




Safe Environment Events - Mark Your Calendar!

"Take 25" Safety Campaign

As part of the 2007 National Missing Children's Day (NMCD) initiative, annually commemorated on May 25, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and its partners are launching a "Take 25" preventive safety campaign to encourage parents, guardians, educators, law enforcement officers, and concerned citizens to take 25 minutes to talk with children about ways to keep safe. NCMEC is working with local, state, and national officials, public safety officials, the clergy, community leaders, and businesses to make this national movement successful. As more information about this event becomes available, we will share it with you on the REO website.



Internet Safety Presentation

 Robert Hugo Farely, M.S., consultant to the VIRTUS programs will give a presentation on Internet Safety on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, for Principals, DRE's and Youth Ministers. The event, scheduled at the Pastoral Center is sponsored by the Diocese of Joliet Chancery. More information on the timeframe will be forthcoming

New Safe Environment Curriculum Review Day

New curriculum options will be offered for review and old options reviewed for those newly employed in the diocese on August 10, 2007 from 9 a.m. - Noon at the Pastoral Center.

Easter Peace

with Bishop J. Peter Sartain

Rejoice in the message of the Resurrection and rejoice in the faith that you work so hard to share with others through your ministries!

a morning of
reflection for parish
catechetical staffs



Thursday, April 12, 2007

8:45 am - 12:30 pm

(lunch to follow)

St. Charles Pastoral Center
402 S. Independence Blvd,
Romeoville

We welcome all catechetical leaders and their support staffs to a morning with the shepherd of the Diocese of Joliet, Bishop J. Peter Sartain.

Let us make some time to listen and reflect, to discuss and share with each other our common Easter belief that we are never alone or forgotten.

For more information or to register visit our website at www.dioceseofjoliet.org or see the inserted flyer.

Inserted in Leaven:

- Grant Money for VLCFF
- Current Conformity Listing
- UD Credit Conversion Chart
- Rural Rally
- 6th Grade Evening
- Alpha Training Event
- Threshold Bible Study
- Sharing Faith
- REO 2007-08 Calendar

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**MARCH/APRIL
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

April 26, 2007

St. Charles Pastoral Center
12:30-2:30 pm

DRE Clusters:

Northeast DuPage Cluster

April 19, 2007

St. Joseph, Addison
10:00 am

West DuPage Cluster

March 22, 2007

St. Elizabeth Seton,
Naperville
10:00 am

May 10, 2007

St. James, Glen Ellyn
10:00 am

Ford-Iroquois Cluster

May 10, 2007

St. Edmund, Wateska
6:30 pm

Joliet-Will Cluster

April 19, 2007

St. John the Baptist,
Joliet
10:00 am

Kankakee Cluster

May 10, 2007

Location TBA
1:00 – 3:00 am



Tom Quinlan
Director

A Time To Sow



In late February our Religious Education Board hosted a morning of presentations by parishes that were recipients of grant funding from the diocesan Catholic Education Foundation. A representative from each parish provided a mid-year status report regarding the catechetical/evangelization initiatives that had received money.

The Board and Jane Lager, who administrates the Catholic Education Foundation, heard about the great variety of projects that are currently in some state of implementation. These projects included parish leadership training efforts, the establishment of Scripture formation for adults, evangelizing outreach to the disaffected and unchurched, special needs ministry development, and acquisition of materials to support intergenerational and initiation ministries...just to name a few!

I came away from the experience with a renewed sense of enthusiasm. It flowed from the energy, the joy and the commitment of those who shared on behalf of their parishes. Their grant presentations helped me to understand that there is great vitality in many parishes throughout the Diocese of Joliet. Staffs and parishioner-leaders are about the work of discerning the ministerial needs of their communities and, in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, are striving to build parishes of dynamic and deepening faith. How exciting that is!



Also, it is gratifying to see the diocese being able to put resources at the disposal of parishes eager to strengthen and broaden their ministry. In my work as director of an office that serves the great catechetical and evangelizing efforts within our seven counties, I have always perceived the diocese to be a partner with all its parishes. As I've said on more than one occasion, "We're in this together!" Hearing about so many initiatives that are being supported by the diocesan Education Foundation helped to demonstrate what great things are possible when we work together.

