



OFFICE of EVANGELIZATION, CATECHESIS and FAMILY LIFE

How One Office Serves:

As we enter a new millennium, this Office was called to expand its vision and ministry to include evangelization, catechesis and family life in its mission. Evangelization calls us to live our faith with enthusiasm as disciples of Jesus Christ and to share the person of Jesus and our faith with others. Through evangelization, the entire Church is called to bring the Gospel into every human situation and strata of society. Through catechesis, we enable children, youth, adults, and families to know their faith, to grow in moral and liturgical formation, to become persons of prayer, builders of community, and disciples of Jesus Christ. The merging of the Family Life Office with the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis assists the Diocese to prepare couples for marriage, promote a consistent respect for all life and ensure a family perspective in all its ministries. The Office of Evangelization, Catechesis, and Family Life provides parishes and deaneries with the processes, programs, training, and resources for this mission. In 2009, this Office

- Provided **over 1,200 consultations** on adult and young adult faith formation, catechesis for children and families, youth ministry, catechesis for persons with disabilities, catechist and leadership formation and certification, sacramental processes and programs, personnel issues, new models and processes for parishes/clusters, and the placement and training of new parish leadership.
 - Provided preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage to over **500 couples** through Pre Cana and online support for couples separated by military services or special circumstances.
 - Planned and celebrated the Marriage Jubilee in October 2009 for **over 130 couples** celebrating wedding anniversaries.
 - Provided Diocesan wide in-services for catechetical and youth ministry leaders in parishes and schools, clergy, and Diocesan and parish staffs on the *Ministry in a Time of Change, Adolescent Catechesis, and The Next Generations Have Arrived – and the Church will Never be the Same.*
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- Welcomed over **1,070 adults and youth** from every deanery in the Diocese parishes to the **2009 Spring Enrichment** program to participate in catechist/leadership formation and adult enrichment to enable them to be more effective ministers of faith formation. **90 instructors** taught **164 different classes and workshops.**

- Trained and certified **103 new catechists and youth ministers from 39 parishes** in the day long “basic certification retreat” program. Assisted deaneries and parishes to hold Spring and Fall catechist formation and spiritual renewal events for parish and Catholic School catechists.
- Issued **315 new and renewal certifications** (Basic, Intermediate, Full, Advanced) to **252 parish catechists and youth ministers from 62** different parishes through deanery and Diocesan programs.
- Trained and certified all **31 new Catholic School teachers** from 15 schools who will be school catechists in the 2009 - 2010 school year.
- Trained **5 parish teams** in intergenerational and life long faith formation and provided resourcing, networking and ongoing training to **35 parishes** currently working in this model of catechesis.
- Provided an annual overnight retreat for **47 catechetical and youth ministry leaders** at Mt. St. Alphonsus in Esopus, New York.
- Assisted the Diocese to initiate the directives of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People by training catechists and resourcing parish catechetical and youth ministry programs to implement the Diocesan sexual abuse awareness curriculum and to prepare for the 2009 Diocesan compliance audit.
- Directed and supervised the production and distribution to all parishes of two DVD presentations for children (K – Gr. 2 and Gr. 3 -5) and support materials to train children and their parents annually in Sexual Abuse Awareness.
- Trained **30 adults and youth from 6 parishes on implementing a parish retreat program for youth.**
- Conducted a week long **S.A.L.T – Service Action Learning Team** – program of social justice immersion weeks in the northern deaneries in the summer of 2009. **20 youth** participated.
- Planned and coordinated a one day workshop for **30 youth and adults** on the 2009 legislative issues of the New York State Catholic Conference for the **Public Policy Forum Day in March 2009.**
- Collaborated with St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry to offer **3 courses** in the **Certificate for Designated Ministries Program** for catechetical and youth ministry leaders in the Diocese.
- Provided orientation and formation for **19 new catechetical and youth ministry leaders** from **17 parishes** through our **Becoming a Minister of Faith Formation Program.**
- Provided planning, coordination, and supervision 301 young people and chaperones at the **2009 National Catholic Youth Conference** in Kansas City in November 2009.
- Provided 2 week long - **Christian Leadership Institutes (CLI)** - for **71 youth** in both winter and summer programs.

- Provided formation, resources, and support for **80 youth ministry leaders** through monthly gatherings.
- Provided a retreat for adult with developmental disabilities in November 2009 and established a commission of persons with expertise in the field of developmental disabilities and learning disabilities to support and resource parish catechetical programs.
- Updated an annotated bibliography of all Diocesan video resources and circulated this in print, CD, and through the **Diocesan web page** and circulated over **335 audio-visual** resources to parishes, schools, correctional facilities, institutions, and agencies through the Diocesan Resource Library. Catalogued and updated the Lull Library as a lending print library.
- Published **The Family Page** on building faith in families. Topics for 2009 include *Celebrating the Real Christmas Season*, *Living in Hope in Uncertain Time*, *A Journey of a Lifetime*, *The Family Meal – It is Just Not About Eating*.
- Collaborated with the **Notre Dame Alumni Association** and the **College of St. Rose** to hold the annual **Theodore Hesburgh Lecture** on “**Can Virtue Be Taught: Moral and Character Education in America**” given by **Dr. F. Clark Power** in October 2009.
- Awarded **\$25,000.00** to 3 parish catechetical/youth ministry programs through the Capital Campaign Endowment to the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis and **\$5,000.00** in scholarships for the formation of catechetical and youth ministry leaders in parishes and Catholic schools.
- Provided leadership and coordination for the planning of “**Amazing God**” Bishop Hubbard’s plan for spiritual renewal and evangelization for the Diocese of Albany which will be initiated in the fall of 2010.