STEP II

September 6-9, 2012

The primary objective, purpose and goals of Step II was developed in 2002 after determining a need for renewal within the Cum Christo movement of the Great Falls – Billings Diocese in Eastern Montana. Step II originated in the Western Diocese of Montana as a program for "4th Dayers" (those having attended a Journey, Cum Christo or Cursillo weekend).

The Step II weekend experience, unlike the Cum Christo, is a retreat and can be attended by both Men and Women as often as desired. The intent and purpose of Step II is to strengthen the faith of the participant and to support, nurture and renew in them their desire to continue in the work as laity in the Catholic Church.

This program is similar to Cum Christo in that it is based on a series of talks, one building upon another. The central theme that ties the talks together is "building up the body of Christ". The opportunity for group discussion and reflections, Mass, meditations and prayer services are integrated daily, as well as the opportunity to receive individual Spiritual Direction and/or the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Simplicity is stressed throughout preparation and during the three days. Team members are minimal, there are no decorations in the dining room, no palanca, meals are kept simple and there are no outside visitors. Allowances are made for those who are unable to sleep at the facility at St. Anthony's, which means you are welcome to go home each night if you so desire.

The closing prayer service is a call for empowerment from the Holy Spirit and signifies the goal of the Step II weekend with this powerful "sending out" to continue the mission as evangelists in the Catholic Church.

Saint Iraneus, a church father, said, "Where the church is, there also is the Spirit of God; and where the Spirit of God is, there is the church". Step II is a beautiful example of what church is meant to be. "The Risen Lord calls everyone to labor in his vineyard, that is, in a world that must be transformed in view of the final coming of the Reign of God; and the Holy Spirit empowers all with the various gifts and ministries for the building up of the body of Christ". Each Step II weekend concludes with an empowerment service where each candidate is prayed over for this very task.

The fall dates for Step II - 2012 are September 6-9 and we ask $50.00/person to cover costs. Application forms are on the Cum Christo Web Site: www.bigskycumchristo.org or call Jeff or Lucy Melugin at 208-2340 or 208-2341.