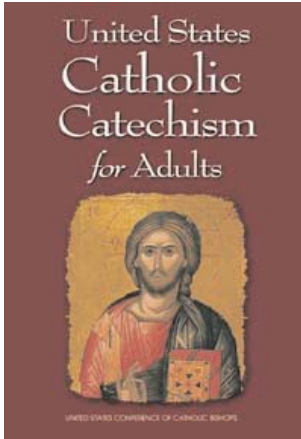
As we head toward the holiest time on our liturgical calendar, I hope that you will remember to give consideration to what kinds of catechetical and evangelizing initiatives might bring future blessings to your parish community. The nature of leadership requires us to have such foresight. Take a look at page 6 to see how you can take part in this next year. I am most happy to field your questions and assist you in exploring the grant process.

In the meantime, I invite you to share in the hope that is manifested in ways both big and small ways throughout our local church, a hope that is daily evidenced to those of us privileged to be your diocesan partner in ministry. May confidence in God's providence be yours in these remaining days of Lent. And may you minister always in the joy of Christ, whose sure victory over sin and death is our graced inheritance.

(If you are interested in financial assistance for graduate studies toward a ministry related degree, be sure to explore Leaders for the Future (made possible by the Catholic Education Foundation), a wonderful and substantial funding opportunity provided to employees within the Diocese of Joliet. There is also a special one-time funding grant for any employee wishing to pursue graduate school studies in the coming year. More information on this special grant can be found inserted in this issue.)

Discovering the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults

Tom Quinlan



If you are a catechetical leader, you certainly know the power of **story-telling** to capture the imagination of learners of any age. Since catechesis is the intersection where faith and life meet, what better way to teach the richness of Catholic faith than through the compelling stories of holy women and men who, because they rooted their lives in Christ, made a great difference in the world.

This is one of the reasons the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* is such an exciting resource for those of us seeking to participate in the Church's great mission to evangelize and catechize. The "Adult Catechism", as many call it, starts each chapter with a short biography of a significant person from the history of the Church. Many of the figures, such as St. Katharine Drexel and Cesar Chavez (social justice activist of the sixties),

were Catholics making their mark here in the United States of America. These stories tell us about ordinary people who lived generous, remarkable, even heroic lives. Each life story, in its own way, inspires us to more faithful discipleship to Jesus and to the call for each member of the baptized to hasten the Reign of God.

The *US Catholic Catechism for Adults* had its origins in the development of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which came out in 1992 and is the definitive, comprehensive resource for Catholic faith throughout the world. Pope John Paul II expressed a desire that local churches produce their own catechisms, based on that which was developed for the Universal Church. The bishops of the United States took up that challenge and began the work that resulted in the 2004 publication of the *US Catholic Catechism for Adults*.

You will find the *US Catholic Catechism for Adults* to be easy reading. The book walks its readers through the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Creed, Sacraments, Christian Morality and Prayer). Each of its 36 chapters is relatively brief and follows a consistent pattern to help the learner grow in their understanding of Catholic faith.

In each chapter, the mini-biography of faith role models, are followed by an explicit teaching on Catholic faith. The cultural context of our present-day United States is then considered as we seek to apply this particular aspect of Catholic teaching to our daily lives. Practical, down-to-earth questions for faith discussion are provided, and doctrinal statements help to summarize the theological content. Finally, a meditation and a prayer offer a spiritually-focused way to end each chapter.

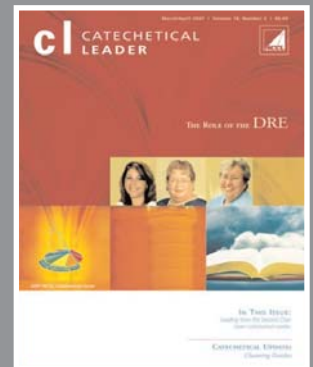
There are many ways the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* can be used in parishes to strengthen adult faith formation. Bishop Sartain has noted that it might be a good resource for study with candidates and catechumens in the RCIA process.

