



Check our web resources for adult formation

by Sherry Anne Weddell

Our website (www.siena.org) offers links to a great collection of resources and organizations dedicated to the education and formation of adult Catholics. On our homepage, just click on *Links*, then on *Life within the Church*, and then *Lay Education/Formation (Adult)*.

You can learn more about the work of the *Pontifical Council for the Laity* by visiting their Vatican website. Check out the considerable resources of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' under *NCCB: Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women, and Youth*.

Visit the website of the *University of Dallas*, which calls itself "the Catholic University for Independent Thinkers," or *Bethlehem University*, a Catholic, Arab university at the center of the current tensions in the Holy Land. Check out the *Association of Catholic Colleges/Universities*, which lists all Catholic institutions of higher learning in the United States. Consider the *Aquinas Ministry Formation Program* or *Franciscan University of Steubenville*, which offer distance-learning master's degrees.

If you're looking for a solid learning experience but don't need a degree, consider the innovative offerings of *Education for Parish Service* in Washington, D.C., the classes offered through the *School of Pastoral Leadership* in San Francisco, or the *Maryvale Institute* of England. Pursue spiritual formation through the

See *Website*, page 4

Offering Our Work and Play: the Priesthood of the Lay Apostle

by Fr. Michael Sweeney, O.P.

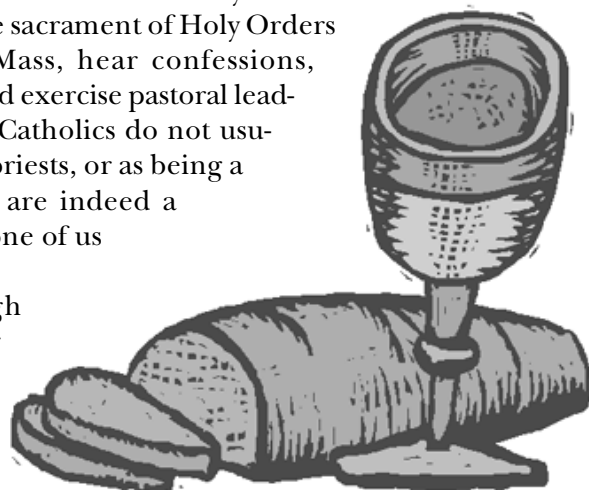
One of the signs that we have understood what Jesus teaches us will be our respect for what is old and what is new: "...every scribe who has been instructed in the

kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old" (Mat 13:52). We know that we are receiving "instruction in the Kingdom" when old things seem new, even radical.

When we think of "priests" we invariably think of those who have received the sacrament of Holy Orders and who preside at the Mass, hear confessions, dispense the sacraments, and exercise pastoral leadership in the community. Catholics do not usually think of themselves as priests, or as being a "priestly people." Yet, we are indeed a priestly people, and every one of us is a priest.

"Christ the Lord, High Priest taken from among men," (Heb. 5:1-5) made the new people "a kingdom and priests to God the Father" (Rev. 1:6).

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Fiscally Speaking: Major Grants

A program of the Western Dominican Province, the Catherine of Siena Institute began its life with \$40,000 in Dominican seed money. Two years ago, a crucial \$50,000 grant from the Province kept us in operation. Although our close association with the Dominican Province continues, we have since then been entirely independent financially. In fact, the Institute has



William E. Simon, Jr.

no regular institutional support at all from within the Church or without.

Yet, for the first time, we are beginning to make ends meet. The bread and butter of our monetary sustenance comes from our programs, especially the *Called and Gifted Workshop*, supplying roughly 35% of our revenue. We earn an additional 15% through sales of resources, and a critical 20% through the faithful generosity of monthly contributors and those responding to Father Michael's requests. If you've been mentally adding, you know that leaves a gap of 30%.

