

# Youth Ministry Newsletter

A Publication of Catholic Youth and School Services  
Diocese of Toledo

## Area Dates

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

SENIOR PROM -  
February 16, 2003

## Diocesan Dates

2003  
February  
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

February 2003

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Dear Hearthstone Friends,

What an awesome 2003 Jr. High Gathering we enjoyed on January 26th. Over 400 hundred jr. high youth, team and adults celebrated faith, family and friends. A very special thank you to the directors, Sister Marilyn Ellerbrock, Teresa Lammers, Amy Jo VonSossan, Jen Croy, and to our Hearthstone Area Rep, Erin Plescher. Thanks also to Fr. Dave Reinhart, our mass celebrant and to all our team, and adults who helped. Gary Landoll, Assistant Director of Youth and Young Adults for the Toledo Diocese, spent the day with us. Thanks, Gary. At the closing mass we collected \$375.00 for the Brent Schroeder Memorial Scholarship Fund. Let's continue following in the "Footsteps of the Lord" and to build the kingdom.

Our last meeting for the 13 Building Blocks was February 1st. I want to say thanks to all the adults from the parishes who were involved: St. Anthony, Columbus Grove, St. John the Baptist, Glandorf, St. Nicholas, Miller City and Holy Family, New Cleveland. A special thanks to the hosting parish, St. Anthony's.

Our next celebration is the Hearthstone "Senior Prom", the place, the Ottawa K of C Hall, the time, 5:00 p.m., the date, Sunday, February 16, 2003. All our senior citizens are invited to an evening of food, fun and friendship. The theme is "Surfin USA". We need high school and post high school team members so get your applications in soon. This is an intergenerational celebration put on by our youth for our seniors. I hope all the parishes in our area have promoted this event. Please send me the names of your seniors who are planning to attend so we can get a count for the meal. Thanks to all the parishes that have sent a donation. It's because of you that we can make this evening free to our seniors.

The next support meeting is February 24th at Kalida St. Michael's Parish Center, 7:00 p.m. Everyone who works with youth is invited. We will start working on ideas for the Conference table and Conference packets will be distributed. We'll make sundaes. I'll bring the ice cream and you bring the toppings. Diane will bring Youth Conference packets and give us a Night of Renewal for youth ministers. The Night of Renewal is a mini retreat for youth ministers. For Conference packets, let's try and have a representative from each parish at this meeting. Bring your questions. This year's conference will include some innovative additions and changes so try to attend this meeting.

The next Youth Ministers Training Session will be held at St. Mary's, Defiance, on March 20th, 7 p.m. Please check out the Diocesan Web Page for the topic of the session in addition to other pertinent information concerning youth and young adult events. This is where the newsletters are posted as well. The Walk for Life is Good Friday, April 18th. This is a 7 mile walk from Frenchtown to Carey. It's an opportunity to make a statement on behalf of all life, to celebrate life and to thank God for life. We are all children of God. Bring your families, pack a lunch and dress for the weather.

Does anyone in the Hearthstone Area want to host a Y.E.S. Weekend or the 8th Grade Graduation or a Battle of Youth? It's not too soon to be thinking about one of these events. Thanks for all you do for the youth. Plans are being made to offer Experience III for Hearthstone Area youth in August 2003.

In His Service,  
Connie Cleemput  
Hearthstone Area 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](http://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](http://www.americancatholic.com), [www.nfycm.org](http://www.nfycm.org) [www.cyss.org](http://www.cyss.org), [www.disciplesnow.com](http://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](http://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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