

MISSION

APM is
a community of caring people
committed to the Church's
human service ministries
and the support of each other
in those ministries.

THE ROLE OF OUR MEMBERS

is one of leadership
in calling people forth
to respond to their baptism
through ministry
and in modeling new ways
of ministering.

WE ARE DEDICATED TO NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS

with individuals and
organizations
within the Archdiocese
of St. Paul & Minneapolis
and beyond its boundaries.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF DISCERNMENT

seeking to discover and
to implement
ways that will strengthen
and improve
the quality of our ministry
modeled after the life and
teachings of Jesus.

*“In each encounter, Life within is ignited. . .
begins to glow, to dance, to grow.”*

(from the back of a prayer card of The Visitation,
handed out during the APM Retreat)

On the last Friday of January, in the old worship space at St. Peter's, Mendota, 35 Pastoral Ministers sat with the sun shining through south-facing windows, warm on our backs. The theme for our Retreat (and our year), Reflecting Christ's Light, received divine back-lighting! Jackie Witter, facilitator extraordinaire, began by setting out for us the rhythm of the day, and letting us know that the Retreat was a gift we gave ourselves. She promised it would not be fast-paced, and not a workshop; and then she invited us each to enter in to the degree we were comfortable. With quiet time for the “ponderers,” and speak-right-out time for those who think out loud, we were gently walked through our time together.

After we sang “Open my eyes (ears, heart) Lord,” and wrote our personal prayers of hope for the day, Jackie happily announced that in preparation for this Retreat, she had done her research – into the Laws of Physics as they pertain to light, and the reflection thereof! So we learned about incident rays and reflected rays, and their need to be aligned at equal angles. And we learned about “Snell's Law” which states

that objects and creatures that do not have an inner light source (that being most objects and creatures), must therefore reflect the light from somewhere else. It is here that physics and spirituality met: Our light source is Christ, and we reflect that light to the world. To do that, we must have lives that are framed by prayer, for which there is no substitute and no shortcut.



We took time to think and write about how we are aligned to Christ at this time in our lives; and how that alignment might be warping. Because we not only reflect Christ's light, but also receive the light of Christ from other people, we took the time to think, and talk, about how we have received the light of Christ in our ministry, specifically during the last month.

We brainstormed words that are used to describe

light and what light does, then spent time in quiet contemplation. We were each given a card with a lovely icon of Christ the Light, and asked to just look at it, and answer in our hearts: Who is this for me? and What does he do for me?

When it was once again time for conversation, we discussed the qualities of a life with Jesus, and the importance of our baptism during which we received “the light of Christ.” Our closing ritual then, was a reminder of that prayer, as each person went forward to light a candle and we sang “Christ, Be Our Light.”

The day ended as it began, with participants once again joining together in song and writing personal prayers. “We are each an ember of the mind of God and we are each sent to illumine the other through the dark passages of life to sanctuaries of truth and peace.” (Joan Chittister, OSB) With a sense of peace, and having enjoyed a day with long-time (and new) friends, we departed – to continue our ministry of presence, both *receiving* and *reflecting* Christ's light.

Kathleen Conrad,
Chair-elect

Save the Date

Ministry Day
April 30, 9:00-3:00

Train the Trainers
Vulnerable Adult Training
May 1, 1:00-4:30

APM Banquet
May 26, 6:00-9:00

NALM Conference
May 27-30

From the Chair

Our theme of **Reflecting Christ's Light** has never seemed more relevant. The world can appear to be a very dark place to so many during these uncertain times. A day has not gone by that we haven't heard a story of someone losing their job, concerns about how to pay the mortgage or how to meet health care costs. Dreary, February weather enhances our longing for light, warmth and color.

Thankfully we have the support of our co-workers through APM to lift us up and remind us of the work we are called to do. We experienced that support as we gathered at the end of January for our annual retreat day. Jackie Witter led us through a peaceful and inspiring day of reflection and sharing. She took very seriously our theme, even researching the physics of light! See Kathleen's article in this section for more details of Jackie's powerful message.

