

Archdiocese of Mobile

OYM Newsletter

October 2009

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2009-2010

The Year for Priests

History has it that St. John Vianney was rarely seen without a rosary in his hand. What a powerful image in this month, dedicated to the Rosary in this the Year for Priests, which honors the holy life and example of St. John Vianney.

In his proclamation announcing this special year, Pope Benedict XVI spoke extensively on the gift of the Curé of Ars to the priesthood and called upon the intercession of the Most Holy Virgin to "awaken in the heart of every priest a generous and renewed commitment to the ideal of complete self-oblation to Christ and the Church."

Perhaps this month your group could pray a "living rosary" for the priests of your parish. In a living rosary, each person becomes a "bead" of the rosary and leads the next prayer. More information about saying the rosary can be found on various websites including EWTN's: http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayers/rosary/how_to.htm

YML Meetings & Confirmation Discussions Update

Our next Youth Ministry Leader Meetings will be:

Dothan Deanery—

Monday, Nov. 2 at 6:00pm at St. Columba in Dothan

Montgomery Deanery

(morning meeting) -

Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 11:00am at St. Bede Family Life Center

Baldwin Deanery—

Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 7:00 at St. Patrick in Robertsdale

Mobile Deanery—

Thursday, Nov. 5 at 7:00 at the OYM Office (308 S. Dearborn)

Montgomery Deanery

(evening meeting) -

Thursday, Nov. 5 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.

Many thanks to all who attended our September meetings to discuss the age of Confirmation, those who called or e-mailed to express their thoughts and to those who participated in the on-line survey. We compiled all of our data and presented our report to Archbishop Rodi on Oct. 9th. Archbishop Rodi appreciated all of your input and he told us that he plans to read all of your comments. He will discuss

this with the Presbyteral Council prior to making a decision for the archdiocese.

Because of the interest expressed in the topic of "the age of Confirmation" at our September meetings, our office would like to continue our discussion in the November YML meetings by spending a few minutes reviewing the bishops' 2004 resource, "Receive the Gift". This resource does a great job in outlining the benefits and challenges of confirming among the different age groups.

OYM Events

Thank to all who participated in our October Event at Camp Cullen!

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our November event. Our speaker for the event is no longer able to make the trip because of his company's budget cuts and our office decided that it was probably best that

we postpone our Mobile gathering until the spring.

But, we're still set for our December event in Montgomery! The date for the December Event is Dec. 6th—St. Nicholas' Feastday! This event will be centered on "The Year for Priests" and will be at Holy Spirit Parish in

Montgomery. We'll begin at 1:00 and end with the 5:30 LifeTeen Mass at Holy Spirit.

We're asking each parish that brings less than 10 people to chip in \$30 and those parishes that bring 10 or more to chip in \$50.

RSVP to Mary by 11/30.

YML Advent Retreat

The Catholic Community of Clarke County is hosting an Advent Retreat for all Youth Ministry Leaders and Parish Catechetical Leaders of the archdiocese on Saturday, Dec. 5th. We will begin at 10:00 and end with the 4:30 Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Grove Hill.

The retreat, "The Readings of Advent in Word and Art", will center around the Sunday readings from the Feast of Christ the King through the Nativity. Erin Schovel Turnham will

present and explain great works of art which relate to the themes of the Sunday readings. We will also have small group studies of the readings.

The cost of the retreat is \$15 per person which includes a delicious seafood lunch and all retreat materials.

An RSVP is necessary! Please contact the OYM office 251-433-4138 or jmasline@mobilearchdiocese.org to respond.

CAPP Reminder!

Please make sure that you complete your on-line CAPP retraining by the end of this month! Please also verify that everyone who works with you or plans to chaperone your group completes their retraining too! The quiz can be found at www.mobilearchdiocese.org/childprotection

Updates on Ongoing Activities

NCYC 2009 - Our group of 19 teens and adults from across the Archdiocese are making our final preparations to head to Kansas City in November to join 20,000+ others for the National Catholic Youth Conference. Please keep these pilgrims in your prayers as we prepare for this Conference. This year, for the first time, it will be possible to see the keynote talks on-line. To join in the Virtual Pilgrimage, go to: www.mycatholicvoice.com/ncyc

SEARCH 2010 - Training for our Archdiocesan SEARCH Team is now going on! Because of the physical size of our archdiocese, we're training our team in two locations, Mobile and Montgomery. These young men and women will be directing retreats across the archdiocese this spring: in the Dothan Deanery (Jan. 16-18), in Mobile/Baldwin Deaneries (March 12-14) and Montgomery Deanery (March 26-28). Applications for these retreats will soon be available on the OYM website. Please encourage your teens to apply for the retreat. This is a retreat for individual reflection and older teens or mature teens will get the most from this retreat. Youth Ministry Leaders do not go on this retreat with their teens but we do ask that you help encourage your teens to apply!

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 next on-line Wellsprings course will be in November: PCL/YML 12.2—Nourished by the Word and CC 4.2—Introduction to the New Testament. If you or someone who works with you would like to register for either of these courses or if you'd like more information, please e-mail Jeanne Howard at jhoward@mobilearchdiocese.org. These courses are really gaining in popularity—sign up and see what it's all about!

Looking for Advent Ideas?

Advent will be here before we know it! Here are some activity ideas—

Advent Prayer Buddies—pull together a list of senior citizens from your parish and then have your teens pray for the seniors and write a postcard to them each time you meet during Advent. Have the teens write the notes but NOT sign them as individuals, but rather sign them as “a teen friend from your parish family”. You can do this both during Advent and Lent and then during the Easter season you can have your teens host a dinner for the senior citizens so that they can meet each other!

Father & Son Evening of Reflection—use this resource from St. Mary's Press: <http://www.smp.org/ActivityPage.cfm?Activity=436> (or search “Advent: Saint Joseph and Jesus”) to facilitate a reflection on the relationship between St. Joseph and Jesus.

Jesse Tree—explain the meaning behind the symbols of the Jesse tree with your group each week during Advent. You can find more information about Jesse Trees at www.catholicculture.org and then search “Jesse Tree”.

Planning Ahead for Lent

It's not too early to start sending away for Lenten activity information!

Catholic Relief Services has wonderful resources that make your job much easier:

Operation Rice Bowl is the official Lenten Program of CRS. They have put together program packages for both parishes and for individuals and the resources are FREE! Go to: www.orb.crs.org to sign up for the resources. The resources will be shipped about 6 weeks prior to the start of Lent. Your youth group could take leadership of this program for the entire parish!

Food Fast is Catholic Relief Services' 24-hour awareness program for Catholic youth. Focusing on global poverty and hunger, Food Fast offers a journey of solidarity with our brothers and sisters overseas, as a way of living out our Catholic faith. To order Food Fast materials, including a CD-ROM, posters, videos and more, go to www.foodfast.org.

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 June of 2010! We hope to take a large group from our Archdiocese to New Orleans!