This amount has come through the beneficence of several major contributors, without whose help we would still be seeing mostly red. Most especially, the vision and magnanimity of William E. Simon, Jr. has enabled us to make a transition away from month-to-month survival towards accomplishment of strategic, mission-based goals. Together with his father, the late William E. Simon Sr., he granted \$50,000 last year for expanding our programs, developing our

see *Grants*, page 7

Happenings...

Sherry Weddell's new essay, *Making Disciples, Equipping Apostles: The parish as a house of formation for Catholic adults*, is now available in booklet form. Sherry makes the case for the pressing need lay Catholics have for a formation equal to the demands of their call as apostles to the secular world. She outlines several content areas which constitute an adequate adult formation, including knowledge of Revelation in its full sense, provision of community support, understanding of worship, and discernment of call and vocation. Sherry goes on to tackle larger issues of developing the structures needed to sustain it. (See advertisement, page 8.)

Mary Ann Gurol, long time volunteer for the Institute, now joins us part time to tackle the jobs of coordinating events, volunteers, and publicity efforts. **Eryn Huntington**, co-author of *Discerning Charisms: A workbook for navigating the discernment process*, has been hard at work creating our first press packet, which we will use immediately to publicize the upcoming April conference. Many thanks to Mary Ann, Eryn, and all our volunteers for their generosity and willingness to collaborate in our mission!

Our fall schedule is filling rapidly, but this year, we have the capability of holding more than one workshop on any given weekend. We have added **Scott Moyer**, **Debbi Oaas**, and **Jen Piccotti** as full-fledged teachers, and have a whole group now in training. This summer, we will host a teacher training weekend in August. If anyone has thoughts about teaching *Called and Gifted* workshops, now is the time to contact us!

see *Happenings*, page 7

Catherine of Siena Institute Mission:

Working to make apostolic formation and support readily available to all lay Catholics by:

1. *Making self-formation resources available* to lay Catholics throughout the world.
2. *Equipping parishes to become houses of formation*, discernment, and apostolic support for the laity.
3. *Forming clergy, religious, and lay leaders* to be effective formators of lay apostles.
4. *Fostering awareness, discussion, theological inquiry, and pastoral consultation* throughout the Church regarding the apostolic mission and formation of the laity.
5. *Collaborating* with interested individuals, groups, or organizations in the service of this mission.

Apostles to the World Conference: Joining “Head and Members”

by Sherry Anne Weddell

Fostering a true collaboration between ordained, religious, and lay Catholics in the evangelizing mission of the Church has always been central to the Institute’s work. Every initiative in the Church that has made a real difference has always had two characteristics:

it is a grass-roots or “popular” movement—reflecting the Holy Spirit at work in the hearts of the whole Christian community; and it is endorsed and approved by the Holy See—reflecting the Holy Spirit manifested through the hierarchy of the Church. (Historians refer to this phenomenon as a “reform in head and members.”) The truth of this was brought home again last February when the generosity of our many collaborators enabled Fr. Michael and me to present the vision for lay formation in Rome. The fruits of that trip continue to delight and astonish us.

While in Rome, we made two presentations to seminarians on the vision and theology of apostolic formation for the laity. Our talk was then printed in the booklet: *The Parish: Mission or Maintenance*, which has since proven unexpectedly popular. One pastor purchased 250 copies for his parishioners and a bishop is distributing copies to every parish in his diocese as part of his overall pastoral plan. Our friends, Sherry and Dave Curp, sent a copy of our talk to Fr. Richard John Neuhaus, who wrote about our work in the highly respected monthly journal, *First Things* and suggested that his readers write for copies of the booklet. Priests and lay people from around the English-speaking world ordered copies, and then many called back and asked for additional copies to give away.