My personal reflection led me to the image of Christ as Compassionate Healer. God's love for us is so great and so unconditional, we need to take time to touch into that love so we feed the light within that is then reflected out to others. We cannot give what we don't have. Especially in these difficult times, it is important to take the time for those things we know we should do—prayer, meditation, good spiritual reading, retreats away from the parish. With Lent quickly approaching, this is a wonderful time to rededicate ourselves to these important activities.

This Lenten season is also a good time to think about joining us on the APM Board. We currently have two open positions starting in June—Spirituality Chair and Chair Elect. Those job descriptions will be available at our April Program, or contact Kathleen Conrad Eustice for more information. If you have an interest in any area of APM, please let us know and we will find a place for you. We are always looking for new ideas and assistance.

May the Compassionate Healer be very near in this Season of Lent!

Kathy Indihar

Mary Mulheron Award

We all know someone who exemplifies what it means to be a Pastoral Minister; a person who is a strong *Reflection of Christ's Light*. We are inspired by this minister who is professional, while demonstrating compassion, empathy, flexibility, and often a sense of humor. This prayerful individual is dedicated to his or her ministry and empowers others to strengthen their relationships with God, self, and others. I invite you to nominate this person for the 2009 Mary Mulheron Award.

The award was created in 1984, by friends of the award's namesake, Sister Mary Mulheron, who was a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and a graduate of the College of St. Catherine. Giving public recognition to the importance of Pastoral Ministry in today's Church by highlighting the best of the best, inspires all of us -- those pursuing a Pastoral Ministry Certificate at the College of St. Catherine, as well as those individuals actively involved in Pastoral Ministry in the Archdiocese. Each year, an award is dedicated to an individual from each of these groups.

So we continue this award and this tradition. Look around you, search your heart, and, most importantly, take the time to nominate one of your peers in ministry. Nomination deadline is Friday, May 1, 2009. Contact Shelly Bjick at 651-690-8696 or mjbjick@stkate.edu with questions or for more information.

APM Annual Tithing

Every year the Association of Pastoral Ministers gives 10% of the year-end balance to a cause (or causes) suggested by the APM membership. Please let us know of an organization you suggest for our tithing gift for the end of our 2008 – 2009 fiscal year. You will also have an opportunity to make this suggestion at the year-end banquet. One suggestion per member, please. We need the name of the organization and the reason you believe that it should receive our contribution. You may send your suggestion to any board member, or submit it at the year-end banquet. Some past recipients have been: Victim Intervention Project Institute, Guadalupe Center, M.O.R.E. Multicultural School, and St. Stephen's Human Services.

Adaire Lassonde, SSND

APM Web Site

Be sure to Check out **www.apmspm.org!**

Yes, our association now has its own web site! Jim Robasse from St. Richard's parish in Richfield volunteered to do this web site for us, and we are more than grateful for his generosity as well as his gifts that he so willingly shared with our membership. Thank you to Kathleen Conrad Eustice from St. Richard's for connecting with Jim, and helping him with the content.

This puts all our information at our fingertips anytime. Checkout the calendar for upcoming events, find out who makes up the current APM Board, or view the latest newsletter. While you are checking out the site, be sure to consider how you might want to become more involved as a member of APM.

Always looking for input, think of additional ways we can connect with each other using the web site and email.

Jamie Moloney

www.apmspm.org

APM has moved into the world of cyberspace!



Executive Board 2008-2009
Contact us at apmboard@yahoo.com

The Spirit Working in the Church



On December 11, 2008, at St. William Church in Fridley, Sr. Catherine Michaud, CSJ, gave a thought-provoking presentation on "*The Spirit Working in the Church*," the topic of her PhD. dissertation. She spoke of how all of us share the light of

Christ by who we are and what we do as inspired by the Spirit. What follows is a brief summary of her reflection with us.

Sr. Catherine traced the action of the Spirit from the birth of the Church at Pentecost onward through all the ages, amid all the challenges that have faced the followers of Jesus. She quoted *Lumen Gentium* (34), saying: ". . . the laity, dedicated as they are to Christ and anointed by the Holy Spirit, are

marvelously called and prepared so that even richer fruits of the Spirit may be produced in them. For all their works, prayers and apostolic undertakings, family and married life, daily work, relaxation of the mind and body, if they are accomplished in the Spirit ...all these become spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...so, worshipping everywhere by their holy actions, the laity consecrate the world itself to God."

