



Areas of Concentrated Focus

## Priests, Deacons and Religious Men and Women

**Accomplishments:**

*Work with other Dioceses and religious orders worldwide to gain two priests, each year*

- Since 2003, Bishop Ricken has worked worldwide to recruit 18 priests to serve in the Diocese of Cheyenne

*Support and nurture permanent deacons*

- Phase I, aspirancy year, of new Permanent Deacon Formation Program launched 2007
- Phase II, intellectual formation, launched February 2008 with 28 candidates
- Training offered to eleven priests of the Diocese to support Permanent Deacon Formation Program

*Provide support, education, formation, and pastoral care to current priests, deacons and religious men and women*

- Seminarians participated in World

Youth Day, Leadership Camp and Spring-fest

- Vocation Director actively involved in youth activities and events including multiple presentations
- This goal was largely achieved in terms of priests during the annual retreat in 2007

**Continued Priorities:**

*Offer formation within a house of discernment, in Wyoming, prior to entrance into the seminary*

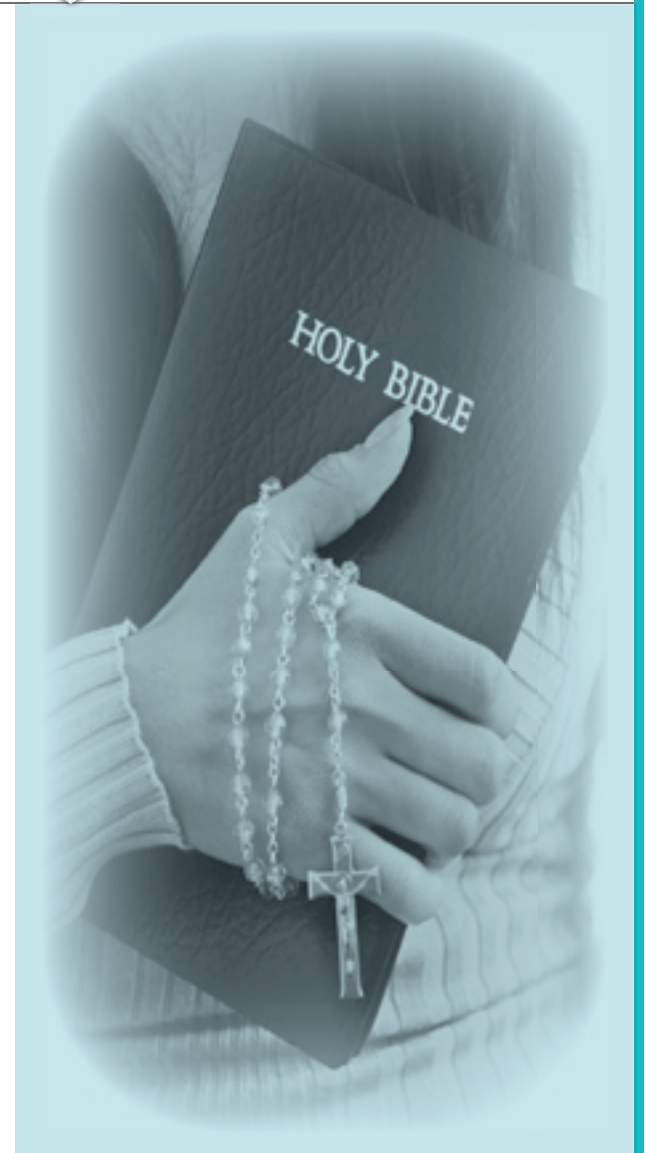
- Pope John Paul's residence model used by the Diocese of Buffalo was reviewed by Fathers Gallinger, Schumacher and Rodriguez for application in our Diocese
- Consultation with governing bodies of St. Paul's Newman Center has occurred to acquire rental property as a house of discernment. Target date for initiation of the house is Fall 2008
- Vocation Office will be relocated to the Newman Center in order to facilitate house of discernment

*Build a comprehensive vocation effort focusing on education, formation, and spirituality to have 20 seminarians by the year 2005*

- June 2007 Priest Retreat utilized the USCCB vocation program "Fishers of Men"
- Strong recommendation made by diocesan priests to have full time Vocation Director
- Efforts made in September 2007 for parish-based vocation efforts by eleven priests (follow through largely ineffective—next step is to try deanery level vocation efforts)
- Recorded a CD of Bishop Ricken praying the mysteries of Holy Rosary for Vocations; 900 CD sets distributed in Diocese