I am delighted that the diocesan Religious Education Office has purchased and is providing one copy per parish of a recent NCCL publication entitled *Writing Home...About Adult Catechesis and The New Catechism for Adults...An Exercise in Praxis*. Written by Dr. Michael Horan, this booklet will assist you in considering how to locate the *US Catechism for Adults* within the life and ministry context of your parish. (It was also in NCCL's *Catechetical Leader* of November/December 2006.) Look for more information on how to receive your parish's copy in the sidebar.

P.S. If you really want to give greater attention to adult catechesis, I strongly encourage you to study *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*, the seminal document of the Church in the United States on faith formation for adults. That is the place to start looking at how to build a comprehensive, adult faith formation structure for your parish. Finding ways to use the "Adult Catechism" will likely flow from such "big picture" parish exploration.

Resource For
Adult Catechism
NOW
AVAILABLE!!!

A special reprint of the November-December NCCL Catechetical Update on how to use the new Catechism of the Catholic Church for Adults is now available from REO.



These will be distributed for free at meetings and other gatherings, one per parish.

If someone from your parish is not able to attend any of our events or local ministry cluster meetings over the next few months, please contact the REO to have a copy mailed directly to you.

Leaven -

The Newsletter of the Religious Education Office
www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo

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A Prayer in Spring

Oh, give us pleasure
in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think
so far away
As the uncertain har-
vest; keep us here
All simply in the spring-
ing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in
the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day,
like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in
the happy bees,
The swarm dilating
round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in
the darting bird
That suddenly above the
bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts
in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid
air stands still.

For this is love and noth-
ing else is love,
The which it is reserved
for God above
To sanctify to what far
ends He will,
But which it only needs
that we fulfill.

-Robert Frost



Bishop Sartain on Christ, the Church and the Role of Catechist

Tom Quinlan

Earlier this year Bishop J. Peter Sartain addressed catechists and catechetical leaders of Kankakee County who gathered for a morning of formation. As he has done so often in his months as Bishop of Joliet, Bishop Sartain rooted all that we strive to accomplish in life and in ministry in the person of Jesus Christ.

“Everything in us should be centered in Him. It means we make our relationship with the Lord the most important thing. Then, transformed by the Lord Jesus, we humbly teach.”

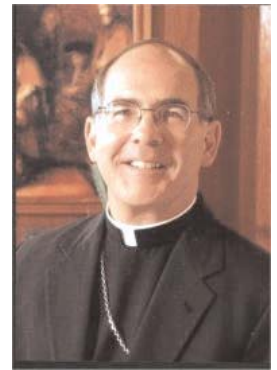
The Bishop went on to make the point that each of us is called to lives of authentic discipleship, lives that can then speak our faith with authority and effectiveness. “It is your simple witness of faith, side by side with your lessons, that reaches your students.”

He further encouraged catechists and leaders to be sure to know both our faith tradition well and be attentive to expressing Catholic teaching in a manner that is true to our tradition. “We teach by faithfully handing on what the Church teaches. When we do that, we know Christ teaches.”

As you can see from these few excerpts, Bishop Sartain is a man of great faith and insight. He has a wonderful knack for capturing the heart of the catechetical matter. For those who catechize, a lived faith and knowledge of the faith go hand in hand, and nothing happens unless we are grounded in Christ.

Do you want to spend some quality time with Bishop Sartain exploring faith too? Then please plan to join us for the upcoming Morning of Reflection for catechetical leaders and support staffs on Thursday, April 12th. I hope you can join us for this important opportunity! More information on this gathering is available on the inserted registration page, as well as online.

As we pass through the Triduum and into the Easter Season, gift yourself with an opportunity to be spiritually nourished by our new Bishop. It promises to be a well-deserved time for you to be blessed with affirmation, relaxation and spiritual insight on the centrality of Christ in our life.



