

Archdiocese of Mobile

OYM Newsletter

April 2009

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Check it out!

Go to

**www.uscatholic.org and
search "Sean Reynolds"
- watch the video and
read the article...**

Excerpt from:

*Parental guidance
suggested*

US Catholic, March 22, 2009

Let's agree that we've done a poor job passing on the faith to the current crop of Catholic adolescents. OK, now what do we do about it? Sean Reynolds cheerfully agreed to torpedo tired old thinking at the National Symposium on Adolescent Catechesis last November. The symposium, dreamed up by Catholic leaders who have been staying up nights worrying about the dismal showing of Catholic youth in the ongoing National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR), gathered more than 100 Catholic leaders who work with youth. Their charge? To ask themselves what must change about the Catholic approach to forming adolescent faith.

Continued, next page....

SEARCH Retreats

Applications for our SEARCH retreat can be found on the OYM website:

www.go2mass.com

Applications have already started arriving, and we'll only be able to accept 35 retreatants (because of the space limitations of the Seton Center), so please tell your teens to get their applications in soon!

The SEARCH retreat is planned for June 26-28 at the Seton Center in Mobile. These retreats are

an individual experience, not a youth group experience. Youth ministry leaders do not attend the retreat, but the OYM will appreciate your help in spreading the word about the retreat.

From those who attend this retreat in June, a group of young people will be chosen to form a SEARCH Retreat Team here in our archdiocese. This group will be trained (in multiple locations) and will then lead three SEARCH retreats during

the next school year, in three different areas of our archdiocese. From those retreatants we will form a new SEARCH Retreat Team who will serve the following year.

First priority for this year's SEARCH retreat will be given to those teens who are now Juniors or Seniors.

Please encourage your teens to take advantage of this awesome retreat experience!

NET 2010 Dates

The National Evangelization Team (NET) has made plans to direct retreats in our archdiocese next year! NET will be here from February 21 through March 8, 2010. The team is available to direct retreats every day except Mondays (these are Team Days). A number of parishes have already booked their dates, so

please call the OYM Mobile office (251-433-4138) to ask about available dates.

NET is based in St. Paul, MN and has been in existence since 1981. NET trains young adults in youth evangelization and then sends groups of 11-12 young adults out in 8-10 teams to spend nine months in service by leading parish retreats.

NET retreats are amazing!

Parishes which would like to host NET are asked to feed and house the team while the team is in their parish area, and also to pay a fee to NET, which varies according to the length of the retreat.

For more information about NET, please call the Mobile OYM office.

NCYC Plans

The Office of Youth Ministry is sponsoring a trip to Kansas City for the National Catholic Youth Conference!

Imagine over 20,000 teens and adults together for three days of faith, fun and fellowship. Imagine what a life-changing experience this could be for your youth! NCYC brings some of our best, nationally-known speakers and musicians together to serve our youth.

The dates for the

Conference are November 19th-21st, 2009.

The cost for our archdiocesan package is \$575, which includes bus transportation, conference registration, lodging at the Hampton Inn Liberty City, breakfasts and a t-shirt.

A payment plan has been set up for the convenience of families: \$195 is due June 1st, second payment of \$195 August 1st, and the final payment of \$185 due October 1st. \$50 of the initial registration fee is

non-refundable. After Sept. 1st, the total fee is non-refundable (unless someone else is able to take their slot).

For more information about this trip, please contact Mary Grayson at 334-652-8483.

Spaces are limited to 34 and will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Join us for an amazing experience: "Christ Reigns: In Us, Among Us, Through Us"

Register Now for On-line Wellspring Courses!

June Offerings:

PCL/YML 7.0 - Faith and Moral Development

June 1-5 - Ice Breaker
June 6-26 - Course (3 weeks)
Register by May 31st

CC 2.1 - Faith and Moral Development

June 1-5 - Ice Breaker
June 6-19 - Course (2 weeks)
Register by May 31st

Now's your time to try an on-line course! Expect to put in an hour or so during the "Ice Breaker" Week. After that, expect to put in two hours each week.

On-line courses are perfect for busy people! Log on at your convenience. You can complete your assignments at one sitting each week, or over a few chunks of time during the week. Students must complete each week's assignments in order to receive credit for the course. YMLs and PCLs should register for the PCL/YML course. Everyone else can register for the CC course.

Comfortable with using e-mail and searching on the Internet? Then give on-line learning a try! Any questions? Please call Janet at the OYM (251-433-4138) or Jeanne at the ORE (251-433-6991X4).

To Register for an online course:

E-Mail Janet at jmasline@mobilearchdiocese.org with the following information:

#1—the course you wish to register for (PCL/YML 7.0 or CC 2.1)

#2—your name, address, city, zip, home phone and work phone

#3—your ministry (school teacher, catechist, PCL, youth ministry worker or YML)

PCL/YML Retreat!

“Find your delight in the LORD who will give you your heart's desire”

Psalms 37:4

Make plans now to attend the annual retreat for Parish Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministry Leaders! Once again, the retreat will be held at Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat in Holy Trinity, AL. Last year we had a great group of PCLs and YMLs attend. Based on the input of last year's retreatants, we expect to fill the Retreat Center this year, so get your registrations in as soon as possible! The Blessed Trinity Retreat Center is fantastic—a beautiful chapel, miles of trails, great food... it's a retreat in every sense of the word!

Registration forms can be found on the OYM website: www.go2mass.com (scroll down to information about the retreat). The cost for the entire retreat, which includes lodging for two nights (single room that shares a bath with another single room), 5 meals and snacks, retreat and materials is only \$140.

For more information, please contact Janet at the OYM office. Registration is due no later than July 1st.



“Parental Guidance suggested”, continued...

Reynolds' presentation, late in the gathering, was designed to blow up any thoughts of convenient retreat into conventional Catholic remedies, such as, "All we need are some better religion books."

No way, he said: If Catholic youth have not learned nor committed to the faith in the way we hoped, we need to turn our attention to our parishes, to our sacramental system, and especially to parents, who today are asked to do much more with far less support. Parents need help and training to introduce their kids to Catholicism as "a comprehensive way of life," says Reynolds, borrowing a phrase from church historian Scott Appleby at the University of Notre Dame....

...So the good news is that parents have a tremendous amount of impact on the faith of kids. The bad news is that parents have a tremendous amount of impact on the faith of their kids. If parents aren't living their faith, if they are not insisting that their kids engage in faith—just as they insist that kids engage in a variety of other things that are good for them—then it turns out that kids are not very committed. Parents can look in the mirror and see by and large what their kids are going to be; they have that much impact....

Read more at www.uscatholic.org

A Reminder to Montgomery YMLs—

Sister Terry (from the ORE) has invited the Montgomery YMLs to a Morning of Reflection on May 13th at Holy Spirit Parish Hall from 10am-2pm. Lunch will be provided. Please call Mary (334-652-8483) to RSVP or for more information.