

## A Message from Heidi.....

Although still in the middle of summer, the office has been running at high speed preparing for the events of the coming year. Registrations are coming in for Celebrate Christ 2011 which is featuring Christopher West's presentation of Theology of the Body, catechist certification sessions are being scheduled, Virtus training sessions are being arranged for fall, interviews are being done with Formation For Ministry applicants ready to begin classes in September, our Catholic schools are being readied for students to return, and CORE registrations have been mailed to pastors and catechetical leaders across the diocese. All the activity reflects what we in the Department of Education and Christian Formation offices are all about.

Our work behind the scenes seeks to provide quality opportunities necessary to education, ongoing faith formation and professional development for people of all ages. And we are, indeed, blessed that our Bishop stands firmly on the belief that this is of significant importance and worthy of the funding required to make it all happen so that our Church may continue to reflect a vital, growing and living faith. In short, the programs provided throughout the diocese are important and should be regarded as such.

All of this should be a reminder to anyone working in parish ministries of how important you are to the diocese, and how important your work is to the continued well-being of the faith. How many times have we heard the old quip that the pay isn't so great but the benefits are heavenly?

In so many instances, people work as parish volunteers, or for minimal compensation, and give little thought to the amazing benefits available, just for the taking. It is up to us to participate in the education, ongoing formation and professional development opportunities that abound. More importantly, it is necessary for us to participate so we can remain current in the knowledge of the faith that we pass on to others. I, for one, wouldn't want to leave the education of my children to teachers who did not remain current in their knowledge base and methodology, nor would I want them treated by a doctor who was not responsible enough to continue to update him or herself with the most recent medical technology. And I certainly would not want my children being taught incorrectly about the faith that will sustain them throughout their entire lives.

The responsibility we have all assumed in accepting the call to our ministry positions requires that we continue to grow in our own knowledge, faith and spirituality. If you have not yet registered for Celebrate Christ 2011, are not current in your catechetical training or have not registered for CORE, it is time to do it. And remember, just registering is not enough. Get motivated and participate fully in the benefit programs the diocese provides. We owe it to ourselves and to all those we reach out to in ministry.

