

TITLE: Ammas of the Plains: Leadership and Rural Women in Catholic Catechetical Ministry

RESEARCHER: Kathleen Atkinson
Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity
University of St. Thomas
Doctoral Dissertation: May 2001

OBJECTIVE: The focus of this project was the development of programming which intentionally addressed the leadership gifts and challenges experienced by those who are the diocese of Bismarck's core catechetical leaders: rural women who do not have a college academic preparation.

METHODOLOGY: Study participants included 34 women who participated in eight listening sessions in catechetical deanery meetings held throughout the diocese. Pre and post (20 months apart) LPI-Self were administered, and complete scores were available from 11 of the 14 participants.

KEY FINDINGS: Substantial growth (pre and post test differences were not subjected to statistical analysis) were noted for Challenging the Process, as was true for Inspiring a Shared Vision. In both cases nearly every individual behavior (statement) showed substantially more usage. Scores for Modeling decreased over this time period, which was because "these took a back-burner" (p. 104). Average Enabling and Encouraging scores were relatively unchanged across the two administrations.