

2011 Collegeville National Symposium on Lay Ecclesial Ministry

August 2-5, 2011

Collegeville, Minnesota

Post-Symposium

| 2007 Symposium Archives



Bishop John Kinney of the Diocese of St. Cloud presided at the opening Mass of the Collegeville National Symposium on Lay Ecclesial Ministry Aug. 2 at Saint John's Abbey Church in Collegeville. More than 230 symposium participants and members of Saint John's Benedictine monastic community joined the bishop in celebrating the Eucharist.

Bishop thanks lay “co-workers” for their service to church during Collegeville symposium

During his 48 Years in ordained life, 34 of them as a bishop, Bishop John Kinney has worked alongside multitudes of ministers, both ordained and lay. During a homily given Aug. 2 at Saint John's Abbey Church in Collegeville, Minn., he expressed his joy and gratitude to more than 230 of them, mostly laity, for their service to the church.

Bishop Kinney was presiding at the opening Mass of the Collegeville National Symposium on Lay Ecclesial Ministry Aug. 2-5. He is bishop of the central Minnesota Diocese of St. Cloud where Saint John's Abbey and University are located. The symposium is co-sponsored by Saint John's School of Theology-Seminary and 43 organizations representing the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic ministry organizations, dioceses, and Catholic Universities.

Bishop Kinney, reflecting on his nearly-50 years in ordained life, marveled at the remarkable number of devoted “priests and lay people there have been to assist, counsel, aid, teach, and minister to those who came for consolation and service. Without these ‘co-workers’ the mission and work of the church could never be accomplished,” the bishop said, alluding to the United States Catholic Bishops' 2005 document, *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry*.

“We thank God for so many co-workers who are also so eager and willing to stand together with us in ministry,” Bishop Kinney added, quoting from the 2005 document.

Todd Graff, a layman who serves as director of lay formation for the Diocese of Winona, Minn., said he was “very struck” by the bishop's theme of Joy and gratitude.

“It was so fitting to our ministry,” he said, “that God, through us, blesses both us and the entire church - priests, deacons, laymen and laywomen. And I liked the way Bishop Kinney phrased his reflection on his own ministry when he said, ‘I know I could have done more. But I know I couldn't have done what I did without them.’ That's such a beautiful way of expressing his support.”