May Alpha Conference to Have Catholic Track

Alpha is a basic introductory course to the Christian faith for non-churchgoers, inactive and new Christians as well as faithful parishioners. It began at Holy Trinity Brompton, an Anglican church in London, England, more than twenty years ago. Alpha, works well in groups of any size. It:



- provides a clear and non-threatening way to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people from all walks of life
- helps lead people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, within the context of the parish community
- is ecumenical in that it covers the basic truths shared by all Christian traditions
- is considered by a number of Church leaders to be an effective form of direct evangelization in common use today

Alpha's annual training conference is May 10-11, 2007 at Christ Church of Oak Brook. There will be a specific Catholic track for this conference. Presenters for the Catholic portion will be from ChristLife, an Alpha apostolate of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

See the enclosed flyer for more information. You can also view information about the conferences on the Alpha Conference web site: www.alphaconferences.org. Information on ChristLife can be found at www.christlife.org

Youth Ministry Events & Happenings

For more information
contact Paul Mach
(815) 727-6411 x281 or
pmach@dioceseofjoliet.org



NCYC 2007 in Columbus, OH

Youth from the Diocese of Joliet will leave on Thursday, November 8th (in the morning), traveling by coach bus to the National Catholic Youth Conference. We will arrive in Columbus mid-afternoon, get settled into our hotel (Hyatt on Capital Square), and head to the convention center for the opening session. This year's theme is "Discover the Way". The NCYC conference will continue to run all day Friday and Saturday (November 8th & 9th) with a closing Liturgy Saturday night. We head back to Illinois on Sunday morning, with hopes of making a stop at the University of Notre Dame. Keynote presenters for this event will be Renee Bonde, Fr. Tony Ricard, and Tony Melendez. The cost for this trip will be \$400.00, which covers travel to Columbus, registration for the conference, and hotel accommodations (with four to a room). Promo videos (DVD or VHS) are now available, please call the REO office and one be sent to you.



Materials for the Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) 2007 (July 20-22) are now up on the REO website please check it out at: www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/ylc.asp



Sharing Faith With Young Adolescents –

Center for Ministry Development workshop will be held in the Joliet Diocese on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at the St. Charles Borromeo Pastoral Center in Romeoville. Registration is done through CMD.



Convert Offers Faith Lift to Rural Parishes

In July, 1999, after 22 years as an ordained Baptist pastor, John T. Johnson converted to the Catholic faith. Since then, John has been sharing his story.

Because John's own family roots are in the southern rural area of the Diocese (he is a native of Ashkum), he has a special understanding of life on small towns and farms. That connection makes him a natural to deliver his message of faith to Catholics in that area. Under the auspices of the REO, John has been speaking to rural parishes in Ford and Iroquois counties.

On March 3rd and 4th, John presented a reflection at Immaculate Conception parish in Gilman, where Fr. John Balluff is pastor, and where, many years ago, Johnson's grandparents, Tom and Ida Sweeney, received their First Communion. In his talk, John Johnson encouraged parishioners to live out their Catholic commitment this Lenten Season. He shared from Philippians: "Your citizenship is in heaven!" This privilege, he told his audience, requires certain responsibilities, as does our faith life.

Later in the morning, at St. Peter Parish in Piper City, he spoke from Psalm 27, which was read and sung at Mass. John pointed out Bishop Sartain's fondness for the text, that in seeking the heart of God, we are doing the principle thing to honor Christ.

John will be sharing from his experiences of becoming and living as a Catholic to the parishioners at St. Peter, on four Thursday nights, March 8, 15, 22, and 29, beginning at 7:00 pm. His theme will be: "Peter's Principles for Positive Living: Spiritual Growth through Redemptive Suffering," a study in the first letter of Peter.

His future speaking engagements include parishes in Beaverville and Paxton. John can be contacted at catholicway4u@aol.com.

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YOUTH MINISTRY CLUSTERS

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

Naperville Senior High

April 12, 2007

St. Dominic, Bolingbrook
2pm - 4pm

May 10, 2007

St. Margaret Mary,
Naperville
2pm-4pm

Naperville Junior High

April 10, 2007

Our Lady of Mercy, Aurora
10am

May 1, 2007

St. Raphael, Naperville
10am

Joliet Cluster

St. Paul, Joliet - 3:30 pm

May 7, 2007

South of the Border Cluster

April 25, 2007

St. Petronille, Glen Ellyn -
10:00am

East Will County Cluster

April 25, 2007

St. Anthony, Frankfort -
1:00pm

SE DuPage Cluster

March 2007

Details TBA

Kankakee Cluster

April 30, 2007

Maternity B.V.M.,
Bourbonnais; 3:30pm

Teaching Kids to Choose Media Through the Lens of Faith



“You Are What You Download” offers a twist on an old catch phrase “you are what you eat.” As educators, as parents, and as spiritual leaders we compete with popular culture in our attempt to educate and raise our youth.

