

Report of the Christian Formation Commission to the 220th Diocesan Convention

The work of the Christian Formation Commission continues to support the Christian education programs in the parishes of our diocese. This has been accomplished in several ways in 2003.

The National Church's conference held in Oak Brook, IL, from February 13-17 was attended by three members of the Commission. This was a wonderful event that brought Christian educators together from all over the United States and overseas. This multi day event centered on the question and theme of "Will Our Faith Have Children?". The Rev. Vicki Cuff, Mary Wenzler and Sue Legnani came back with renewed energy to work with the people of our diocese in the ministry of Christian education. They are also willing to share their experiences and the information they obtained from the workshops they attended.

Through the generosity of the Girl's Friendly Society a \$3000.00 grant was made to the Christian Formation Commission. Part of this grant has been used to reestablish our membership in the Audio Visual Resource Library (AVRL) in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. The Diocese of New Jersey was a long standing member of the AVRL for many years and we are very happy to be a part of it again. The catalogue for the 2000 video's and other media resources may be accessed on line at www.mrc-avrl-online.org. Orders may be phoned to 215-940-9986, faxed to 215-940-9987 or emailed to AVRL@diopa.org. There is no charge to any parish of our diocese to use this resource. All media material can be mailed to your parish or home and return postage is included for timely return to the AVRL.

Our own diocesan resource materials, now housed at Diocesan House will soon be available on line as well. Plans expand the Resource Center and to make the materials more accessible will be accomplished with another part of the GFS grant. Look for more details in 2004.

The annual Christian Formation conference was held on Saturday, April 5, 2003 at All Saint's Church, Princeton. Thirty-two people attended and participated in nine workshops covering topics related to children, youth and adult Christian Formation. Our keynote speaker was the Rev. Canon Elizabeth Geitz. A book table supplied by Trinity Cathedral Altar Guild Shop and a resource table were also available.

The LINKS newsletter of the Christian Formation Commission is being produced four times a year by editor and Commission member Donna Devlin. This has proved to be truly a LINK from our Diocese to those engaged in Christian education in the parish. Please watch for this wonderful publication.

The Commission continues to support two ecumenical workshop days. Our diocese is represented by Mary Wenzler on the planning committee of the Christian Education Associates who sponsor the Hightstown Event. Nancy Miller is the representative on the planning committee of the Ecumenical Training Associates who sponsor the ET Event held in Westfield.

Finally, our diocese hosted the Province II Christian Education Network from November 19 to 21 at Trinity Church, Princeton. The newly appointed Province II executive, Mr. Charles Perfater and several Commission members joined this gathering. The Diocese of New Jersey representative is Sue Legnani. The work of the Provincial Network is to support the ministry of Christian Education in the member dioceses. Our network plans to produce a catalogue of current resource materials and to make this available to each diocese in the Province. In turn the individual dioceses will reproduce this resource and make it available to its parishes. This should be available by the middle of 2004.

As chair of the Christian Formation Commission I want to thank the members who have faithfully attended the monthly meetings and have worked so hard to plan and carry out the many projects of the Commission. They are: Debbie Cook, The Rev. Victoria Cuff, Donna Devlin, The Rev. Mary Jean Metzger, Nancy Miller, Monica Mundy, Mary Wenzler, Micki Merritt, The Rev. Fredrick Baldwin, The Rev. Emily Griffin and Kep Short.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Legnani, Chair