Thus we, as pastoral ministers, reflect Christ's light by building up the Body of Christ in all the diverse ways in which we function in our lives and ministries. Each of us--and all of God's people --are strengthened by this constant powerful activity of the Spirit in accomplishing God's purpose among us.

We were all grateful for Sr. Catherine's insightful comments and her sense of humor as she talked about the way the Spirit works among us in the Church.

Mary Lamski, CSJ



Executive Board 2008-2009

Officers:

Chair:	Kathy Indihar	651-784-3015x112
Past Chair	Shelly Bjick	952-835-7101
Chair Elect	Kathleen Conrad Eustice	612-869-2426
Secretary	Suzie Mrkvicka	651-454-2079
Treasurer	Adaïre Lassonde SSND	651-603-0251

Representatives, Committee Chairs, and Coalition Delegates:

Coalition Reps	Mary Lamski, CSJ	651-797-6015
	Marge Virnig	651-644-4918
Communication	Sue Edwards	952-934-5823
	Jamie Moloney	952-890-0045x234
Hospitality	Julie Pfab	651-457-781x7419
	Therese Marie Johnson	763-545-1443
Program	Mary Deaner	612-874-0311
	Chris Sorensen Woodside	507-334-3396
Spirituality	Open	
VAM Board Rep	Mary Ann Kelly-Wright	952-881-8671

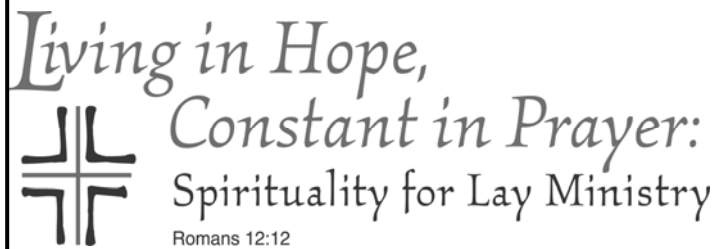
BOARD MEETING DATES

The Executive Board meets bi-monthly to implement the APM mission. APM members can play a vital role by helping to identify issues, needs, future leadership, and other concerns for the common good. Please call on any Board members listed above if you have suggestions or needs.

Apr. 11 Working Retreat—June 20

Mark Your Calendar Now!

Program II Wednesday, Apr. 22 1:00—4:00 p.m. Mary Mother of the Church	Russ Connors Director of Theology Dept. College of St. Catherine
Ministry Day Thursday, April 30 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. St. Joseph the Worker Maple Grove	Fr. Lee Piche' Jim Lundholm-Eades <i>More Than Words: New Models of Ministry in Changing and Challenging Times</i>
Spring Banquet Tuesday, May 26 6:00—9:00 pm Binz Refectory	S. Catherine Michaud, CSJ
NALM Conference May 27—30 Crown Plaza St. Paul	Living in Hope ~ Constant in Prayer Spirituality of LEM
Vulnerable Adult Training May 1, 1—4:30 St. Richard's, Richfield	Training the Trainers



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
Lay Ministry
33rd Annual Conference
Crowne Plaza
St. Paul Minnesota**

- Tend your hunger for relationship with God in your ministry
 - Learn about cutting edge developments in the future of lay ministry
 - Refresh and renew energy and passion for Trinity-centered ministry
 - Reflect on ways that lay ministry continues to develop and grow
 - Listen to renowned experts on ministry, spirituality, and theology
 - Be part of vibrant liturgies around the Word of God and the Eucharist
 - Build your peer network of others who incarnate a spirituality of loving service
 - Be part of fast-paced forum discussion about the ministry in which you serve
 - Acknowledge the achievement of lay ministers at the NALM awards banquet
- NALM is a professional organization that supports, educates, and advocates for lay ministers and promotes the development of lay ministry in the Catholic Church.

**For full program and to register see
www.nalm.org .**

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Sr. Judy Wagener, SSND

IN MEMORIUM

Grandfather of Shelly Bjick

Brother of Sandy Glau

Email prayer requests to jmoloney@mmtc.org