

The Diocese of Charleston is sponsoring a workshop for Interchurch Families

Parishioners Sleeping With Protestants!!!!

About 40 percent of families registered in our Parish have one spouse who is a Christian other than Catholic. Some of these families take part in the worship life and other activities of both churches. These families can be called our "Interchurch Families."

Such married Christians are united by two Sacraments, Baptism and Matrimony. They are united in their common Christian identity, in which they believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and proclaim Jesus Christ, God the Son made flesh, as Lord and Savior. Yet they remain different people, different in sex, different in family background, in personality, and in other ways that are true of all married couples. Interchurch families differ also in their specific Christian church affiliation.

The "diversity within unity" of these couples presents a means for the work of God's grace in their lives. Each spouse can learn from the other, and together they can grow in wisdom, understanding and sanctity.

They also present an opportunity to their respective churches to build understanding and support. Thus, they present a means of grace to their respective churches, and to the Christian community at large.

Interchurch couples provide a way for their churches to recognize and overcome the scandal of division which has torn the Body of Christ, and to work for that fullness of unity for which Our Savior prayed on the night before He died (Jn 16:20-26). As the interchurch couple is united by the great truths of the Christian faith, so also are their churches; as they are divided by those differences that remain, so also are their churches. As the interchurch family lives out the working unity of marriage, so they provide a laboratory of Christian unity, an example for their churches to work out in practice the call of Jesus to unity among his followers.

The American Association of Interchurch Families (AAIF) is an organization that offers Interchurch Families a way to share experiences and information, and to help bring about greater insight for them and their churches. AAIF is part of the larger worldwide Association of Interchurch Families. Working with church leaders in America, in the Vatican and elsewhere, AAIF is helping to advance the call to Christian unity, through the particular gift of the Interchurch Family. Check out their website at: <http://www.aifusa.org/>



INTERCHURCH FAMILY WORKSHOP

**OCTOBER 5-6, 2007
OUR LADY OF THE HILLS PARISH
COLUMBIA, SC**

The seminar will start Friday afternoon about 1 pm, and continue into Saturday afternoon. The overall subject is Ecumenism, with special focus on Interchurch Families. It will feature talks and panel discussions by interchurch families and clergy, as well as interactive sessions for exploring the topic more fully. Watch our Bulletin for more information.

For more information on Interchurch Families, contact Bill or Beverly Collins at (803) 642-9651, bbcollins@earthlink.net. Bill and Beverly are active in both St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church and the First Baptist Church of Aiken. They are members of the American Association of Interchurch Families.