

## **Church Development Institute (CDI) of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana**

### **What is CDI?**

CDI is a two-year, leadership training program that helps parish leaders, clergy and lay, to develop a vision for their own congregations, and to implement that vision in new and creative ways. Canon SuzeAnne Silla coordinates the program for the Diocese of Northern Indiana. Several priests and lay persons from the diocese have taken additional training to assist in facilitating CDI.

### **Who can participate?**

Any parish in our diocese may send parishioners and clergy to CDI. Since starting 4 years ago, 18 of the 36 parishes in the diocese have sent teams to CDI, with 5 more slated to start in 2012. The diocesan budget funds the program, so there is no charge to the parish or to individual participants except for purchasing required books, which can be found used online for little cost.

### **Why is CDI important to the Diocese?**

Bishop Little believes that CDI is an effective tool for strengthening leadership in parishes, resulting in stronger congregations and ministries. In his address to this year's Diocesan Convention, Bishop Little said CDI is having the results he hoped for: *"I have already seen positive and concrete results from this important initiative. In some cases, CDI principles have helped leaders to analyze conflict in their congregations and to discover positive ways to bring healing and forward movement. In other cases, CDI-trained leaders have inaugurated new ministries – in outreach, Christian formation, and community development. Well-trained and confident leaders are a key to parish growth, and CDI provides a toolkit with immediate and practical results."*

### **Where and how does the CDI training occur?**

Participants in CDI attend four, 2-day training sessions each year. Each session begins at 10 AM on a Friday, and concludes around 2:00 PM the next day. CDI is held at the Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center at the congregational home of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and their Ancilla College. It is located just west of Plymouth, Indiana, off U.S. 30 at Donaldson. CDI participants stay in the retreat center and eat meals at the Motherhouse of the Sisters. The property is beautiful! Here is the CDI schedule for the next two years:

February 3-4, 2012

May 4-5, 2012

September 14-15, 2012

November 2-3, 2012

February 1-2, 2013

May 3-4, 2013

Sept. 13-14, 2013

Nov. 1-2, 2013

For more information, visit our Diocese website ([www.ednin.org](http://www.ednin.org)). Scroll down the home page and click on "CDI" on the right side of the page.

If you are interested in participating in this enriching program, contact the diocesan office as soon as possible!