

OYM Newsletter

August 2009

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Ministry
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2009-2010

The Year for Priests

The Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed this a "Year for Priests" in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the death of John Mary Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests.

"It is my hope that this Year for Priests will help all priests to appreciate the immense grace of their vocation, consecration and mission. During this year may the whole Church pray and work more fervently for the sanctification of priests, an increase of priestly vocations, and a greater appreciation of the role of priest in the life of the ecclesial community."

Pope Benedict XVI

Check out the Archdiocesan Vocations website:
www.mobilevocations.com

Check out these youtube videos on Saint Jean-Marie Vianney:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9-UL9cRQGg

www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBiHz4x0Zn8

YML Meetings & Confirmation Discussions

Our next Youth Ministry Leader Meetings will be:

Dothan Deanery—
Monday, Sept. 14 at 6:00pm at St. John's in Enterprise

Montgomery Deanery (morning meeting) -
Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 11:00am at St. Bede Family Life Center

Baldwin Deanery—
Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 7:00 at St. Lawrence in Fairhope

Mobile Deanery—
Thursday, Sept. 17 at 7:00 at the OYM Office (308 S. Dearborn)

Montgomery Deanery (evening meeting) -

Thursday, Sept. 17 at 6:00 at Mary Grayson's home

We are asking all of our youth ministry leaders to make a special effort to attend one of these meetings. In addition to our usual agenda, we'll also be **discussing the age of Confirmation in our Archdiocese.**

Archbishop Rodi recently met with Rebecca Titford (Director of ORE), Gwen Byrd (Executive Director for Catholic Education) and me and he asked us to meet with our respective groups (parish catechetical leaders, principals, and youth ministry leaders) and enter into a discussion with

them concerning the age of Confirmation in our Archdiocese.

Archbishop Rodi would like to adopt a standard age for Confirmation to be followed by the entire Archdiocese, but before he sets an age, he very much wants your input.

Please make every effort to attend this meeting. Even if you currently do not work with Confirmation in your parish, we still need your input! You can come to any meeting that is convenient for you.

Please call or e-mail the OYM to let us know you're coming!

CAPP Training/Retraining

Just a reminder—if you have already had your initial CAPP training, you MUST complete retraining online

(www.mobilearchdiocese.org/childprotection) during August, September or October. You must complete retraining during

this time even if you just had your initial training as recently as July.

Also, please remind those who work with you to complete their retraining. Those who have not gone through initial training must be trained within 60 days of the beginning of their

ministry. Check the Catholic Week or the Office of Child Protection website for initial training dates and locations.

The new CAPP booklets will be distributed at our September YML meetings.

Day Events

Plans are coming together nicely for our new Day Events for all of the youth of the Archdiocese. We're gathering speakers and musicians from across the nation to be with us for these special events!

Please mark your calendars now. The events are held throughout the Archdiocese so that everyone gets a travel break at least once. Remember, every group is

invited to every event—regardless of the location! We hope that many groups will be able to come to every event!

Our dates:

October 11th at Camp Cullen in the Baldwin Deanery

November 1st in Mobile

December 6th in Montgomery at Holy Spirit

April 18 in Dothan at St. Columba

Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is sponsoring an arts contest as a tool for schools and parishes to engage 7th-12th grade teens in creative justice education and the efforts of the CCHD to address the root causes of poverty in the US. To learn more about the contest, go to: <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/contestmaterials.shtml>

Updates on Ongoing Activities

NCYC 2009 - We have a group of 19 teens and adults from across the Archdiocese who will be traveling to Kansas City in November to join 20,000+ others for the National Catholic Youth Conference. Please keep these pilgrims in your prayers as they prepare for this Conference. To join in a Virtual Pilgrimage, go to: www.mycatholicvoice.com/ncyc

SEARCH 2010 - Last June, we had 21 teens from our Archdiocese and from the Diocese of Biloxi enter into a SEARCH Retreat. From this group we will pull a retreat team for 2010 who will direct retreats in the Dothan Deanery (Jan. 16-18), Mobile/Baldwin Deaneries (March 12-14) and Montgomery Deanery (March 26-28). Applications for these retreats will be available on the OYM website later this year.

NET 2010 - The National Evangelization Team will be here in our Archdiocese to direct retreats from February 20 until March 8th. As of the time of this writing, Tuesday, February 23rd is the only remaining available date for a retreat. Also, because of travel restrictions, this date will need to be filled by a parish or school in the Montgomery/Dothan area. Please call the OYM office if you are interested in filling this last remaining date or if you would like more information concerning NET.

On-Line Wellsprings of Faith Courses - Our on-line versions of the traditional Wellsprings courses are really catching on! More people are joining in each class as their schedules allow. We plan to offer all but three of the Wellsprings courses in the on-line format, allowing everyone the opportunity to complete their archdiocesan certification more easily. These courses will be offered this fall: In October: PCL/YML 4.0—Pastoral Care and Ministry and CC 1.2—Ministry and the Law. In November: PCL/YML 12.2—Nourished by the Word and CC 4.2—Introduction to the New Testament. More information about registering for these courses will be available in September! If those who work with you in ministry haven't yet begun working on their Basic Certification, please encourage them to try an on-line course!

Catechist Celebration Days!

The Office of Religious Education will again be offering special days for those who work in catechetical ministries (that includes us!) this September. As like last year, Archbishop Rodi will commission the youth ministry leaders along with the catechetical leaders at the Mass in each of the deaneries. In addition, you'll have the opportunity to listen to wonderful keynote speakers and take a Wellsprings course. The dates/locations for this year are: Sept. 12—Mobile/Baldwin Deanery: Most Pure Heart of Mary / Sept. 19—Dothan Deanery: St. John's in Ozark / Sept. 26—Montgomery Deanery: Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School

Welcome Our New Youth Ministers!

- Ryan Bravata is the new Youth Minister for high school at St. Bede's in Montgomery. He works with Shannon Brunson, who coordinates the middle school program. Ryan will also be teaching Theology at MCPS. Welcome, Ryan!
- Doug Martin is the new Youth Ministry Leader for St. Columba in Dothan. Doug is married to his extraordinary wife, Amanda, and they have three beautiful children... all of whom I miss!
- Courtney Pritchard is the new YML and the new PCL and the new choir coordinator for St. John's in Grand Bay... if anyone can handle three ministries, she can!
- Ruby Thompson is the new Youth Ministry Leader for Our Lady of Lourdes. Ruby volunteered with the youth group last year, and when Barbie moved this summer, Ruby stepped in! Thanks, Ruby!
- Martha Henderson is the new YML for St. Thomas by the Sea in Orange Beach. Martha grew up in Pensacola. After graduating from the University of Dallas, she was offered this opportunity. I bet her classmates are jealous of the view she has everyday from her office!
- Chase Nettles is now working at St. Lawrence in Fairhope as their Youth Ministry Leader. He was initiated quickly into his new job—shortly after beginning his ministry, he headed off to Covecrest with his group for a week of camp!

PCL/YML Retreat

This year's retreat was a wonderful! Thirty-three of us spent the weekend together praying, discussing and singing! Next year, we'd like to see even more Youth Ministry Leaders and Parish Catechetical Leaders join us. Mark your calendars for: July 30—August 1, 2010 at Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat.

A Reminder:

PLEASE make every effort to attend one of the September YML meetings so that your voice can be heard regarding the age of Confirmation in our Archdiocese. Archbishop Rodi wants to hear from you! Let's work together so that we can provide the very best for the young people of our archdiocese.