

**Christian Formation Commission
Report to the 222nd Diocesan Convention**

The Christian Formation Commission of our diocese continues to serve our parishes in several important ways.

The first big event of the past two years is our Christian Educators' Day with Our Bishop. January 29 found us gathering again at Trinity Cathedral with our key note speaker The Rev. Bud Holland who led us in a program called Discerning our Christian Education/Formation Ministry. The commission offers this day at no cost to anyone who is involved in the ministry of Christian education/formation. The day ends with a service of commissioning for catechists lead by Bishop Cancell.

In April the commission sponsored four workshops at Equipping the Servants at Trinity Cathedral. These workshops were in the areas of children, youth and adult education/formation.

Every church in the diocese has the opportunity to utilize the resources available at the Snyder Audio Visual Resource Library (AVRL) in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Videos, DVD's and audio tapes can be ordered by phone (215-940-9986), fax (215-940-9987) or email (AVRL@diopa.org). The AVRL catalog can now be accessed online at www.mrc-avrl.org. This service is free to all parishes of the Diocese of New Jersey. There is a wealth of material available for children, youth and adults in the areas of art, Bible, church, education, family and parenting, history, sacraments, social values, spirituality and prayer, worship and liturgy.

The commission would like to thank The Rev. William Breedlove for all of the hours he has spent putting our own resource materials in order. We project that a modest resource center will be available to our diocese by the end of March 2006. With the generous help of The Girls Friendly Society we have been able to purchase computer software and resources to make a Diocese of New Jersey Resource Center possible.

We continue to support two important ecumenical conferences: Ecumenical Training Associates (ET) held in October of each year and the Hightstown Conference held in March. These along with our own diocesan conferences make it possible for lay and clergy to have access to quality continuing education in the area of Christian education ministry.

One other important resource being made available to the diocese is the commission's LINKS newsletter. Editor Donna Devlin continues to produce a generous amount of information and resources to help parishes with their Christian Education programs. We encourage you to read LINKS and pass it on to those who are part of the Christian education ministry of your parish.

I would like to thank the members of the Christian Formation Commission who have served this year. We are happy to assist any parish who is looking for help for their own Christian education/formation program. Those members are: Sue Legnani, Mary Wenzler, Nancy Miller, Donna Devlin, Mary Jean Metzger, Vicky Cuff, Kep Short, Emily Griffin, Gregory Bezilla, Louane Frey, Charlotte Hayden, Margaret Hodgkins, Lisa Hoffman, Michael Redpath, Linda Twining, Gina Walsh-Minor, Deb Ellwood, and Lisa Mitchell.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Legnani
Chair