The other highlight of our Roman holiday was a memorable 1½-hour meeting with Cardinal J. Francis Stafford. After serving as auxiliary bishop of Baltimore, bishop of Memphis, and Archbishop of Denver, Stafford

was named President of the Pontifical Council by the Holy Father in 1996. As President, Cardinal Stafford heads the Vatican organization that assists the Pope in all matters concerning the contribution that lay men and women make to the life and mission of the Church. Council members include lay men and women from all over the world as well as bishops and priests. The Council fosters joint action among lay people in formation and spiritual life, as well as in works of mercy and social justice. Within the secretariat, there is a section responsible for international lay movements such as Charismatic Renewal or Focolare; one that fosters the vocation and mission of women in Church and society; and one responsible for youth ministry, which organizes the hugely successful World Youth Days.

Until I met Cardinal Stafford, I did not realize that my imagination was filled with movie images of imposing medieval cardinals swathed in brilliant scarlet robes. This Cardinal was dressed simply in a black suit and collar; he was so personable and down-to-earth that it took me several minutes to realize whom I was speaking to. His years in the south have made him particularly aware of the unique strengths of evangelical Protestants. He was intrigued by my Baptist background, and told us a marvelous story about his first days in Denver. On his first Sunday in town, the new Archbishop went in civilian dress to explore a huge Baptist church near the Cathedral. He dutifully filled out the information form in the pew and was amazed to be ushered into



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Rome, continued from page 1

a small Sunday School class made up entirely of single men like himself who were 55 and older. As the men took turns introducing themselves, the archbishop had to think fast. He introduced himself using his mother's maiden name and described his work as "public relations".

Cardinal Stafford was deeply interested in our work and we talked at length about the need for a spiritual formation ordered around the mission of lay Catholics in the world. During our meeting in Rome, we invited Cardinal Stafford to come to the United States and speak, and were delighted when he accepted!

As a result, one more exciting fruit of our Roman journey is going to ripen on April 27 and 28 in San Francisco. Cardinal Stafford will gather with Archbishop Leveda of San Francisco, Archbishop Prendergast of Halifax, the staff and friends of the Institute, and hun-

dreds of other Catholics from around the west and other parts of the nation to discuss the challenges facing lay apostles in the 21st century. The celebration will begin with Cardinal Stafford presiding and preaching at a festive Mass in honor of St. Catherine of Siena in the exquisite church of St. Dominic's on Friday evening, April 27. Then on Saturday, April 28, Stafford will be the keynote speaker at the conference *Apostles to the World: The Formation and Mission of the Laity* held in beautiful St. Ignatius Church on the campus of the University of San Francisco. He will be joined by Archbishop Prendergast of Halifax, Dr. Susan Timoney of the innovative Education for Parish Service Foundation, and of course, Fr. Michael and yours truly.

We would love to see you there! This is a conference for everyone involved in the formation of and collaboration in ministry with lay men

and women: pastors, seminarians, deacons and their wives, lay ecclesial ministers, parish staff, lay leaders, and members of lay movements and third orders. To register, call Joni or Vitorio at the School of Pastoral Leadership, (415) 614-5545 or 5547.

Our world stands in dire need of lay apostles. We hope this conference will help bring into being the formation lay Catholics must have to meet this need, and foster a true collaboration between head and members that will bear lasting fruit.



Website, continued from page 1

Epiphany Association or be trained in healing prayer by the *Institute of Christian Ministries*. Grow in your knowledge of the Bible with the help of the *Little Rock Scripture Study* or *Emmaus Journey*, both of which provide resources for adult Bible studies. Find a wide variety of resources on Catholic Social Teaching at the *JustPeace* website. Spend a life-changing year in Rome at the *Emmanuel School of Missions*. And explore other areas of the *Catherine of Siena Institute's* website to discover more educational resources.



