

St. Columba Conference Center 2008

All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for He himself will say "I was a stranger and you welcomed me". Rule of St Benedict

2006-2008 have been challenging years for St.Columba. Never before has the center struggled with group size as it has in these years. The current economic climate has created a need for continued marketing and the need to develop more of our own programming.

We have offered a variety of programs that have been very successful from an attendance standpoint, including a scrap-booking workshop, ***Dreams and the Development of the Self in Psychology and Religion, Spirituality and Depth Psychology***, African-American history & music history studies offered to Universities and colleges and the ***Acceptance and Commitment Therapy*** training retreat. These programs were attended both by diocesan members and people outside of The Diocese.

Catering at Gates for group activities, church picnics, wedding receptions, anniversary parties, schools, camps and fund raising events continues to be popular.

Many of our more profitable groups have been lost due to the inadequacy of sleeping accommodations and meeting room size and the limited availability of overnight accommodations. To attract those groups, we need to expand and develop our site to provide more sleeping rooms and a generally more up-to-date facility. These groups have larger numbers, extended stays and a need for private rooms and more meeting space.

One of the Board's primary goals for 2009 is to develop and begin implementation of an Annual Giving Program for the Conference Center to provide the foundation of future funding programs, to support "A Sacred Place Apart." The groundwork for this began in 2008.

St. Columba is a place set apart to just "be" and experience God's love. It is a worship center for prayer, study, laughter, learning, playing, resting and communing with other persons, nature and God.