

Youth Ministry Newsletter

A Publication of Catholic Youth and School Services
Diocese of Toledo

February 2003

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Area Dates

TEC - Guys March 1-3 and
March 15-17 Girls March 8-
10 and April 5-7.

Diocesan Dates

2003

February	8:Crossroads JH 16:Beacon HS
March	28:Kaleidoscope HS 2:Two Rivers JH
April	16:BTE/Heartland HS 18:Walk for Life\
June	10:Cedar Point Day
July	11-13:Youth Conference

Dear Beacon Friends,

Last weekend I was blessed to be a part of TEC 320, Teens Encounter Christ. As the young men shared their moving experience of the weekend, I was reminded of my own life changing Cursillo weekend. I pray God continues to bless them on their pilgrimage as He continues to bless me on mine, and I recommend to everyone a TEC or Cursillo weekend. You will thank God daily for leading you there. TEC is open to juniors, seniors, and first year graduates. The dates remaining are:

GUYS – Mar. 1-3, Mar. 15-17, Nov. 8-10

GIRLS – Mar. 8-10, Apr. 5-7, Nov. 29-Dec. 1.

How's the recruiting going for the **Beacon XII High School Gathering**. It will be held **Sunday, February 16, 1:00-7:30 p.m. at Fremont, St. Ann**. Remind your youth they will **save \$3** if they **register by February 7**. Cost will be \$10 at the door. If you or any post high school youth can help please send a team application to me as soon as possible.

The next **YES, Youth Elect Service, meeting will be held Sunday, February 9, 2:00 p.m., at Oak Harbor, St. Boniface**. Please join us if you can participate in the weekend. Enclosed you will find a registration form. Please have your high school youth return it as soon as possible since the program is limited to 60 participants.

On **Monday, March 10, 6:30 p.m. at Fremont, Sacred Heart**, Diane Verhoff, Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, will present **Conference Packets** to each parish in the Beacon Area. Please make sure there will be a representative from your parish to receive the information to pass on to your youth. She can also answer any questions you may have about the biggest youth event of the year. The **Diocesan Youth Conference will be held at Bluffton College July 11-13**.

Well that's all the news and dates I can think of for now. I'm looking forward to working with many of you at the YES, so until then and always may God bless you abundantly.

Peace, Joy, and Love,
Lori Kamelesky
Beacon Area Youth Coordinator

How do I get the Parish involved in Youth Ministry?

The responsibility of a good Parish Youth Ministry Program does not solely rest on the Youth Minister, but on the whole parish. But how do you get the parish involved? Try this:

1. First and foremost, constantly ask the Parish to pray for the youth. Put a sign in the back of Church or put reminders in the bulletin.
2. Ask volunteers to bake cookies for your youth nights.
3. Ask for volunteers to create “snack packs” for any trips that your group takes. This can be done in two ways. They could create individual snack packs for all the travelers, or group snack packs. For added fun, create themes for each snack pack. Have the volunteers be creative. You might be surprised at the ideas that they come up with!
4. Set up a Hospitality Team within your parish. These people would be responsible for sending Birthday Cards and letters to youth throughout the year.

Chaplain's Chatter

Mardi Gras, 40 days, ashes, purple, fish, Reconciliation, etc. All of these words and many more come to mind when we think of Lent. This period of 40 days of preparation for Easter is something we Catholics hold dear whether we enjoy it or dread it. We know Lent!

In times gone by the emphasis was primarily on our doing penance in reparation for our sins. With the renewal of the Catechumenate a shift has happened toward Lent being a time of retreat, renewal, and re-focusing on our own Baptismal call. With all of this in mind some thoughts and ideas of how to communicate Lent to your youth group.

Fasting:

* Many groups are doing a “Food Fast” or a “30 Hour Famine”. Catholic Relief Services is a great resource for this popular event. More can be found out at: www.catholicrelief.org. I am aware of several youth groups doing this during Lent: Blessed Sacrament, Toledo; Immaculate Conception, Bellevue; St. Francis High School; Central Catholic High School; New Reigel, Frenchtown, and Alvada Youth Group; and Vermillion, St. Mary's. I am sure there are others. Please let us know.

* Think of serving vegetables or fruit rather than desserts at youth group meetings.

Prayer:

* Consider during your opening or closing prayer to kneel during Lent so as to mark it as a special time.

* Consider incorporating some type of “stations of the Cross”, perhaps living stations.

Almsgiving:

* Because the people in RCIA are preparing for entering our church, it might be nice to write letters to them or present them with a gift of some sorts. They will happy to know that their parish youth ministry is alive and well!

* It is a good time to make sure you are getting organized for your area's Y.E.S. Contact your Area Coordinator for dates, etc.

* Consider collecting the money you save on sweets, etc. and giving it to a charity like St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Resources to help: www.americancatholic.com, www.nfycm.org www.cyss.org, www.disciplesnow.com,

Youth Conference Area Packet Meetings

Youth Conference is an exciting event for the youth of the Diocese of Toledo. It is a chance for youth from across the Diocese to come together to share faith and have fun.

In order for us to get the word out about this awesome event, we need your help. In each of the areas, we will be holding a Packet Meeting. This meeting is to inform Youth Ministers of the registration procedures and changes for Conference.

As an added bonus, it is also a Night of Renewal. The Night of Renewal is a prayer service that is designed to refresh and renew you in your ministry to young people.

Below are the dates and times for each of the Area Packet Meetings and Night of Renewal. Hope to see you there!

Back to Earth/Heartland

March 3, 7:00 PM
Willard, St Francis

Crossroads

February 24, 7:30 PM
Newton Residence

Kaleidoscope

March 24, 7:30 PM
Blessed Sacrement
Community Center

Beacon

March 10, 6:30
Fremont, Sacred Heart

Hearthstone

February 24, 7:00 PM
Kalida, St. Michael's

Prism

March 12, 7:30 PM
Toledo, Good Shepherd

Two Rivers

March 25, 6:30 PM
Black Cat Restaurant
820 Sandusky St., Fostoria

Youth Ministry Job Opening

The five Catholic parishes in Fremont and Clyde, Ohio (half-hour south of Cedar Point), seek a full-time youth minister to initiate senior high and junior high youth programs beginning July 1, 2003. Must be practicing Catholic and meet criteria of "Protecting Youth and Those Who Serve Them" diocesan guidelines. Previous Catholic youth ministry experience and bachelor's degree in related field a plus. Flexible, collaborative ministry style necessary. Salary, benefits and educational stipend negotiable and commensurate with education and experience. Send resume and references to Sacred Heart Church, 550 Smith Rd, Fremont OH 43420. Job description posted at www.sacredheart-fremont.org.

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Two Rivers;

Below is a copy of a Black History Month quiz. We will award a prize to the first person to turn in all the correct answers. Answers may be e-mailed to: dverhoff@toledodiocese.org

- 1. Where is the statement, "Black and Beautiful" in the Bible?
- 2. What African American holiday is celebrated from December 26 - January 1?
- 3. Who was the first African mentioned in the Bible
- 4. What is the number of African American Catholic Bishops in the United States?
- 5. What is the name of the only Black Catholic University and what Saint is it's foundress?
- 6. The Diocese of Toledo has a mission church in what African country?
- 7. How many Popes were African?
- 8. What month do we celebrate Black Catholic History Month?
- 9. What is the name of the African American National Anthem?
- 10. He was the first black person to receive a major government appointment in the U.S., the U.S. Marshall of the District of Columbia?



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