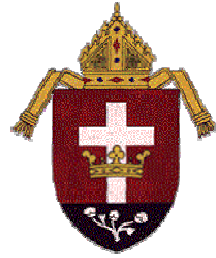


Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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The role of the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry is to provide training and resources for ministers of the diocese to utilize each of the Church's ministries - advocacy, catechesis, community life, evangelization, justice and service, leadership development, pastoral care, and prayer and worship.

Dear friends! Sometimes, our initial impression is that having to include time for Mass on a Sunday is rather inconvenient. But if you make the effort, you will realize that this is what gives a proper focus to your free time. Do not be deterred from taking part in Sunday Mass, and help others to discover it too. This is because the Eucharist releases the joy that we need so much, and we must learn to grasp it ever more deeply, we must learn to love it. Let us pledge ourselves to do this - it is worth the effort! Let us discover the intimate riches of the Church's liturgy and its true greatness: it is not we who are celebrating for ourselves, but it is the living God himself who is preparing a banquet for us. Through your love for the Eucharist you will also rediscover the Sacrament of Reconciliation, in which the merciful goodness of God always allows us to make a fresh start in our lives. Anyone who has discovered Christ must lead others to him. A great joy cannot be kept to oneself. It has to be passed on. In vast areas of the world today there is a strange forgetfulness of God. It seems as if everything would be just the same even without him. But at the same time there is a feeling of frustration, a sense of dissatisfaction with everyone and everything. People tend to exclaim: "This cannot be what life is about!". Indeed not. And so, together with forgetfulness of God there is a kind of new explosion of religion. I have no wish to discredit all the manifestations of this phenomenon. There may be sincere joy in the discovery. But to tell the truth, religion often becomes almost a consumer product. People choose what they like, and some are even able to make a profit from it. But religion sought on a "do-it-yourself" basis cannot ultimately help us. It may be comfortable, but at times of crisis we are left to ourselves. Help people to discover the true star which points out the way to us: Jesus Christ! Let us seek to know him better and better, so as to be able to guide others to him with conviction.

Benedict XVI - World Youth Day 2005

The National Study on Youth and Religion

The National Study on Youth and Religion is an analysis of the population of Catholic teenagers and their parents that was produced for the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry by Ministry Training Source. This report is the result of a four year project funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc. under the direction of Dr. Christian Smith, professor in the Department of Sociology, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The research study sought to:

- Research the shape and influence of religion and spirituality in the lives of U. S. adolescents
- Identify effective practices in the religious, moral, and social formation of youth
- Describe the extent to which youth participate in and benefit from the programs and opportunities that religious communities are offering their youth
- Foster an informed national discussion about the influence of religion on youth's lives
- Encourage sustained reflection about and rethinking of our cultural and institutional practices with regard to

youth and religion

The study provides some interesting insights to the effect that religion and the practices of the local community have in the lives of the youth participants and non-participants.

If your parish would like to learn more about the results of this study through the presentation of the material in a one and a half hour workshop, the OY-YAM is willing to provide it. In order to schedule a workshop to review this material, please contact the office at the address, phone, or e-mail address above and plan to have at least 20 people present for this workshop. There is no charge for a parish or parishes to host this event. Hosting a workshop will allow good discussion of what is being made available in the parish, what is working, and what needs to be looked at for improvement. This workshop can be held in an evening or on a Sat. Contact the office for available dates and times.

Notes for the Noteworthy

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Volume 4, Issue I
April 2006

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Ministry to the Minister

Here we are about half-way through Lent and it seems that there is becoming more and more of a need for the minister needing ministry. In this newsletter you will see several opportunities for you to be ministered to as a minister. Please take advantage of these opportunities. Remember that you cannot give what you do not have and there is the ongoing need for us as baptized Catholics to continually enrich ourselves, not only physically, but also spiritually and through ongoing education. Congratulations to all who are participating in the Diocesan Youth Ministry Certification Program. If you have not attended

any of the classes, but as still interested in entering the process, jump in anytime. If the cost is too high, talk to Greg. It is only through this ongoing enrichment that you will fully become that which the Lord intends you to be.

You will also notice in this newsletter there are several upcoming events for the youth of the diocese. Please start sharing these events with the youth you minister to and encourage their participation in the wide variety of activities. The office is doing its best to keep the registration costs to a minimum. If you need ideas for fundraisers, please contact

the office as well, there are several books and many ideas in this area.

Know that you are being prayed for each day as you seek to balance your family, work, ministry, and whatever else you have going on in your lives. This office is here to support you in whatever way possible. If you need something, just call and ask and we shall see what we can do to meet whatever your needs are. You may be surprised how much we can help you make your ministry easier. May the Lord continue to bless you in all that you are seeking to accomplish with the youth in your lives.

National Directory for Catechesis

Jesus commanded his followers to go, proclaim the Gospel, and bring others into communion with God. As they respond to that call, leaders in catechesis and education find their inspiration in the *National Directory for Catechesis*. This

much-awaited companion to the *General Directory for Catechesis* builds on the core themes of the GDC (like catechesis' relationship to evangelization and worship), serves as a reference point for forming catechesis and developing

resources, and provides practical tools for doing catechesis well. If you would like a workshop on this resource for you and your catechists, please contact the office for available dates and times.

God, by our own actions, we cut ourselves off from you. By our own selfishness and sinfulness, we have alienated ourselves from you, ourselves, and one another. But by your actions, by your presence, you call us into a friendship, a relationship so awesome, so wonderful, so undeserved that we can hardly believe it to be true. You are here, close by. You are here, in all things. You are here, calling us to be family with you. Thank you, God. Thank you for helping us all to be a part of your home. Amen.

