

Youth Ministry Newsletter

A Publication of Catholic Youth and School Services
Diocese of Toledo

September 2002

Visit our Website WWW.cyss.org

Area Dates

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

September 10: High School Gathering Director's meeting, St. Charles School, 5:30 p.m.

September 11: Jr. High Gathering Directors' meeting, St. Charles School, 7:30 p.m.

Diocesan Dates

2002

September	8 :Life Fest
October	6: Kaleidoscope/Prism HS 13:Crossroads HS 18:Prism JH 20:Beacon JH 27:Two Rivers HS
November	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

Hi Prism Friends,

Our gatherings are upon us! Please encourage your youth to plan on being at these gatherings. We need team (seniors and young adults and adults) for the high school gathering. We need team (high school and young adults and adults) for the junior high gathering. Team applications for both gatherings are enclosed. Please give these to anyone who might be interested. 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 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.

We will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Charles School hall at 1850 Airport Highway on Wednesday, September 11 for a planning session for the junior high gathering. Please try to come to this important meeting.

We will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10, at St. Charles Catholic School for our next planning session for the high school gathering. All are welcome. We would especially like those interested in being on team to be there.

Don't forget that Life Fest is on Sunday, September 8, 2002, in Carey from 1-6:30 p.m. followed by a Mass. Bring your family for a fun-filled day.

Our Prism Area youth and young adults are invited to St. Pat's of Heatherdowns on Saturday, September 21 from 8-10 p.m. They are having a CoffeeHouse LIVE in the Holy Family Center Large Room at St. Pat's. Cost is \$2.00 per person. Refreshments will be served. There are twelve time slots, each 10 minutes long, for those who want to get up "on stage" and perform their musical act, dance, stupid human tricks, impersonations, etc. Performers will get in free. Call Katie at 419-389-0902 if you are interested in being a part of this. Or just come to be a part of the audience and have a good time. Pass the word along-come and join them.

I would love to hear some stories from you about your World Youth Day experiences. If you have any to share or have any other information to put in my monthly letter, just e-mail me at st.charles@totalink.net. Thanks.

Thanks for all you do for the youth of our area. Pray for me and I'll pray for you.

God's peace and love to you and your family,

Patti Irons
Prism 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.”

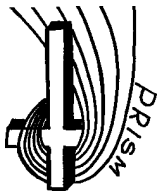
They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath.

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.”



Help us to serve you better.

Add to Newsletter mailing list.

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Name _____

Address _____

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Parish _____

Mail to CYSS, Attn: Vicki Fitts or
e-mail to [vfitts@toledodiceese.org](mailto:vfitts@toledododiceese.org)