 2007 at St. Daniel the Prophet, Wheaton**

**March 9, 2007 at St. Anthony, Frankfort**

To register use the form that was inserted in the January issue of *Leaven*. You can download a registration form, view maps and get more information on our website at: [www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo) and click on the quick link for Leadership Days. Please contact Nancy Dunn if you have any further questions.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

(815) 727-6411

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## YOUTH MINISTRY CLUSTERS

Contact: Paul Mach  
pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org  
(815)-727-6411 x281

### Naperville Senior High

February 8, 2007  
SS. Peter and Paul,  
Naperville - 2pm - 4pm  
March 1, 2007  
St. Elizabeth Seton,  
Naperville - 2pm-4pm

### Naperville Junior High

February 6, 2007  
St. Dominic, Bolingbrook -  
10am - Noon  
March 6, 2007  
Holy Spirit, Naperville -  
10am-Noon

### Joliet Cluster

St. Paul, Joliet - 3:30 pm  
February 5, 2007  
March 12, 2007

### South of the Border Cluster

St. Petronille, Glen Ellyn -  
10:00am  
February 28, 2007  
March 21, 2007

### East Will County Cluster

St. Anthony, Frankfort -  
1:00pm  
February 28, 2007  
March 28, 2007

### SE DuPage Cluster

March 15, 2007  
12:30pm-After the YM  
Gathering, SCPC

### Kankakee Cluster

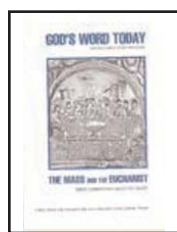
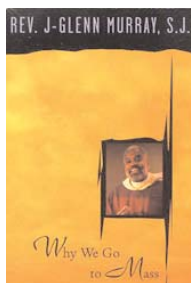
February 26, 2007  
St. Joseph, Bradley - Noon

## Responding to Holy Thursday: Resources For Adult Reflection On The Eucharist During The Easter Season

Joyce Donahue

In *The Lord of the Rings*, the Hobbits often have no other nourishment as they travel through the wastelands of Middle Earth except *lembas* – elvish way-bread, which gives them strength to continue. When they arrive at their goal and the ending is happy, it's easy to forget that the way-bread was crucial in making it all possible.

Certainly, it is only a short leap to association with Eucharist, our most effective and complete sustenance as we journey through life. Our Lenten journey, already sustained by Eucharist culminates in the Triduum, which begins with recalling the institution of the Eucharist at the Holy Thursday celebration. To respond to that experience, parishes might consider providing opportunities for adults to reflect during the Easter Season on how Eucharist sustains us in faith. Here are just a few ideas for resources for small and large groups of adults:



- **The Body of Christ** (The Center for Learning) new small-group resource for understanding the Eucharist. Six sessions: [www.centerforlearning.org](http://www.centerforlearning.org)
- **Eucharist: Source and Summit** – (Catholic Faith Sharing - LPI) a resource for either small groups or for parents of children preparing for First Eucharist: [www.catholicfaithsharing.com](http://www.catholicfaithsharing.com)
- **Why We Go To Mass** (VHS, 87 minutes) Loyola Press, 2002 – Fr. J. Glenn Murray presents a powerful and thought-provoking discussion of the Mass and how its elements relate to life, inviting people to be fully present and participating as they are nourished by Word and Sacrament. Definitely break for discussions after the segments! (Order from Loyola Press or rent from REO Media Center)
- **A Book of Readings on the Eucharist** (USCCB Publishing, no. 5-706) Deals with many aspects of Eucharist – Catholic practice, life and belief. Discussion questions can be used for group processes or journaling
- **God's Word Today: The Mass and the Eucharist Bible Study** (Twenty-Third Publications). 10-week program connects the Mass to the Bible. [www.twentythirdpublications.com](http://www.twentythirdpublications.com)

For more information or ideas, contact Joyce Donahue at 815-727-6411 or [jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org).

### Other Agency Events:

- **March 3, 2007** - Noon to 3pm; St. Petronille in Glen Ellyn: *An Afternoon of Solidarity with Refugees from Sudan, Burma, and Rwanda*; RSVP for lunch with Jen or Joyce Ruhaak, **Peace and Social Justice Ministry**, 815-834-4028.
- **April 14, 2007** - 9am to 2:30pm; University of St. Francis in Joliet; *Restorative Justice, Reaching Out to Victims of Violence, Those Incarcerated for Crime, and the Families of Both*; RSVP as above.