YouthLeader

The OYYAM will be hosting YouthLeader again this year. YouthLeader is a team approach to Christian leadership formation for youth and adult leaders, which integrates Christian spirituality and ministry skills. This process includes a five day institute that will prepare youth to take leadership of their lives and choices, train youth to be leaders in various ministries, and form youth to bring their Christian values to their leadership roles.

YouthLeader will be held at the Mercy Retreat Center from July 10 - 14, 2006.

If you are interested in sending a parish delegation to this year's YouthLeader, please contact the OYYAM. The cost for the week-long program will be \$150. This cost includes: lodging, all meals starting with dinner on Monday, all materials, and the training, ending Friday at 3:00 PM.

If you are looking for a way to train your high school leaders, this is the program for you. Your leaders will come back with several planned events and a fire that you will not be able to quench, not that you would want to.

National Conference of Catholic Youth Ministry

Believe it or not, now is the time to start planning for this awesome conference. The conference will be held from Nov. 30 - Dec. 3, 2006 in Las Vegas, NV. If you are looking for a way to enrich your knowledge about what is happening on the cutting edge of Catholic Youth Ministry as well as network with other youth ministers from all over the nation, this is the place to be. The OYYAM will be hosting a trip to this conference for all those who are interested

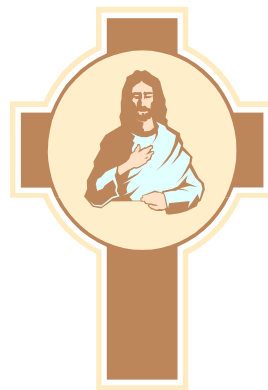
in attending.

The diocese is putting together a package that will allow us to depart the evening of Nov. 29 and return the night of Dec. 3. Final costs for the trip has not been determined but it looks like it will be around \$560 which includes the conference, hotel, and transportation. If you are at all interested in attending, please call or e-mail Greg in the office so he can begin to make preliminary plans for the trip.

Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference 2006

It is that time of year again to being to prepare for DCYC. This year we will have a fantastic line-up of speakers, music, workshops, and other exciting items. We are blessed to be able to have Remnant back with us again as our house band. For our keynote sessions, we are bringing in the exciting and dynamic Bob Perron. See the enclosed flyer for more information about him and his ministry. All to be shared now is that he will be

one you don't want to miss. This year's event will be held at the Holiday Inn Towers June 24-25. Cost for the entire event, including meals, workshops, and a t-shirt will be \$35. If you need rooms for the night, you can make arrangements with the Holiday Inn. Rooms will be available for a discounted price. Registration materials will be included in the next mail-out. Contact the office if you have questions before then.



Upcoming Events

April 8 - Diocesan Certification Program, CTK library, Lubbock; 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

April 19 - Lubbock Deanery meeting; CRC outside of Greg's office; 10:00 AM

April 22 - Diocesan Youth Council, Guadalupe Room, CRC, Lubbock; 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

April 29 - Brownfield Deanery meeting, Sacred Heart, Plains; 10:00 AM

May 13 - Diocesan Certification Program, CTK library, Lubbock; 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

June 10 - Diocesan Certification Program, CTK library, Lubbock; 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

June 24-25 - DCYC 2006; Holiday Inn Towers, Lubbock

July 8 - Diocesan Certification Program, CTK library, Lubbock; 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

July 10-14 - YouthLeader, Mercy Retreat Center, Slaton

Aug. 12 - Diocesan Certification Program, CTK library, Lubbock; 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sept. 9 - Diocesan Certification Program, CTK library, Lubbock; 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Oct. 6-8 - Youth 2000, CRC

Oct. 14 - Diocesan Certification Program, CTK library, Lubbock; 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Nov. 10-12 - Region X Youth Conference, Laredo, TX

Nov. 30 - Dec. 3 - National Conference of Catholic Youth Ministry; Las Vegas, NV.

Region 10 Youth Conference

The next Region 10 Catholic Youth Conference will be held in Laredo, TX. This event will have teens from all over Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma participating in workshops, worship, dialogue, and some good ol' fun. Now is the time to start talking to the teens in the parish about planning this trip. The OYYAM will be chartering several buses to get us to and from the conference. The conference will be held Nov. 10 - 12, 2006 in the city of Laredo. Believe it or not, this will be the largest gathering the city of Laredo has ever hosted and the entire

community is looking forward to our participating in this event. The final cost for the trip has not been calculated, but begin making plans for this awesome trip. Cost will include: transportation to and from Laredo, local transportation, hotel, some meals, a t-shirt, and the conference itself. Don't worry, we will give you the chance to do some shopping while we are down in the southern reaches of our great state. Watch the upcoming newsletters for more information about this great event.

Resources

Are you in need of resources for your ministry? If so, the office is in the process of collecting a variety of resources in all areas from leading prayer with youth and other adults to leadership training and development as well as music and DVDs. If you need something for a particular activity, class, project, or ideas for what to

do with your youth program, call or come by the office and browse. The collection is small at this point, but it is steadily growing. If you would like to see something in particular added to the library, something that you have used and found very helpful, let me know and we will see if I can get a copy or two.

This library being assembled is to help you to better minister to the youth and adults we are called to serve. Come by and take a look and see how this can help you help others. Greg is also available to come out to the parish to do workshops on a variety to topics for either youth or adults. Contact the office to schedule a date for him to come out to you.