

Archdiocese of Mobile

OYM Newsletter

December 2009

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2009-2010

The Year for Priests

The Importance of the Priest as Spiritual Father

In the natural order, a man and woman are united in matrimony as bridegroom and bride. In the spiritual or supernatural order, Christ is the Bridegroom; His people (we, the Church) are the Bride. Just as new life comes from the union of man and woman, new life comes from the union of Christ and the Church—the new life is GRACE: the life of Christ in the soul, sanctification, holiness. At Ordination, the priest becomes a real image of Christ, he is betrothed to the Church, and he is given by God the sacred powers of administering the sacraments. When administering the sacraments, **the priest acts in the person of Christ, and new life is generated within the Church:** the new life of GRACE in the soul. At Baptism, every Christian receives spiritual life from Christ, ordinarily through the spiritual fatherhood of a priest. This spiritual life is nourished with further reception of the sacraments, most commonly those of the Eucharist and Penance. Spiritually, the priest fathers us into mature life in Christ. Just as a family needs a father, we need priests. Just as a good husband and father undertakes countless sacrifices for his family, the priest lays down his life in service to the Church, giving not only his time, effort, and natural talents, but also an outpouring of sacramental grace. **What an incredible gift God gives to us in each and every priest!** (from the USCCB website)

January YML Meetings

Our next Youth Ministry Leader Meetings will be:

Dothan Deanery—

Monday, Jan. 11 at 6:00pm at St. John's in Enterprise

Montgomery Deanery

(morning meeting) -

Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 11:00am at St. Bede

Family Life Center

Baldwin Deanery—

will meet with the Mobile Deanery YMLs (see below)

Mobile Deanery—

Thursday, Jan. 14 at 7:00 at the OYM Office (308 S. Dearborn)

Montgomery Deanery

(evening meeting) -

Thursday, Jan. 14 at 6:00 at Mary Grayson's home

Please call or e-mail the OYM to let us know you're coming to one of the meetings.

One Day Event—February

Get ready for a little healthy Christian competition among the parishes!

Our next One Day Event will be held on Saturday, February 20th in Mobile. As always, all parishes are invited to every One Day Event, regardless of their location.

On February 20th, our parishes will compete with each other for the thrill of victory in the "Archdiocese of Mobile Catholic History Scavenger Hunt". Each parish team will follow

clues to Catholic historically significant places in downtown Mobile, listen to docents who will tell each group interesting tidbits about that location, the group will then complete a quiz about what they had just learned and about other things they should know about their Catholic faith.

The competition will be decided by way of the quizzes, not by racing (we don't want to give any local groups an unfair advantage). Each team will journey to each

location by cars (or bus) and by foot.

Each competing parish is asked to donate \$10 (2 cars or less) or \$20 (3 or more cars or a bus) to help cover the cost of snacks and prizes.

Parishes MUST register no later than February 12th in order to participate – no exceptions!

For more information, see the enclosed flyer or go to the OYM website: www.go2mass.com

SEARCH Retreats

Our SEARCH Team has been very busy training and preparing for our upcoming SEARCH retreats in the archdiocese. SEARCH retreats are individual retreats (teens apply for the retreat on an individual basis, not as a group) which are designed to help teens discover the presence of God in their lives. SEARCH retreats are teen directed, allowing the teens to minister to each other in a way that adults cannot.

We will have three

SEARCH retreats in our archdiocese this year—each in a different area of the archdiocese for the convenience of our teens:

January 15-17 at Holy Trinity Parish in Holy Trinity, AL (north of Eufaula)

March 12-14 at Camp Dixie near Elberta, AL (South Baldwin County)

March 26-28 at Children's Harbor near Montgomery, AL

The cost of the retreat

varies as to the location cost.

For more information and for applications, please see the OYM website: www.go2mass.com and scroll down to "SEARCH Retreats".