Apostles to the World

The vocation and formation of the laity

A conference and Mass sponsored by the Catherine of Siena Institute and the School of Pastoral Leadership of the Archdiocese of San Francisco

"The Laity in the 21st Century" • "The Laity: Collaborators in Mission with their Bishops" • "Models of Lay Formation" • "The Parish as a Center of Formation for Lay Apostles"

Cardinal J. Francis Stafford

President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity

Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, SJ

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Susan Timoney, PhD

Education for Parish Service Foundation, Wash., DC

Mass April 27, 7:30 pm

Saint Dominic's Church
2390 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA

Conference April 28, 8:30 - 4:30

Saint Ignatius Church
650 Parker Street
San Francisco, CA

For more information, contact the School of Pastoral Leadership at (415) 514-5545

Investing in Lay Apostleship

We want to recognize our year 2000 contributors who have made our great success this past year possible through their financial support. Thank you, also, to all those who made offerings at a *Called and Gifted* workshop. Though too numerous to list separately, without their support we could not continue. We also give our heartfelt appreciation to the over 65 supporters who have asked us to withhold recognition while contributing together more than \$19,000!

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...and volunteers

Those who have given their precious time and energy to our work in countless and creative ways.

Fr. Michael Barber, S.J.
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Nino Yuniardi

Priesthood, continued from page 1

“The baptized, by regeneration and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, are consecrated as a spiritual house and a holy priesthood, in order that through all those works which are those of the Christian man [and woman] they may offer spiritual sacrifices and proclaim the power of Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvelous light (cf. 1 Pet. 2:4-10). Therefore all the disciples of Christ, persevering in prayer and praising God (cf. Acts 2:42-47), should present themselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God (Rom. 12:1). Everywhere on earth they must bear witness to Christ and give an answer to those who seek an account of that hope of eternal life which is in them (1 Pet. 3:15)” (*Lumen Gentium*, 10).

With these words, the Fathers of Vatican Council II iterated the Church’s teaching that every one of the baptized is a priest: the baptized have been “consecrated ... as a holy priesthood.” This is not a new doctrine. It is a doctrine as old as scripture. However, it received a new emphasis at the Council, and it strikes most of us as a new, even a radical, idea.

Those of you who have attended a *Called and Gifted* workshop have already learned that we are called—each of us, and in our own right—to be apostles of Jesus Christ. By our Baptism and Confirmation, Christ sends us to continue his own work of redeeming the world. The laity are to evangelize the world so that every man and woman may meet the risen Christ and the love of God which he reveals. Likewise, the laity are to evangelize the structures of culture and of society so that our governments, businesses and institutions will promote all that is truly human. In all of this we are called to be apostles of Christ. What is added to

our apostolic identity by understanding that we are also his priests?

The essential act of a priest is to offer sacrifice: “Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins” (Heb. 5:10). A sacrifice attempts to do justice to God. It offers back to God some part of what he has given to us in acknowledgement of his gifts. God, of

Our work or our leisure can literally be sanctified: they become sacred, because they become a participation in the work of Christ himself.

course, has no need of our gifts; there is nothing we can give to God that he has not already given us. Even our life is God’s gift to us. And so, it is for our advantage, not for his, that we give something back to him. By offering God our gifts, we become mindful of him and remember that all that we have is due to his love for us.

A sacrifice can consist in a gift of something belonging to us that we offer freely back to God, or in an action by which we offer to God our work or our leisure. Yet sacrifice connotes something further than offering gifts. The word “sacrifice” derives from two Latin words, *sacer*, meaning “sacred,” and *facere*, meaning “to make.” To offer a “sacrifice,” therefore, is to offer a gift that “makes holy” or sanctifies. What can our own offering make holy?

Because we are priests—literally, because Christ has anointed us to be his priests—Christ accepts what we offer to God and *identifies it with himself*. In this way our work or our leisure can literally be sanctified: they become sacred, because they become a participation in the work of Christ himself. This is at the heart of our priesthood: that we participate directly in the priesthood of Christ. We have the opportunity of making our life, our work, and our actions sacred through sacrifice, for they have been set apart for God.

We usually think of sacrifice either as something that is deliberately arduous or an act of self-deprivation, such as offering to pray or to fast exceptionally, or abstaining from our favorite food or drink during Lent. Certainly, if we are to make a gift of our life and work and leisure to God, this will sometimes prove to be arduous. Yet Jesus, who made such a gift in utter fullness, spoke of doing the will of his Father as something that *sustained* him, as his very food: “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work” (John 4:34). It is not necessary, therefore, that a sacrifice be arduous.

