

Youth Ministry Newsletter

A Publication of Catholic Youth and School Services
Diocese of Toledo

September 2002

Visit our Website [WWW.CYSS.ORG](http://www.cyss.org)

Area Dates

September 8: Life Fest, Shrine Park,
Carey, 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Diocesan Dates

2002

September	8 :Life Fest
October	6: Kaleidoscope/Prism HS 13:Crossroads HS 18:Prism JH 20:Beacon JH
November	27:Two Rivers HS 3:Hearthstone HS 10:Heartland HS
December	30:Winter Fun Day

2003

January	19:Back to Earth HS 26:Hearthstone JH
February	8:Crossroads JH 16:Beacon HS 28:Kaleidoscope HS
March	2:Two Rivers JH 16:BTE/Heartland HS
April	18:Walk for Life\
June	10:Cedar Point Day
July	11-13:Youth Conference

Dear Beacon Friends,

I am glad to inform you that my son and I made it safely home from World Youth Day in Toronto. The highlight we agreed on was when Pope John Paul II and my son Luke made eye contact, then exchanged a wave. How I wished I had a better camera. We were only feet away from His Holiness. There were many God moments happening all through the week. Our Beacon group truly felt God guiding us on our pilgrimage journey the entire time, just as He leads us daily. We only need to follow. I want to thank my fellow Beacon Area pilgrims for sharing an experience we will never forget. Thank you Lucas Hammer from Millersville St. Mary, Kayla Bowser, Krystle and Patti Hoffman from Gibsonburg St. Michael, Emily Witter from Marblehead St. Joseph, and of course my son, Luke Kamelesky from Oak Harbor St. Boniface.

Plans for the Beacon Junior High Gathering are well under way. We had a Brainstorming Meeting and plan to meet again September 4 to continue critiquing the schedule. The Gathering will be Sunday, October 20, 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Port Clinton, Immaculate Conception. The cost will be \$9.00 if PREPAID by October 11 or \$12.00 at the Gathering. The Gathering will include games, workshops, prayer, pizza dinner, dancing, and friends. Families are invited to Closing Liturgy at 5:30 p.m. We will need junior and senior high school youth as well as adults to help by being on team. If you are planning to be a chaperone or send some adults as chaperones let me know; maybe we can use you, or them as a team member for the day. Please contact me at 419-862-3452 or lkamel@wcnnet.org. We will need at least 50 team members to handle a crowd of 350 to 400 junior high students expected to participate. I am enclosing a team application. Please have anyone planning to work on team for the day fill it out, adults as well as youth, and mail it back to me as soon as possible. I would really appreciate it.

I hope to see many of you at the "Life Fest" September 8, 1:00-6:30 p.m. at the Shrine Park in Carey. It sounds like it will be a fantastic family event. There will be games and activities for both young and old. The nationally acclaimed band "Ceili Rain" will perform as well as some local talents. You can pack a picnic lunch or buy a variety of delicious foods and beverages at various stands. The fun filled day will conclude with the Celebration of Eucharist at 6:30. See you there!

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

In many ways, these first two months of ministry in the Office of Vocations has been an experience of “holy ground.” I often find myself following in the footsteps of Moses, whose experience of checking out the burning bush led to a mission he’d never dreamed of.

Vocation ministry has always been somewhat of a mystery to me. Just what does one do in such a position? Do you wait for people to call and say they want to be a priest or sister or brother? Do you go out and plant the seed of the idea of a Church-related ministry? Do you provide information for parents, grandparents and friends who may be called on to support another called to such a way of life? Do you encourage those already in formation for priesthood and religious life? Do you raise awareness of God’s continued call and our responsibility to respond as Church? Do you pray for openness for those whom God is calling to priesthood and religious life that they might respond generously? I’m learning that my role as Associate Director of Vocations involves all of this and more!

My ministry during these first months has taken

me to the “holy ground” of The Pines Retreat Center in Fremont where our diocesan seminarians came together in July for their summer gathering. I was indeed privileged to be present as these men were renewed in their desire to respond to God’s call. Their eagerness to learn more about the life of a priest and to pray for the grace to discern God’s call was a great witness to me. Meeting their parents on the final day of the gathering was also a blessing, parents who continue to walk with their sons on this portion of their journey. Spending time with these fifteen men in seminary formation gave me much hope for the future of the Church in our diocese.

I also tread on “holy ground” as I traveled to Port Clinton to participate in a retreat morning for the staff of Immaculate Conception School. We spent time considering our own call as educators and our role in helping students to hear and respond to God’s call. Planning some vocation activities for the coming year sparked a bit of burning bush in each of us.

I’ve had the joy of sharing “holy ground” also with the Serrans of the Tiffin deanery, the vocation directors of

some of the religious communities of the diocese, members of the Admissions/Formation Team that deal with seminarian issues, and members of Youth and Young Adult Ministry as we planned Life Fest for September 8.

A special “holy ground” experience happens each Friday morning before Mass as Fr. Dave Nuss and I spend time in prayer asking that God keep us faithful and vibrant witnesses and that those whom He is calling will have the grace to respond generously.

While there are times that, like Moses, I question God’s choice of messenger or my own abilities to act in his name, I am reminded of God’s promise to him that he would remain with him always. My greatest joy lies in knowing that I am gifted with a ministry where my first responsibility is to witness God’s action in my life and his incredible faithful love. And so, when I hear the call each morning to share the good news of the Love of my Life, I do my best to respond as Moses did, “Here I am.”

Sr. Marilyn is the Associate Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Toledo

Called to Witness: Rwanda 2003

Catholic Relief Services, in conjunction with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, is sponsoring a Called to Witness trip to Rwanda in March of 2003.

This trip will teach you more about Catholic Relief Services and their field programs, as well as help you to begin to build solidarity with our brothers and sisters overseas. This program will also provide you with resources to raise awareness about global justice within your ministry.

This program holds a special place in my heart. Last year, I was able to participate in the Called to Witness Program. It was a life changing experience. To experience the culture and traditions in another country...a country filled with poverty and tragedy...was amazing.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2003 Called to Witness trip. I highly encourage anyone interested to apply for this wonderful opportunity. For more information, or to get a copy of the application form, contact me at dverhoff@toledodiocese.org, or call Youth & Young Adult Ministry, ext. 606.

Youth Minister Wanted

A Part-time Youth Minister is needed for Holy Family Parish in North Baltimore. Hours are flexible and negotiable. Call Sr. Betty at 419-257-2319 for more information.

Policy for Screening Volunteers Who Work With Youth

When working with youth, one of the first priorities that we have is to ensure the safety of those youth. When planning an event, driving a car for an event, or personally ministering to youth, safety precautions should always be taken.

The local parishes and schools have the responsibility to screen their volunteers to ensure that their ministries and activities are truly safe places for youth. In order to complete this overwhelming, yet necessary task, the Diocese has implemented a policy for screening volunteers who work with youth.

A copy of this policy is enclosed with this newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Youth & Young Adult Ministry ext. 606.



Living the Vision Updates on the Web

"Living the Vision" is a resource manual that was compiled to assist Youth Ministers throughout the Diocese. The book consists of "hands on" programs and activities that can be used with youth in your programs.

Youth & Young Adult Ministry is currently looking for updates to this manual. When we receive these, we will post them on the web on the Youth Ministry homepage. This way, new and exciting ideas will only be a click away!

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Two Rivers;

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand:

“TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE.”

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath.

The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone:

“TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE.”

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, “After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now you write on a stone. Why?” The other friend replied:

“When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it.”



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Mail to CYSS, Attn: Vicki Fitts or
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