(Please see the calendar on the REO website for links to more events and happenings)

## Ministering to Young Adults Who Aren't Even There...



Paul Jarzembowski

One of the questions I usually get from catechetical leaders is: "How can we minister to young adults when they're not even coming to mass or to our parish events?" It's an excellent question, and one that technology can actually help us answer.

Young adults and college students are constantly on the move, from commuting endless hours to work to living all day in a virtual world, either on their laptops or through their ipod headphones. So to connect with them, we as catechetical leaders need to embrace the digital world, even if we don't really understand how to use it.

Two great ways to minister to young adults virtually are: **websites** and **podcasts**.

At mass, in the church, through the bulletin, or just in conversation, you can refer young adults to some of these Catholic websites or podcasts. They can either log on or download these great spiritual resources – so in a way, you'll be ministering to them in their cubicles, in their cars, on the trains commuting to work, on their treadmills, or while surfing the net. Here are a few that we have found that give young adults a real appreciation and better understanding of their Catholic faith:



- **Daily Breakfast**, a podcast hosted by Fr. Roderick Vonhogen from the Netherlands, who talks about popular culture and Catholic tradition seamlessly in an easy-to-understand way: <http://www.sqpn.com/scripts/dailybreakfast.php>
- **Busted Halo**, a website run by the Paulist Fathers in New York City, which features articles, blogs, and church resources (and hosts its own bi-weekly podcast) about Catholic traditions and issues: <http://www.bustedhalo.com>
- **Sacred Space**, a website run by the Jesuit Fathers of Ireland, which features an online retreat and prayer guides for busy, overworked people: <http://www.sacred-space.ie>

(for a list of even more great websites, podcasts, and blogs, check out the Diocese of Joliet Religious Education website: <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/>).

### Virtual Ministry: A National Forum on Young Adult Ministry

When it comes to the intersection of technology and evangelization, learn from the pros! Ministry leaders from the Diocese of Joliet are invited to the National Young Adult Ministry Leadership Forum held May 20-22, 2007 in New York (see the *inserted* flyer for more details and registration information).

If you are trying to connect with men and women in their twenties and thirties at your parish or campus, this is the conference for you. Featuring professionals in young adult ministry and digital media, this three-day National Forum will give you tools for effective ministry to emerging, technology-driven, and younger generations of Catholics.

Paul Jarzembowski and other young adult ministry leaders from the Chicago area will be there, and would like to extend the invitation to catechetical leaders and ministers from throughout the Diocese of Joliet.

For more information, please contact Paul at the Religious Education Office at (815) 727-6411, ext. 261.



## YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

### *Spirit & Truth* *Eucharistic Adoration* *Group*

Tuesday Nights  
7p.m. to 9 p.m.

St. Mary Catholic Parish,  
140 N. Oakwood  
Avenue, West Chicago  
For more info, log onto  
[www.sandt.org](http://www.sandt.org).

### *Global Fast for Social* *Justice:* *One Day to Change* *the World*

Ash Wednesday  
February 21, 2007

Encourage young adults  
in your parish or campus  
to fast for social justice  
along with millions of  
others around the world.

This is a great way to  
connect social justice to  
traditional Catholic devo-  
tions on Ash  
Wednesday.

Resources, tools, and  
information kits available  
online at [www.gf07.com](http://www.gf07.com)

### *Lenten Day of Prayer* *for Young Adult* *Catholics*

United States House of  
Representatives;  
Saturday, March 24,  
2007; Chicago  
(exact location tba)



For more info or to  
register, call Paul  
Jarzembowski  
(815) 727-6411, x261

## VLCFF Cycle 2 begins on February 25th!



Deadline for registration for  
Cycle 2 is February 21.

The following classes will  
be offered for Cycle 2:

- Advanced Catholic Social Teaching
- Advanced Ecclesiology 2
- Basic Ecclesiology
- Church History 2
- Catholic Beliefs
- Designing a Pastoral Catechetical Plan
- Digital Catechesis
- Ecumenism
- Introduction to Catechesis
- Introduction to Christian Morality
- Introduction to Prayer
- Islam
- Jesus
- Media, Faith, and Values
- National Directory for Catechesis
- Overview of the GDC & NDC
- Pastoral and Evangelizing Communication
- Praying With Children
- Sacraments
- Scripture: Old Testament
- Scripture: New Testament

Please go to our website  
[www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo)  
and click on University of  
Dayton Online to get  
course-specific information  
and to register.