What *is* essential to sacrifice is that it be an *offering to God* of our work, our leisure, and ourselves. An offering must first be deliberate and intentional—a gift is only a gift if we intend it as a gift. Neither is it a true gift if there are strings attached; a true offering entails a radical surrender of control and ownership so that the outcome is no longer ours to determine. We should deeply desire that God dispose of our actions and ourselves according to his purposes. Note, also, that what is offered must really be *mine*; we cannot offer someone else’s work, and they cannot

Happenings, continued from page 2

Scott Moyer and **Jen Piccotti** teamed with Fr. Michael at the end of January in presenting a *Called and Gifted* workshop to well over 200 **young adults in San Francisco**. Sponsored by the Young Adult Ministry Office of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, the event was a great success. The diligent and dedicated team of **Sr. Christine Wilcox, O.P.** and **Mary Jansen** coordinated the gathering, which went without a hitch. It was very inspiring to see so many young Catholics intent on understanding charisms and discerning their own call in Christ's service.

Call for writers! If you have experience or ideas germane to our mission that you would be willing to write about, we're interested! From personal anecdotes to theological reflection, from speculation to hard-won experience, we'd love to hear about it. Possible topics include adult

formation, collaboration, discernment of vocation and call, using spiritual gifts, and any stories about lay Catholics applying their faith innovatively to meet the needs of their family, friends, or neighbors. We know from experience that God is doing truly amazing things in and through the lives of ordinary Christians, and we'd like to spread the word! (*e-mail info@siena.org*)

We are working on a **Spanish translation** of the entire workshop on audio tape. **Andrea Nice**, of Portland has generously begun work on part of the tapes, but we still need a good translator for Fr. Michael's half of the presentation. Please let us know if you or someone you know of would be willing. We receive requests time and again for this translation from all over the U.S. and South America, and we know that it will be well received once we complete it. ❀

Grants, continued from page 2

resources, including additional teachers, and launching the ambitious *Apostles to the World* conference taking place this April.

Father Robert Giuntini, pastor of St. James Parish, Long Island, N.Y., presented Fr. Michael and Sherry with a check for \$4000 on behalf of his community during their visit there last fall. Fr. Bob is dedicated to the formation of lay Catholics and a long-time friend and supporter of the Institute. Sherry says of him, "I've never met a priest who has put so much time and energy into preparing to be a pastor."

Thanks also to the Raskob foundation, a great supporter of Catholic endeavors, which gave \$5000 for a digital projector! We also received \$5000 for administrative help from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. As a result, we have been able to welcome Mary Ann Gurol to our paid staff (see *Happenings*). ❀

For your Lenten reflection: the *Call to Christian Happiness*

by Fr. Michael Sweeney, O.P. and Sherry Weddell

a Lenten mission on achieving our highest good

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Priesthood, continued from page 6



offer ours. Also, the dignity of the gift should correspond to the dignity of the receiver, and though our actions and our lives fall far

short of the dignity of God, what we truly offer really does become a sacrifice in the full sense of the word, made holy in and through Christ who joins it to his own offering of himself.

A second essential aspect to our priesthood, besides offering sacrifice, is serving as a mediator between God and humanity, between God and the world. When Jesus offered himself to the Father, therefore, he also offered all of humanity. In his own person, his divine nature and our human nature were united, so that in every sacrifice he made to the Father, which is to say, the whole of his life

and work and all of his relationships, humanity was raised up to God. We, too, are called to continue Christ's work as his priests. Therefore, as we offer to Christ our own life, and all that we do, humanity continues to be offered to God through us. We become mediators: we bring humanity to God, even as we bring God's love and providence to humanity. When we grasp that we are priests of the new Covenant, we can begin to understand our work in the world, even and especially in our secular pursuits, in a much deeper way.