Please encourage your older high school teens to take part in a SEARCH retreat—the retreat will bolster them spiritually and they will bring their new found enthusiasm back to your parish!

Updates on Our Activities

NCYC 2009 - The Archdiocese of Mobile was blessed to have nineteen pilgrims journey to Kansas City in November for the National Catholic Youth Conference. It truly was an amazing experience to be surrounded by over 22,000 fellow Catholics! The highlight of the trip was the closing liturgy—mere words can't express the presence of the Holy Spirit which we felt! The next NCYC will be held Nov. 17-19, 2011 in Indianapolis—mark your calendars—we want to take a big group!

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, the available dates in our archdiocese are: Feb. 23, 24 & 25. Please call the OYM office if you are interested in filling and of these remaining dates or if you would like more information concerning NET.

On-Line Wellsprings of Faith Courses - Our next on-line Wellsprings course will be in January: CC 4.2— Role of the Catechist. Our February offering will be CC 5.2—What We Believe. If you or someone who works with your would like to register for either of these courses or if you'd like more information, please e-mail Jeanne at jhoward@mobilearchdiocese.org or Janet at jmasline@mobilearchdiocese.org. These on-line courses are really gaining in popularity—sign up and see what it's all about!

An Idea for a Lenten Fundraiser from NCYC -

During Lent, have your youth group conduct a Meager Meal. Instead of a huge fish fry on a Friday, sell soup. A Meager Meal is more in keeping with the "fasting" aspect of Lent. You can offer a choice of two kinds of soup, bread/crackers, and water/lemonade/tea. You could sell the soup in cup, pint, or quart sizes. This upfront costs would be minimal. Advertise it to the parish as a Meager Meal so they know they won't be getting a lot of food. This would be great for Ash Wednesday or Good Friday when we have to fast anyway. You can even tell the parishioners to bring their own Tupperware containers to save on the cost.

Announcement from St. Thomas by the Sea

2010 Youth Mexico Mission applications are now available!

High school sophomores and juniors are invited to apply for the 2010 St. Thomas by-the-Sea Archdiocesan Mission to Mexico. The trip will be July 11-23, 2010. If you have teens in your program who feel called to help re-roof huts, visit the sick, share their faith and experience the culture of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, they are encouraged to apply for this summer's mission team. Applications are due March 30, 2010. The early consideration deadline is March 1, 2010. Interested teens can get additional information by e-mailing: missionmayan@gmail.com.

Martha Henderson, Mission Trip Coordinator
St. Thomas by the Sea Office: 251-981-8132

Upcoming RE Event

The Office of Religious Education is sponsoring presentations by Mr. Stephen Binz which you may be interested in attending. At each location, Mr. Binz will be presenting a two part workshop—in part one, he will explore the ancient practice of lectio divina. In part two, he will cover effective ways of engaging the whole parish in Bible Study. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please call the ORE office in Mobile (251-433-6991) or Montgomery (334-269-2389).

Mobile location:

St. Dominic Murphy Center
Saturday, January 23, 2010
9:00am-12:30pm

Montgomery location:

St. Bede Family Life Center
Sunday, January 24, 2010
1:30pm until 4:45pm

Start Planning for Summer!

Steubenville Conference dates have been set! Nearby conference locations are:

Steubenville on the Bayou—June 18-20, 2010 in Houma, LA

Steubenville South—June 25-27, 2010 in Alexandria, LA

Steubenville Atlanta—July 16-18, 2010 in Atlanta, GA

This year's theme is "The Word Became Flesh". For more info, go to: <http://www.franciscanyouth.com/>

Many Catholic Heart Work Camp camps are already full! If you are interested in CHWC, get your registration in as soon as you can! For more information, go to: <http://www.heartworkcamp.com/>

Mark Your Calendars!

The National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministers (NCCYM) will be held at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, December 9-12, 2010. NCCYM may not be this close to us again for a very long time! Make plans now to attend! Registration will open in May of 2010!