



# Training Tips For

Department of Religious Education, Diocese of Erie

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March 4, 2008

## Humble Companions

Sr. Suzanne is a principal in a small, rural Catholic School. She has been an educational leader for many years, committed to teaching students with the help of computers, not teaching computers as a subject to students. Every time the diocesan school technology leaders meet, she is there. And, even though she has been doing "educational technology" for about twenty years, she is there with an open mind and a willingness to learn from the youngest, even at seventy-nine. She uses the first Apple computer I've seen that runs both Windows and Max OS X, and yet she doesn't hesitate to call for help when she is in "one mell of a hess!" Sr. Suzanne uses cutting-edge technology to print out and laminate card-sized digital pictures of all her students for the bulletin board, and still calls the end of the USB cable a "doojy-bob." She is quick to praise the technical prowess of her colleagues in other schools and easily admits to being embarrassed if she missed an obvious fix in troubleshooting. What a model for ministry in general, and for the journey into a technologically-oriented world in particular.

This book is for the Sr. Suzannes in our church, to those who first and foremost consider themselves called to ministry. It is meant for the secretaries, the catechists, the pastoral leaders, council members, and other disciples of Jesus who want to proclaim the reign of God employing some of the tools modern technology has to offer. It is for the human and vulnerable people who want to be the best ministers possible, and who want to explore some of the powerful tools that technology has to offer. Our primary vocation is to minister to one another in the gentlest, most life-giving way possible. And let's promise one another not to allow the pursuit of technology to become an obsession or source of competition, but rather one of many means to an end, that of making present the reign of God.

An excerpt from Technology Tools for Your Ministry by Tim Welch,  
Twenty-Third Publications, Reprinted with permission.

For those of you who are less than enthusiastic about using your computer, this book may be a good resource for you - and a reminder that ministry is still our essential mission, with technology in a supporting role.

### **Attitude is Everything!!!**

How you approach using your computer will have everything to do with how well you will be able to use it to your best advantage.



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