What happens when we act both as priests and as apostles? As an Apostle you are sent to heal the institutions and structures of secular life, to render businesses and institutions more truly human. You do this by witnessing what it is to live in Christ, and by the exercise of your charisms. But as a priest you offer your very work and your relationships to God; your work and your relationships become a spiritual sacrifice, a gift to God that he receives and with which he identifies himself. *You make Christ twice present: in those for whom you work and in your work itself.*

Jennifer, for example, a university student, is active in youth work where she witnesses directly to Christ and encourages young men and women to realize his love for them. She does this as an apostle—as one

whom Christ has sent. But when she offers to God her study, when she brings in her heart to Mass those with whom she works and those to whom

...this is, finally, the role of a priest of Christ: to extend his sacrifice into the world through the mediation of our own life and work.

she witnesses, she includes them in a sacrifice which she makes to God as his priest. Her work, her study, and her relationships become a sacrament, a real sacrifice offered to God. He, in turn, claims them for himself. The young people to whom she witnesses Christ have already been offered to him through her priestly prayer for them, and Christ has already identified himself with them, through her sacrifice. In a way, this is all the more wonderful because it is hidden.

For this reason too, Jennifer is required, as are all of us, to make a priestly preparation when she attends Mass. She fasts, abstaining

from all food or drink, save water only, for at least one hour before Mass. She is asked to offer herself, and those with whom she lives, works and recreates, as she approaches the altar. Her personal acts of sacrifice, as Christ's

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"As he is, so are we in this world."

—1 John 4:17b

Making Disciples, Equipping Apostles:

The parish as a house of formation for adult Catholics

by Sherry Anne Weddell

New!

The Church has declared that every baptized Christian is an apostle of Jesus Christ who has a right to apostolic formation. Sherry discusses the crucial role of the parish, the content of lay formation, and the urgent need for equipping leaders who can call forth the charisms and vocations of all the baptized.

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priest, are then offered to Christ himself at the Offertory of the Mass so that Christ may receive them and, in turn, present himself to her. In the moment that she receives the body and blood of Christ, she stands as a mediator between Christ and all those to whom she is sent. She claims, in that moment, the fullness of her apostolic and priestly dignity.

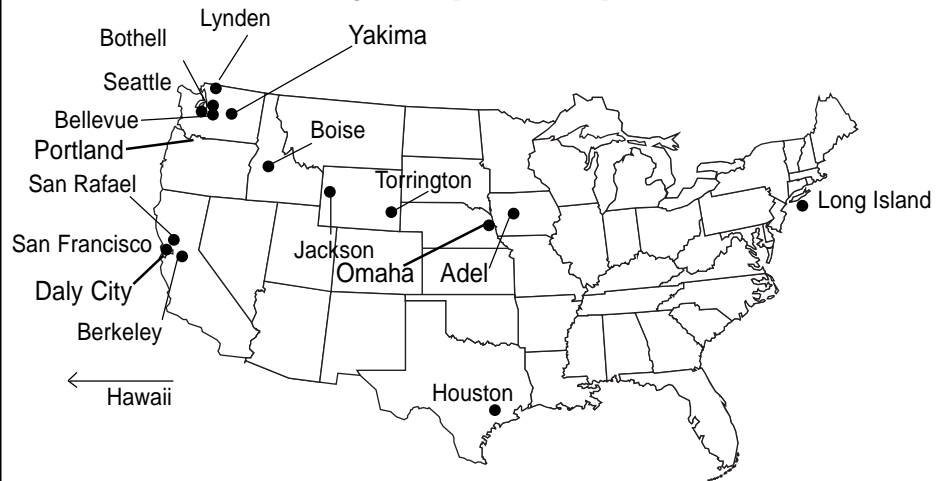
For this is, finally, the role of a priest of Christ: to extend his sacrifice into the world through the mediation of our own life and work. Our *apostolic vocation* of witness to Christ—to heal the institutions and structures of our world—is then an extension of our *priestly work*. For, as we pray in the first *Preface* to the Mass, Christ “through his cross and resurrection has freed us from sin and death and called us to the glory that has made us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people set apart.”