*Invite religious orders to assist in ministry and prayer in parishes, schools and ethnic population*

- Bishop Ricken has reached out to 4-5 religious communities inviting religious sisters to the Diocese. This is a high priority, at the direction of Pope John Paul II



## Catholic Education

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

**Accomplishments:**

*Develop Diocesan-approved religious education curricula, to be applied in each school*

- Two series of religious education texts have been approved for use in schools
- All schools implemented proper series in advance of 2006 school year deadline
- Developing diocesan-approved religious education and formation curricula to be applied in each school

*Assess the viability of existing schools and the possibility of additional schools*

- A cooperative study with Catholic University of America was completed and accepted in 2005
- A new school, John Paul II Catholic School, was opened in Gillette (Fall 2007) for pre-school through sixth grade

*Establish an administrative structure to strengthen and guide a system of Catholic school education, to assure academic excellence and to help the schools address their funding needs*

- Advertised, interviewed and selected a Catholic Schools' Superintendent in 2006

**Continued Priorities:**

*Develop partnership among Catholic schools, catechists, families and youth ministers.*

- All schools now have strategic plan that incorporates this goal as a local priority

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH CATECHESIS**

**Continued priorities:**

*Help parents assume their responsibility to educate their children in the Catholic faith*

- This goal incorporated into recommended Baptismal, Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparation programs
- Partnership with parents has been emphasized in all training sessions
- Consistent faith formation presented at all diocesan youth events

*Provide training, formation, and certification of catechists and youth ministers in every parish*

- Provided at parish request through the "Echoes of Faith" program. Program is available for all Catholic school teachers and parish youth ministers

*Build partnerships between youth, youth ministers, families, and parish communities.*

- Invitations are extended to all diocesan trainings, in parishes or at central locations.
- Increasing opportunities for children and

youth to participate in days of prayer, Catholic summer schools, and projects of service in Church and community

- Prayer and social service projects integrated into all Diocesan youth events as well as focus on developing partnerships with key Parish and Diocesan groups
- Youth 2000, Totus Tuus, parish retreats

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

**Continued priorities:**

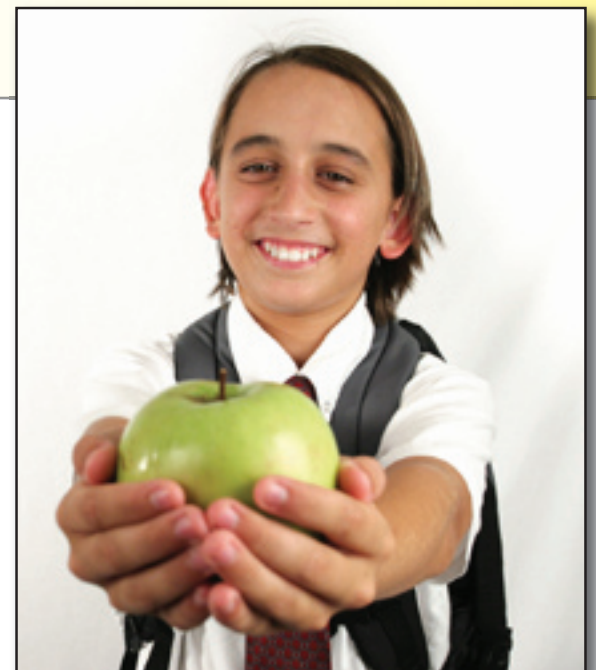
*Base instruction on the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

- Adult training has increased from 3,000 to 4,700 during the 2006-07 academic year
- Other efforts include Wyoming School of Catholic Thought, January Institute, COME & SEE Conference

*Provide an excellent Diocesan-approved adult education program for parishes, and train lay facilitators.*

- "New Wine" program offered to all parishes. "Echoes of Faith Adult Education Facilitation" training for lay facilitators is now available

*Conduct separate young adult education for those aged 18-35, emphasizing scripture, spirituality, basic church teaching and the*



*formation for small communities to deepen faith and relationships*

- "Theology on Tap" presented at two parishes – difficult to attract participants or facilitators.
- Campus Ministry programs mainly effective only at largest community college and at the University

Primary success is in area where younger adults share community programs such as "Boys to Men" and "ENDOW groups"

*Require Diocesan priests and deacons to attend a preaching in-service class and practicum every five years*

- Implementation at the 2009-10 year of study with emphasis on evangelization