



April 11, 2008

Dear Members and Officers of the *Madison Diocese Religious Educators' Organization*,

My prayer and hope is that this letter finds you growing in ever-deeper communion with Our Lord Jesus Christ, risen from the dead. Please know my profound gratitude for all of the individual and dedicated service each of you provides to the mission of catechesis in the Diocese of Madison.

Having recently had the opportunity to review the goals of MDREO, as stated in your organization's constitution, my appreciation for your loving service to the local Church has grown. Your initiative and efforts to participate in the bishop's responsibility for the continuing spiritual and professional formation of catechetical leaders is laudable and most gratefully acknowledged.

As many of you know, being somewhat more secure with the progress of our vocations efforts, I am now able to focus more personal energies on liturgy and our diocesan catechetical mission. Reflecting these priorities I was able recently to address many of you on the importance of loving obedience in the life of the Church. Because the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ, like Jesus we actualize his presence and grace in our own lives and the life of the Church through loving obedience. It is this exercise of obedience to Christ and His Church that transforms us, helps us know Christ in a life changing way, and blesses our efforts to effectively draw others into full and fruitful communion with him.

In any diocese, the first person called to this loving obedience to Jesus Christ and his Church is the bishop. Unworthy though I am, Christ the Lord has willed that I not only become personally responsible for every apostolate in the Diocese of Madison, including catechist formation, but indeed for every blessed soul. The execution of my responsibilities in this regard is one primary matter for which I will be judged by Jesus at my particular judgment. Due to the gravity of this responsibility, I am also bound to ensure that all the works of the apostolate are coordinated under my own direction and reflect the saving truth and mind of Jesus Christ.

In this light, while duly commending the commitment, diligence, initiative and ongoing fine work of MDREO over the years, and considering the significance in the numbers of participants and hours invested in its programs, I find it necessary in conscience to exercise modest yet fruitful direction to the activities of the organization. Specifically, it is my desire and intent that the organization's programs be accountable for ratification or amendment to myself or my delegate. Based on the generally suitable programming sponsored in the past, I

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anticipate generally granting ratification to proposed suitable programs in the future. In the same sense, I desire and intend to propose speakers and programs that I judge to be most useful for achieving the goals of MDREO in our present time. This collaboration is aimed at permitting the bishop to fulfill his role before Christ while affirming and encouraging your generous efforts, collective wisdom and rightful competence as we work together to more effectively serve the mission of Christ in our local diocese.

As Eric Schiedermayer, my Executive Secretary for the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, currently acts as my liaison to MDREO, I appoint him as my delegate to your organization in these matters as well.

While always keeping you, your families and your efforts in my prayers, I humbly ask for your prayers as well. Grateful for all that you do in service to Jesus Christ, his Church and the people of the Diocese of Madison, I am,

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Robert C. Morlino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Rev. Robert C. Morlino
Bishop of Madison
Director, Office of Evangelization
and Catechesis

Cc: All parish catechetical leaders in the Diocese of Madison