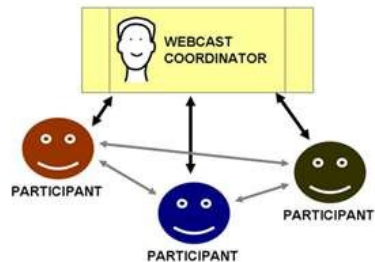


Formation For Ministry

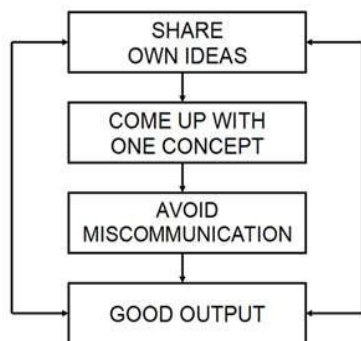
In June, we celebrated the Commissioning of Lay Ministers with a beautiful Vespers Service and sent our workers out into the vineyard. We also celebrated Bessie Flanders' retirement from her work as secretary for the office and welcomed Sara Salin to fill the position. Sara is full of energy, and is more than ready to answer questions that come to her. Don't hesitate to call her if you need information.

Over the summer, so many things have been happening to prepare for the beginning of the 2011- 2013 classes. We have over sixty people already

entering the program and are still receiving inquiries every day. Classes will be held in three locations this year, Ogdensburg, Malone and Ticonderoga. We are partnering with the Catholic School in each of the locations, better enabling us to make use of the technology needed for broadcasting some of the classes over the web. New software and equipment is ready for use and the instructors are looking forward to all the options that will be available to them as they reach out to teach adults all across the diocese.



We also have added the option of auditing the classes for those who have already been commissioned and want a refresher on a particular topic. If you are interested in auditing a class, contact our office and we will answer your questions and get you registered.



Another addition to the program is the inclusion of a new course – Collaboration and Communications – designed to help those in every area of ministry as they work with their pastors and the people they serve. A particularly interesting component of the course will be presentation of some of the skills necessary for conflict resolution. As parishes continue to be linked, the need for communication and collaboration will become very important for those in ministry and leadership. This course will, assuredly,

provide an invaluable skill set for the future.

As for those who have already been commissioned, more groups for ongoing formation are presently gathering across the diocese. The Watertown group has been meeting for several years. The enthusiasm of participants there spread and, as a result, a group was recently formed in the Plattsburgh area. A small group has been gathering in the Norfolk area and is ready to grow even further. Interest has been expressed for gathering in the Ogdensburg area, and a group is now forming. So, if you are thinking about how to remain current in your ministry, renew old acquaintances or want to extend your opportunities for personal spiritual growth, give us a call and we will get you connected. If there is no group in your particular area and you are interested in beginning one, call us and we will help you get started.