

STEP II – Weekend Retreat for 4th Dayers October 1-4, 2009 Glendive, Montana

Looking back over the last few years it is truly amazing how God has blessed the growth of Step II. In 2008, Step II was held in Lodge Pole, Great Falls and Glendive; then in February of 2009 a weekend was held in Laurel. Members of the Miles City Vicariate Secretariat have been humbled with gratitude as God certainly heard and answered their prayers.

My own personal conviction of how vital retreats are to the life of a Christian keep me traveling to meetings and working for the good of Step II. Remember how Jesus went away from the crowds to be with his Father? Do you know that the priests and deacons in our Diocese are provided yearly retreats? Both examples show how each one of us needs quality time, away from the stress of everyday life, to be renewed.

As a Benedictine Oblate I study the Rule of Saint Benedict. In writing The Rule, Saint Benedict stressed how very important it is in life to balance work, study and prayer (Piety, Study and Action). Each Christian must pause from time to time and ask, “Is my life in balance?”

Work: The world screams, “work, work, work!” None of us have a shortage of work but God calls us to step away from the ways of the world to draw nearer to him. Even in our ministries and service for the Lord we must be cautious not to neglect the areas of study and prayer.

Study: As Christians we must be grounded in the word of God. A few years ago I traveled to Sidney for six weekends to study Prophets and Apostles with Father Ponessa. Glendive is blessed to have such a brilliant scripture scholar in their midst; the church basement in Glendive should be overflowing during Father Ponessa’s bible studies. There really is no shortage of good bible study material; study of God’s word must become a priority in every Christian’s life.

Prayer: The way that you pray matters not – only *that* you pray – daily.

As the coordinator for the fall weekend in 2009 I would ask all 4th Dayers to hold in prayer the selection of team members for the Glendive Step II; this includes lay people, priests, sisters and deacons.

Through talks, sharing, music, quiet time, mass, spiritual direction, prayer, good food and fun, 4th Dayers are renewed at Step II by the Spirit of God. 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 mission of both Cum Christo and Step II are clearly stated in the book Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord, “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 - 2009 are October 1st through the 4th and we ask \$25.00/person to cover costs.

Application forms are on the Cum Christo Web Site: www.bigskycumchristo.org

On the right side of the Home Page click on “Glendive” and then click on “Application Form”. If you do not have computer access ask for an application form at Ultreya or feel free to call the number below. Tell all your 4th Day friends about Step II and bring them along.

Step II - what a powerful way to help keep your life in balance!

Renee Steinberger (406) 351-2150