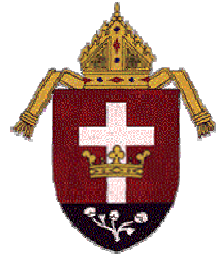


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The role of the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry is to provide training and resources for ministers of the diocese to utilize each of the Church's ministries - advocacy, catechesis, community life, evangelization, justice and service, leadership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

We have come to believe in God's love: in these words the Christian can express the fundamental decision of his life. Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction. Saint John's Gospel describes that event in these words: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should ... have eternal life" (3:16). In acknowledging the centrality of love, Christian faith has retained the core of Israel's faith, while at the same time giving it new depth and breadth. The pious Jew prayed daily the words of the [Book of Deuteronomy](#) which expressed the heart of his existence: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might" (6:4-5). Jesus united into a single precept this commandment of love for God and the commandment of love for neighbor found in the [Book of Leviticus](#): "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (19:18; cf. Mk 12:29-31). Since God has first loved us (cf. 1 Jn 4:10), love is now no longer a mere "command"; it is the response to the gift of love with which God draws near to us

Benedict XVI - Deus Caritas Est

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

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Beat the Heat - Keep the Faith!

Here we stand on the edge of the beginning of another summer. A time for spending with family, working in the yard, traveling, and so many other things too numerous to list here. Let us also remember that this is the time of year when the youth we minister to have large amounts of leisure time, compared to the rest of the year. Even as they celebrate the end of another school year, they are possibly moaning about an increase in chores at home and the possible search for a job to cover those many costs teens seems to incur.

As ministers to these teens, this is not the time

to sit back and relax and enjoy the quiet halls of the parish, this is the time when those of us involved in youth ministry should be the busiest. It seems that teens forget that there is still the needs to come to Mass, to spend time in prayer, and to continue to grow in their relationship with the Lord. What can we do to keep the growth occurring?

The summer is the best time to do some of the "outside of the box" thinking and activities that you may not have had time to do during the year. Gather the youth of the parish and do a brainstorming session on what can be done to

keep them growing in their faith during these "down months". Have them plan an event for the elementary aged youth in the parish, something involving water and balloon is always a hit. Have some hot dogs or hamburgers with this event and make it a family outing, where the teens entertain the kiddos and the adults have some time to chat. You are only limited by your imagination in these months. Remember that there are several diocesan events that are all planned out that all you have to do is bring the teens to. See you at these events and have a blessed summer.

Diocesan Certification Program

Just a reminder that if you are looking to add some tools to your youth ministry toolbox, the youth minister certification program is continuing. It is not too late to start attending the process. Each monthly class stands on its own and

there will be opportunities to make up missed classes later this summer. This is a great chance to equip yourself with the knowledge that many of the teens in your parish are seeking. If you are not sure this is the right thing for you, contact the

office and we can talk. If funding is an issue, contact the office and we can work out a plan. There are discounts for parishes that send more than five people to each session. Be the best you can be in your ministry.

God, give me the wisdom and the desire to live - fully and completely. Help me to show the young people in my care that life need not be boring or meaningless. Help us all to remember that you have given us so much to live for, and so much to celebrate. Help me be passionate in my life, to take a stand, to help those I lead seize and discover joy in their lives, rather than live in suspicion and shadow. Plant within me that desire to live in truth so that all may see you in all things. Amen.

Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference 2006 Got FAITH?

The Diocesan Youth Council has decided on the theme for this year's conference - Got Faith? They have also designed an exciting logo to go with this once a year event. Make plans now to bring all of your jr. high and high school youth.

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 are included with this newsletter. If you need more flyers to display or have any questions, please contact the office.

Please note that DCYC is now a one day event!

YouthLeader

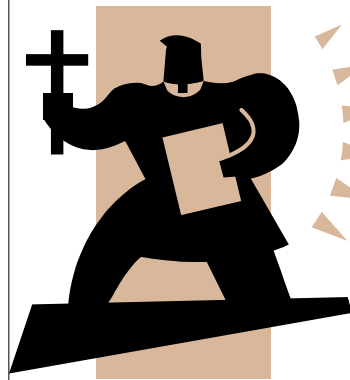
The OYYAM will be hosting YouthLeader again this year. YouthLeader is a team approach to Christian leadership formation for youth and adult leaders, which integrates Christian spirituality and ministry skills. This process includes a five day institute that will prepare youth to take leadership of their 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. Go to www.cmdnet.org and click on "Youth Ministry" for more information.

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. The final cost for the trip will be \$200. Cost includes: transportation to and from Laredo, local transportation, hotel, 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. Registration paperwork will be sent out in next month's mail-out.



Upcoming Events

May 10 - Lubbock Deanery Youth Minister meeting, Greg's office: 10:00 AM

****May 20 - 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 - 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. 17 - 19 - Region X Youth Conference, Laredo, TX

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

****NOTE DATE CHANGE!!!**

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. This will be a great chance to mix and mingle with youth ministers from all over the nation as well as learn from some of the great names in youth ministry from across the nation.

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.

Co-workers in the Vineyard

Co-workers in the Vineyard of the Lord calls for a closer collaboration to occur between the lay ecclesial minister and the clergy. With the decline of numbers of priests and deacons, the laity is taking a greater role in the leadership of the parish community. In response to the baptismal call, the laity must be prepared for

this additional responsibility of leadership in order to build up the Body of Christ from within. In order to accomplish this responsibility, the "roles of leadership require academic preparation, certification, credentialing, and a formation that integrates personal, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral dimensions." (Co-workers. p. 8)

If you would like to obtain a copy of this fantastic document, you can go to www.USCCB.org or you can contact the office. If you would like to have a discussion group in your parish on how this document will affect ministry in your parish community, contact the office and we will come and facilitate the discussion.