Questions? Please  
contact Nancy Dunn at  
(815) 727-6411 or  
[ndunn@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:ndunn@dioceseofjoliet.org)

## First Eucharist: Reaching Families to Make Faith Real

Joyce Donahue

When parishes bring parents together for meetings for their child's First Eucharist, it is important to remember that the purpose of such gatherings is that they be formed, not just informed. We should never waste such an important opportunity to connect parents to faith, to other parents and to the community by simply providing the logistics of preparation and celebration for them and their child, along with minimal formation. Instead, careful attention should be given to good adult formation practices during these meetings.

One common approach, showing parents a video the children will see during preparation, is a missed opportunity unless that video is used as an "icebreaker" and parents are encouraged to share and discuss their own experiences of the sacrament after seeing it. For example, have parents recall, then share, their First Eucharist experience, and/or their most significant or memorable experience of Eucharist since then... and why they remember what they do. When adults hear about the experiences and feelings of others it validates and potentially expands their own faith experience. Beyond that, it connects them to their peers – other parents – in the community.

Even better, honor the adulthood of your parent learners by using resources designed for adults. Good ones to try are the St. Anthony Messenger *Catholic Update* Eucharist videos, with the *Experience Christ Present* guidebook, or the video (and book) *Eucharist: Celebrating Community*, from Twenty-Third Publications, specifically designed for use with First Eucharist parents. (To schedule rental of these or to check out other resources, use the online REO Media Center library search function: Eucharist, age level = adult.)

Older siblings, who have already received First Eucharist should also be allowed to recall and unpack their experiences, whether in their normal faith formation sessions or – even better - by responding to a family dinner-table question. The child who is preparing to receive will benefit greatly from hearing the experiences and thoughts of his or her siblings, while parents can learn more about the faith of their children from such sharing.

Likewise, parish celebrations of First Eucharist should consider family as integral, not ancillary. Occasionally, in our zeal to be child-friendly, either by accident or by design we may leave out parents and siblings. Having children receive Eucharist in a group separately from their families, while it may be logistically easier (and provide the best photo opportunities), makes reception of the sacrament something a child does with his or her "class." It separates them from family, singles them out from the community, and contradicts the unity which is so much a part of our Catholic belief about Eucharist.

**"...don't leave  
the formation  
and integration  
of families to  
chance."**

For some families, the experience may even feel incomplete until they can receive together. If they do not return to Mass soon, they miss an important opportunity to unify family faith through shared experience and celebration. When parents and older siblings are allowed to receive with their first communicant, everyone wins. Those who have not received recently are "brought back into the fold", the experience is usually positive, and the chances

of a family making this a regular part of their lives can be increased.

So, as your parish staff finalizes First Eucharist plans, don't leave the formation and integration of families to chance. Rather, take the time to provide intentional opportunities for them to share faith and experiences, and your parish will see the benefits as these families become more connected and more fully participating in the life of the community.



## Resources for Parents for First Eucharist and Confirmation

- **To promote Mass attendance:** from Twenty-Third Publications - "The Lord's Day: Reflections on Dies Domini, the Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II", or Growing Faith session handout : "How Do We Keep Holy the Lord's Day"? Info on both is at :  
<http://www.twentythirdpublications.com/search.php?query=The+Lord%27s+Da+y&searchfield=titlekeyword&x=28&y=18>  
(Growing Faith is also available from Harcourt Religion.)
- **For young-adult parents in their 20's and 30's - Why go to Mass?** from Busted Halo.com - an explanation of great reasons to attend Mass: [http://www.bustedhalo.com/faith\\_guides/mass3.htm](http://www.bustedhalo.com/faith_guides/mass3.htm) - check out the complete section of the web-site on the Mass for more info.
- **Tom Quinlan's letter to First Eucharist Parents in English or Spanish:**  
<http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/lettersfromthedirector.asp>
- **A Recommended Confirmation Sponsor Resource:**  
<http://www.smp.org/ItemDetail.cfm?ItemNum=2807>
- **Review of Catholic Faith for Parents of Confirmands:**  
[http://www.harcourtreligion.com/faith\\_concepts.asp](http://www.harcourtreligion.com/faith_concepts.asp) or :  
<http://www.blestarewe.com/family/index.cfm/area/och/user/parents/level/7-8>
- **REO Media Center Video Resources** - go to:  
<http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/videoLibrarySearch.asp> and search for "Eucharist" or "Confirmation" and age level "Adult". (If you cannot access this or have difficulty, contact Jeanne Pirc in our Media Center: 815-727-6411.)
- **Parent Brochure for DOJ Religion Curriculum** - on parents' role and obligation to attend Mass – a reminder to parents of what is being taught and how they can reinforce it:  
<http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/currProject/AppendixD-ParentBrochure.pdf>
- **Parent Faith Formation bibliography from DOJ Religion Curriculum resources:** <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/currProject/AppendixE-ParentResources.pdf>
- **Rite of Baptism for Children** – remind parents of the prayers and blessings from the rite which outline their responsibility for bringing their children up in the practices of the faith.

