



By Ann Lankford

# Annual Catechetical Inservice

July 30-31, 2010

Holy Cross Diocesan Center, La Crosse

We are very excited to announce plans for the annual Catechetical Inservice on July 30th and 31st.



*Catherine of Siena Institute*

Equipping Parishes to Form Lay Apostles

Friday night and Saturday will consist of the *Called and Gifted Workshop* presented by the Catherine of Siena Institute. Presentations will include Church teaching on the laity and lay apostleship, the nature of charisms, call and vocation, and how to undertake the process of discerning each person's specific charisms.

In speaking with the staff of the Catherine of Siena Institute, I want to highlight a few of the many reasons why we chose the *Called and Gifted Workshop*. When we are assisted to discern (discover) where we are gifted, we then work within our charisms with confidence and joy. We are able to avoid frustration and quick burn-out which is a result of trying to do things we are not gifted to do. In recognizing, developing and using our gifts, we become excited about knowing our part in God's plan. This leads to greater participation in the parish in wanting to use these gifts, a further openness to evangelization, and a more intentional support of others in living the Faith.

Those who take the *Called and Gifted Workshop* will have a chance to take the *Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory*, the first gifts inventory designed especially for Catholics. This will provide the opportunity to begin discerning personal charisms. Further, the workshop will teach participants:

- The ancient teachings of the Church on how charisms of the Holy Spirit work in their life and in the life of the parish community.
- The five steps of discerning the charisms that God has given them.
- The signs and characteristics of 24 of the most common charisms of the Holy Spirit. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraphs 798-801)
- How discerning charisms can change one's own life.

Moreover, the workshop will have far-reaching effects. The mission of Catherine of Siena Institute is

about "Equipping Parishes to Form Lay Apostles." This mission stems from the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity promulgated at Vatican II: "Indeed, everyone should painstakingly ready himself personally for the apostolate, especially as an adult ... enabling each person to evaluate more accurately the talents with which God has enriched his soul and to exercise more effectively those charismatic gifts which the Holy Spirit has bestowed on him for the good of his brothers" (n. 30).

The workshop will also explain:

- How discerning personal charisms can change the world and help spread the Gospel.
- How discerning and using personal charisms together can help transform and renew our parishes.

Friday afternoon, July 30th, will again feature the work and resources of the Diocesan offices which will directly affect parish renewal. Participating in the events of Friday and Saturday will be beneficial to both the persons attending and the parish. If this is not possible, a representative from the parish is expected to attend the Friday afternoon session.

Begin asking catechetical leaders, catechists, parents, adults who serve the parish in some way or those interested in serving to attend this important weekend. Cost is \$40 per person. This two-day event will have a tremendous impact of conversion on each person. If you would like further information on Catherine of Siena Institute and/or the *Called and Gifted Workshop*, go to [www.siena.org](http://www.siena.org).