

Report to the 224th Annual Diocesan Convention

Ministry Institute

A hearty thank you to all the commissions and committees of the Diocese – without you the Ministry Institute would not have had such a wonderful year. Your dedication to providing everyone in the “Diocese of New Jersey opportunities for Christian formation, spirituality, and ministry learning and development” is awesome. These thanks are most appropriate since most of the offerings are planned by the commissions and committees of the Diocese. By the way, the quote is the mission of the Ministry Institute.

The Spring and Fall 2007 Institute offerings were presented in the second and third semesters of the Institute.

In Spring 2007, there were twenty-five different courses, workshops, or events offered: fifteen planned for everyone, including two for adults working in youth ministry planned by the Youth Ministry Office, six planned specifically for the laity, and four planned specifically by and for the clergy. That was eight offerings more than in the Fall of 2006, the Institute’s first semester. Courses on “Church History” and on “The Book of Common Prayer” in the School for Deacons were open to the laity. The Ministry Institute staff were especially pleased to offer “Preparing for Holy Week - A Lay Lenten Retreat” led by Bishop Cancell. In addition, the Institute staff offered again “Reading the Lessons Effectively.” Of the activities presented for everyone or the laity, 468 individuals, including two for the course in the School for Deacons, registered.

In Fall 2007, there were twenty different courses, workshops, or events offered: ten planned for everyone, including two for adults working in youth ministry planned by the Youth Ministry Office, five planned specifically for the laity, and five planned specifically by and for the clergy. There were no courses open to the laity in the School for Deacons because during 2007-08 Ministry Institute year those in the deacon process will take their practicum. The Ministry Institute staff offered “Discerning One’s Spiritual Gifts” - a workshop that we would be glad to offer to any congregation interested in hosting it and having it open to the entire Diocese – there is no cost to the congregation. Of the activities presented for everyone or the laity, 621 individuals registered.

The Institute has initiated surveys via email to each participant after each lay workshop/event. These surveys will invite respondents to comment on their experience at the event, provide ways to improve the event, and suggest other events that the Ministry Institute can plan to meet the needs of parishioners in the Diocese.

For Spring 2008, twenty-two different courses, workshops, or events are being offered: fifteen planned for everyone, including two for adults working in youth ministry planned by the Youth Ministry Office, two planned specifically for the laity, five planned specifically by and for the clergy. Again, no courses are being offered by the School for Deacons for the laity this semester. The Institute staff was again delighted to have Bishop Cancell lead “Preparing for Lent - a Lay Lenten Retreat” early in January 2008.

Submitted by
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