This month’s JUSTeach will address your students’ choices in music, reading material and movies. How do the choices we make regarding which movies to view, which books to read and which music to download affirm or challenge the seven core values of Catholic social teaching? How does popular culture impact our development in matters of the spirit and justice?

Click on <http://www.paxjoliet.org/jus-teach/justeach4.html> for April’s article to find ways to help your students analyze their own choices as they develop projects to educate others.

Programs Funded with Diocesan Grant Money, Initiatives to be Shared in *Leaven*

Nancy Dunn

Presentations from grant-winning parishes were given at the February REO Board meeting. We are inspired and encouraged by the seeds of innovative faith formation programs and evangelization efforts that have been planted throughout the Diocese.

With this issue of *Leaven*, we will begin to feature the faith formation and evangelization efforts that were funded this past year. The early successes of these efforts will continue to be sustained and grown through parish support.

We ask that the Holy Spirit continue to be present in these parishes and that you all may find a bit of inspiration and encouragement in the parish renewal efforts that we will share.



Description of Initiative:

The SPRED Program, Visitation Parish, Elmhurst, IL. The program was created to address the religious education needs for children ages 11 to 17 with special needs.

SPRED is a network of services designed to assist and educate persons with developmental disabilities and/or learning problems to become integrated into parish assemblies of worship. SPRED services are provided through the leadership of the Special Religious Education Agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago.

Funding Provided for:

- Materials for activities
- Folding and locking storage cabinets on wheels
- Lamps for appropriate level of lighting
- Catechist training and formation

Outcome:

Both parents and children have been excited about this program at Visitation. Attendance is steady and parents of these special need children are being evangelized. The program will continue to be supported by the parish with plans to add a program for 17 to 21 year olds.



Contact Information:

For further information, please call Sister Connie Kuczvara at 630/279-7058 x502



Grant Season is Here!



The 2007-2008 grant funding season is here! Everyone is invited to go to www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo and explore the section entitled “Diocesan Funding Opportunities”. There you can find out everything you need to know about 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 specifically for evangelization and adult formation ministry development. Both are intended to help get something off the ground that will then be sustained by parish funding. For more information please contact Tom Quinlan at 815-727-6411 or tquinlan@dioceseofjoliet.org



Adult Faith Formation: Tips on Choosing a Catholic Scripture Study

Joyce Donahue & Paul Jarzembowski

Do the adults in your parish want to know more about the Bible?

Chances are, many of them do. The Diocese of Joliet has found that when a parish surveys people in the pew on the most-wanted types of adult faith formation, studying the Scriptures is one of the most requested items on their lists.

So what are good Catholic materials for catechetical leaders to use for leading Scripture Study? While there are several popular Bible studies out there, many of them might leave out important elements of Catholic interpretation of scripture. Here are a few tips that might be helpful:

- **Check out:**

<http://www.ewtn.com/library/CURIA/PBCINTER.HTM>

Since Catholic interpretation of Scripture is complex and many-faceted, we highly recommend looking online at "The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church" (1994) from the Pontifical Bible Commission at this. This document outlined the Vatican's recommendations on how to best read and study the Bible as a Catholic.



- **Log onto:**

<http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/adultFormation.asp>. The Religious Education Office has listed some recommended resources online, including great Catholic Scripture Studies (click on "NCCL 2005 Adult Faith Formation Resource List").

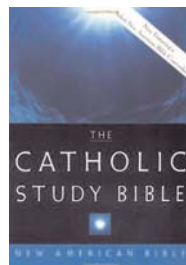
This particular list is taken from the National Conference on Catechetical Leadership (NCCL), a highly reputable national catechetical organization. Scroll down to the "Scripture" heading for a listing of books, resources, and Scripture Studies. If a Catholic Scripture Study is *not* on this list, we encourage caution when using it.