On April 27 in San Francisco, we will celebrate Mass for the Feast of St. Catherine of Siena. His Eminence James Francis, Cardinal Stafford, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, will preside and preach the Mass. We will bring to the Mass our intention to celebrate and pray for all who have joined us in the work of forming lay apostles. Each of us—lay or ordained—will do this as a priest; for as we offer ourselves and our work to Christ he, in turn, will receive us and all those for whom we work and pray. In this way, as we celebrate the apostolic and priestly dignity which belongs to every Christian, we will have the comfort of knowing that all of you who collaborate with us will be actually included in the Mass, whether or not you are able to attend.



Upcoming Catherine of Siena Institute events

See our web site, www.siena.org, for complete listing, updated weekly



March

- 9-10 Adel Iowa, Called & Gifted, St John's Church, contact parish office (515) 993-4482
- 12-15 Lynden WA, Call to Christian Happiness mission, St Joseph's Church. Contact Rosemary or Tom, (360) 354-2334
- 16-17 Boise ID, Called & Gifted workshop, St Mark's, contact Kathy Sells, (208) 375-6651
- 23-24 Lynden WA, Extended Discernment workshop, St Joseph's Church. Contact Rosemary or Tom, (360) 354-2334
- 30-31 Hawaii, Called & Gifted, contact Sharon Chiarucci, (877) 263-8855

April

- 1-2 Hawaii, Facilitator Training, contact Sharon Chiarucci, (877) 263-8855
- 27 Celebrating feast of St Catherine, Mass with Cardinal Stafford, St Dominic's, San Francisco, contact Institute office (888) 878-6789
- 28 Conference, Apostles to the World, St Ignatius Church, University of San Francisco, contact School Pastoral Leadership (415) 614-5545

May

- 7-10 Bellevue WA, parish mission, St Madeline Sophie, WA (425) 747-6770
- 17-18 Portland OR, Sherry Weddell speaking at Northwest Stewardship Conference, contact Institute office (888) 878-6789
- 18-19 Seattle WA, Called & Gifted workshop, Blessed Sacrament Church, contact Institute office (206) 547-1423 to register

June

- 1-2 Long Island NY, Extended Discernment, St Phillip & James, contact parish office, (631) 584-5454
- 8-9 Daly City CA, Called & Gifted workshop, Our Lady of Mercy, contact School Pastoral Leadership (415) 614-5545
- 15-16 San Rafael/San Anselmo CA, Called & Gifted workshop, St Anselm's, contact School Pastoral Leadership (415) 614-5545
- 22-23 (or 29-30) Torrington, WY Called & Gifted, St Rose (307) 532-5556

August & Fall (partial listing)

- 8/10-11 Seattle WA, Interviewer Training workshop, contact Institute office
- 9/21-22 Yakima WA, Extended Discernment Workshop
- 10/5-6 Jackson WY, Called & Gifted, Our Lady of the Mountains (307) 733-2516
- 10/12-13 Houston TX, Called & Gifted workshop, Catholic Charismatic Center
- 10/26-27 Bothell WA, Called & Gifted, St Brenden's (Seattle)
- 1/17-18 Omaha NE, Called & Gifted, St. Cecilia's



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this world. 1 John 4:17*

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Highly recommended, John Paul II's first encyclical explores the relationship between the mystery of redemption in Jesus Christ and our dignity and destiny as human beings.

On the Apostolate of the Laity 2.50

Before the Second Vatican Council, the apostolic call and vocation of the laity had never been discussed at a council of the world's bishops. Vigorous debate at the Council resulted in this groundbreaking document which outlines and strongly affirms the apostolic identity and mandate of the laity.

**Making Disciples,
Equipping Apostles: The
parish as a house of formation
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Making Disciples, Equipping Apostles (<i>booklet</i>)	\$2.00

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