**Reminder:** you can find alternatives for Confirmation retreats or ceremonies, on the REO website. There is a listing of Confirmation celebrations and retreats (by grade level) offered by parishes in our area at  
<http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/ymConfirmation.asp>

If you have questions or want more suggestions for working with parents and sponsors, please contact Joyce Donahue (for grades K-5) or Paul Mach (for grades 6-12) at 815-727-6411.



## THE REO IS LIQUIDATING A/V EQUIPMENT!



In order to better serve the parishes of the Diocese of Joliet, the REO is liquidating some of its A/V equipment to make room for current models.

This equipment is used, but in fully operational condition, tested and working. This is a great way to get quality equipment at a fraction of the cost new.



See the *insert* for more details and contact Jennifer Lange with questions or to make an offer.



## SAVE THE DATE! Easter Season Morning of Reflection

For Catechetical Leaders and their staffs  
Thursday, April 12, 2007  
8:30am to Noon, followed by a luncheon  
Our reflection guide and shepherd will be  
Bishop J. Peter Sartain

## REO CALENDAR

(Updates are made regularly  
on the REO website:  
[www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo))

**February 7, 2007**

Sr. Caroljean Willie-  
Sponsored by Harcourt  
SCPC, Romeoville  
8:30am-Noon  
Contact: Joyce Donahue

**February 17-19, 2007**

T.E.C. Retreat Program  
Camp Mantoqua, Frankfort  
Contact: Paul Mach

**February 22, 2007**

RE Board Meeting  
SCPC, Romeoville  
10am - Noon  
Contact: Tom Quinlan

**February 22, 2007**

DAFF Meeting  
SCPC, Romeoville  
12:30 - 2:30pm  
Contact: Tom Quinlan

**March 2, 2007**

7th Grade Evening  
Joliet Catholic Academy  
6pm-9pm  
Contact: Paul Mach

**March 8, 2007**

Leadership Day#2  
St. Daniel, Wheaton  
8:30am-3:00pm  
Contact: Nancy Dunn

**March 9, 2007**

Leadership Day #2  
St. Anthony, Frankfort  
8:30am-3:00pm  
Contact: Nancy Dunn

**March 15, 2007**

Cathedral Days  
Cathedral of St. Raymond  
10am-1pm  
Contact: Nancy Dunn

**March 17, 2007**

Cathedral Days  
Cathedral of St. Raymond  
10am-1pm  
Contact: Nancy Dunn



**Grant Season is Now Here!  
Get Your Application in Today!**



**Looking to Go Back to School?**

**Leaders for the Future Makes Grad School Money Available!**

- Tom Quinlan

If you are interested in exploring the pursuit of a graduate degree in a ministry area, the Diocesan Catholic Education Foundation offers up to three years of financial assistance to current catechetical (and other parish ministry) leaders. I want to encourage you, if costs have been a barrier to returning to school to further your formal education, to go to [www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo) and click on the Diocesan Funding Opportunities link to learn more about the substantial financial help available to you through the Leaders for the Future program.

There is also a special one-time grant in the amount of \$500 available to catechetical leaders

in the 2007-08 year in the memory of the late Sr. Helen Susan Lideika. Sr. Helen Susan was a beloved member of the DRE community and a long-serving director of religious education at St. Pius Parish in Lombard. Any catechetical leader in the diocese pursuing a graduate degree may apply for this funding in addition to money from Leaders for the Future. Contact me at the REO for more information.



**Looking to Renew Your Parish?  
Seed Money is Available!**

-Tom Quinlan

If you or members of parish leadership are looking to introduce an evangelization or faith formation program or initiative into your parish, grant writing might be in your immediate future!

I invite everyone to go to [www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo) and explore the section entitled Diocesan Funding Opportunities. There you will find out everything you need to know about the two grant funding options available for parishes looking to develop new and potentially dynamic, parish-renewing ministry.

The Religious Education Grant funding is available for faith formation ministries of all ages. The Outreach Initiative funding is dedicated for evangelization and adult formation ministry development. Both are intended to help get something off the ground that will then be sustained by the parish funding.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. If you wish to attend a morning of presentations from 2006-07 grant winning parishes, you are welcome to come to the February 22nd meeting at the St. Charles Pastoral Center in Romeoville. To reserve a spot for this date, contact Terry Palicka, Religious Education Board Chair, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Bolingbrook.