

Committee on Life Long Christian Formation
Diocese of New Jersey
2006

Every parish in the Diocese of New Jersey continues to have the opportunity to utilize the resources available at the 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.mrconline.org. This service is free to all parishes in our diocese. There is a wealth of material available for children, youth and adults in the areas of art, Bible, church, education, family and parenting, history, sacrament, social values, spirituality and prayer, worship and liturgy.

Materials for our own diocesan resource center are being purchased through a generous grant of money from the Girl's Friendly Society as well as funds from the budget. Our thanks goes to The Rev. Bill Breedlove who has given generously of his own time to set up the computer program, sort and catalog material and guide this project to its conclusion.

Each year the Committee on Christian Formation holds a Christian Educator's Day with Our Bishop. This day is meant to help those who teach in our parishes to have the opportunity to reflect on their ministry and fellowship with other Christian educators. In the past there has been no charge for this day. Our leader for 2006 was Margaret Sipple from the Diocese of Pennsylvania who led us through a process called Appreciative Inquiry. The theme was "Wellsprings for Ministry".

The Committee on Christian Formation also holds conferences that cover topics for children's ministry. A joint conference was held in May with the Christian Formation Commission and the Commission for Ministry with the Disabled called Seeking to Serve Christ in All Persons. We are looking forward to another joint conference in May 12, 2007 with Bill Gaventa as our keynote speaker.

At his request, the Christian Formation Commission met with Bishop Cancell to formulate guidelines for Confirmation. The final document is being finished by Bishop Cancell and is based on guidelines from the Diocese of Massachusetts.

The CFC budget also supports two ecumenical conferences. These conferences are held in October and March.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee 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: Michael Redpath, co-chair, Susan Legnani, co-chair, Rev. Gregory Bezilla, Ven. Victoria Cuff, Donna Devlin, Rev. Louane Frey, Rev. Emily Griffin, Charlotte Hayden, Rev. Margaret Hodgkins, Lisa Hoffman, Rev. Blake Hutson, Rev. Mary Jean Metzger, Nancy Miller, Kep Short, Rev. John Thompson-Quartey, Linda twining, Rev. Gina Walsh-Minor, Deb. Ellwood and Rev. Lisa Mitchell.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Legnani
Co-chair