- **Be cautious of programs that require memorization of Scripture.** Some Bible Study programs, both Protestant and Catholic, encourage only one facet of Biblical interpretation such as memorization of texts, dates, etc. The Diocese of Joliet recommends a holistic study of the Scriptures; for instance, memorization of text alone could leave out the possibility of continued growth and understanding of the Bible throughout a person's life.



- **Avoid programs that promote too literal or too critical an interpretation of Scripture.** Catholics use a *balanced* approach to the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament, and therefore do not interpret the Bible literally. Similarly, the Pontifical Biblical Commission warned against the opposite extreme: viewing the Scriptures too historically or critically. A balanced, well-researched method is preferred (we recommend Scripture Studies authored by academic experts and from a variety of backgrounds or Catholic spiritual traditions).

- **Use a Catholic Study Bible.** When leading a Bible Study, encourage all participants to use a New American Bible (NAB) with plenty of commentary and notes, as well as background information on the historical context and Biblical authors. We highly recommend the recent edition of the *Catholic Study Bible* (2002, Oxford University Press) edited by Fr. Don Senior, John J. Collins, Mary Ann Getty, and Carroll Stuhlmueller.



(Continued on Page 8)

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REO CALENDAR

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

April 6, 2007

Religious Education Office
CLOSED-Good Friday

April 14, 2007

Rural Rally
St. Peter, Clifton
1pm - 4pm

April 19, 2007

Youth Ministry Gathering
SCPC, 10am-Noon
Contact: Paul Mach

April 20, 2007

6th Grade Evening
Benet Academy, Lisle
6pm-9pm
Contact: Paul Mach

April 22-27, 2007

NCCL - Columbus, Ohio
Contact: Tom Quinlan

April 26, 2007

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

May 17, 2007

Youth Ministry Gathering
SCPC; 10am-12pm
Contact: Paul Mach

May 20-22, 2007

NCYAMA - New York City
Contact: Paul Jarzembowski

May 24, 2007

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

May 28, 2007

REO Closed
Memorial Day Holiday

June 28, 2007

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

July 20-22, 2007

YLC- Lewis University
Contact: Paul Mach

(Scripture Study...continued from Page 7)

Overall, the most important question to ask yourself: "Do the materials provide questions that involve people's **hearts** as well as their **heads**?"

Catholic scripture scholar Steven J. Binz, author of *Threshold*, puts it well:

a good Catholic scripture study "encourages reading and study for a few minutes a day, and it requires some personal application and faith sharing. As difficult and uncomfortable as that may be for some, it is the only way we can encourage the kind of adult formation that leads to personal conversion and transformation. Learning information is good, but transformation of life through the Scriptures is better."

For further questions about this topic, please feel free to contact Joyce Donahue in the Religious Education Office at (815) 727-6411, or email her at: jdonahue@dioceseofjoliet.org.

Leadership Days 2007



Nancy Dunn

The theme for REO-sponsored Leadership Days this March was "Moving from Instruction to Formation", presented by Daniel Mulhall from the USCCB. The days were well-attended and well-received.

The feedback included comments such as: "Dan explained the process very thoroughly and was clear and credible." "The evaluation process was wonderful and made the issues very clear."

The workshops began with a brief overview of what our catechetical model looks like today and what the possibilities are for the future. Using Dan's presentation, "Setting the Context for a Catechetical Plan", and with help from the REO Catechetical Associates, pastors, parish leaders and staffs, worked on developing a catechetical plan for specific parish programs that would move them toward a formational model of catechesis. With that, the creative juices were flowing and pens were flying across paper!

The message of the day: *Never loose sight of what our ministries are about – making disciples for Christ.* If we ask the question of each and every one of our programs, "Will this effort provide opportunities for our people to continue the journey toward becoming disciples for Christ?", we will more easily move from an instructional model of catechesis to a formational experience.

If you were unable to join us, please go to our website under www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/leadershipdays.asp and view the handouts from the event.

We hope to support you in any way as you look to the future of catechesis in your parish. Please contact Nancy Dunn at ndunn@dioceseofjoliet.org for ongoing mentoring in this process.

