

Quotes from Parish Ministers who have received Thielges Grants for various Programs and Conferences

(Use in your bulletin announcements if you wish)

"I received new prayer ideas for parish gatherings. I will bring a different attitude to ministry since getting away. I also have a new way of thinking about what the parish needs from me in the various areas of ministry. Most of all I felt refreshed and renewed and have my enthusiasm back!" (parish minister attending the *Summer Institute Retreat*)

"As a lay minister, my parish will benefit greatly from my participation in the Lay Ministry Certificate program. I've grown tremendously in my understanding and knowledge of Scripture and theology. I have a greater understanding of the Church's mission in ministering to the poor and marginalized, and hope this is reflected in my various parish ministries." (lay preacher/parish catechist/music minister who is a student in the *Diocesan/University of Great Falls Lay Ministry Certificate Program*)

"It was the best workshop I'd been to in years with great information and networking with other pastoral ministers." (parish minister attending a *Beginnings and Beyond Institute*)

"The people I met were wonderful! I attended many workshops that help me in choose music for Mass, weddings and funerals. The *show case* of sampling music from different publishers and the whole assembly singing was awesome. I enjoyed hearing what other parishes do and have learned different ideas from them." (parish minister attending the *National Association of Pastoral Musicians Conference*)

"The sessions I attended provided the essential aspects necessary to meet the challenges of development in the 21st century. I came back with new ideas for marketing, public relations and fund-raising. It was a rejuvenating experience to participate in a convention with over 12,000 people whose mission and values are similar to mine. The sessions provided hands-on strategies and ideas." (school development director attending the *NCEA Convention*)

"In order to feed others, a person needs to be fed. Personally, the Summer Institute gave me an opportunity to take some time to be 'away,' meditate, and experience faith-sharing." (parish RE Director attending our *Diocesan Summer Institute Retreat*)

"Our youth group benefited with 'fresh' ideas learned at this conference. Our catechists now have access to difference resources. It was fun networking with and sharing with other youth ministers and religious education directors." (Parish youth minister/religious education director attending the *National Youth Ministry Conference*)

"The Institute for Pastoral Ministry has empowered me to better articulate my faith. IPM has given me a clearer understanding of Scripture, Liturgy and the Community of the Church. It has provided me with tools that will help me examine, internalize and share

the teaching and faith of the Church.” (parish minister attending a four-year summer program at the *Institute for Pastoral Ministry*, St. Mary College, Winona, MN)

“I gained personal insight that enables me to serve my parish more effectively. I visited with others working and living in rural parishes and gathered ideas and support in my ministry.” (Parish minister attending our Diocesan Summer Institute Retreat)

“I have more confidence with my planning ability and renewed interest in Bible stories in song. I enjoyed a reaffirmation of knowledge to support teachers and music ministers in the parish.” (Catholic school teacher/parish musician attending the National Pastoral Musicial Conference)

“As a youth minister, it gave me the opportunity to see the ‘big picture’ and discover great resources available to assist in our program.” (Parish youth minister/Religious Education Director attending the National Youth Ministry Conference)

“As a Catholic School teacher this conferences was a time away from work to gain personal and professional enrichment and renewal. Insights into the topics sparked new ways of appreciating my faith as well as encouragement to try new directions when old ones are worn out or not working well.” (Catholic school teacher attending the National Catholic Education Convention)

“I am growing in my understanding of the Catholic faith and becoming better able to teach others about Catholicism.” (Parish minister attending the Institute for Pastoral Ministries)

“This institute has given me much more insight into how the Rite of Christian Initiation process can and should be happening in the parish. Now I am able to develop our process into a more complete experience for all involved.” (Parish RCIA director attending a Beginnings & Beyond Institute)

“It was fun networking with other youth ministers and sharing ideas, joys and frustrations. I came away with a renewed sense of energy and appreciation for youth ministry work.” (Parish youth minister attending the National Youth Ministry Conference)

“I received wonderful new music and ideas for their use at liturgies; I took an instrumentation session to work on including more musicians in ministry; I experienced a renewed sense of excitement to try new ideas.” (Parish liturgy director attending the National Pastoral Musicians Convention)

“This workshop was definitely an energizer. We had sessions on leading liturgy, keyboard registration, organ technique and a great variety of music and how to perform it. This music venture was well worth the time and expense.” (Parish organist attending an Organ Institute)