

June 26, 2009

Dear Rectors and Vicars,

The Diocese of El Camino Real's Commission on Ministry (COM) invites members of your parish to a "Day of Discovery" on Saturday, August 22, 2009 at St. Paul's, Salinas. This one-day retreat, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., helps individuals explore and respond to their particular calls to ministry. Developed by the Rev. Sam McClain and Linda Curtoys of Stephenville, Texas, this program leads participants in a process of discernment: ***"Discernment Ministry is a lifelong process of attending, perceiving, listening, and discovering how best to express Christ's ministry through the Church."***

This Day of Discovery offers the opportunity for those already engaged in active ministry to renew their call to a particular ministry, or to explore new ways to respond to God's call. Although this Day of Discovery is a required first step to anyone discerning a call to ordained ministry, it is in no way limited to such individuals. We explore and celebrate the ministry of all the baptized, and look at ministry development in each of the four orders – laity, deacons, priests, and bishops. All lay persons would benefit from engaging in this process. Previous participants in the "Day of Discovery" have shared in a process of discernment that has been rejuvenating, validating, and transformative.

Following the Day of Discovery retreat, participants take on a self-guided twelve week exploration to enhance their appreciation of how the four orders of ministry complement each other in fulfilling the mission of the Church, and discern where they fit into that mission. Members of COM provide support as people work their way through this program. It is required of anyone seeking ordination to the diaconate or priesthood.

We ask you to encourage members of your congregations to attend the Day of Discovery. Pre-registration (by August 17) to Susan Altig (susan@edecr.org) will allow us to prepare enough materials and order enough meals for the participants.

Yours in Christ,

Floyd Farlow, Chair of COM

Joanna Shreve & Jennifer Ezell, coordinators