

Archdiocese of Mobile

OYM Newsletter

December 2008

Office of Youth
Ministry

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**A Day of Prayer and
Penance for Life
January 22, 2009**

Pro-life Prayer

Lord God, I thank you today
for the gift of my life,
And for the lives of all my
brothers and sisters.
I know there is nothing that
destroys more life than
abortion,
Yet I rejoice that you have
conquered death
by the Resurrection of Your
Son.
I am ready to do my part in
ending abortion.
Today I commit myself
Never to be silent,
Never to be passive,
Never to be forgetful of the
unborn.
I commit myself to be active
in the pro-life movement,
And never to stop defending
life
Until all my brothers and
sisters are protected,
And our nation once again
becomes
A nation with liberty and
justice
Not just for some, but for all,
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen!

**Please also keep in
your prayers those from
our archdiocese who
will be participating in
this year's "March for
Life".**

Youth Ministry Leader Meetings

Many thanks to everyone who came to the November meetings—it was great to see how everyone's programs are progressing! Mark your new calendars for our meetings in January!

Dothan Deanery - Monday,
January 12th at 6:30 at the
Applebee's in Ozark on 231.

Baldwin Deanery - Thursday,

January 15th at 7:00 at St.
Bartholomew's in Elberta

Montgomery Deanery -
Tuesday, January 13th at
11:00am at St. Bede's OR
Thursday, January 15th at
7:00 at Resurrection Parish.

Mobile Deanery - Thursday,
January 15th at 7PM at the
Seton Center. Just one
Mobile meeting again -

having everyone together at
once really enhanced the
community sharing at our last
meeting!

Lunch will be served at the
11AM meeting and dessert
will be served at the evening
meetings. **So that we can
better prepare, please call
or e-mail the OYM if you
plan to attend a meeting!**

ACYC 2009 - "The Ripple Effect"

Registration packets for this
year's Archdiocesan Catholic
Youth Conference were
mailed out during the week of
Dec. 1st. Please call the
OYM office if you did not
receive your packet and we'll
mail one out to you
immediately.

This year's ACYC will be
held Feb. 27th-Mar. 1st at the
Best Western Madison Inn in
Montgomery.

We will focus on St. Paul
during this year's conference.
St. Paul's life and mission is
a prime example of "The
Ripple Effect". Early in his

life, as a young Pharisee, he
persecuted those who
followed Jesus and
encouraged others to do the
same, sending his ripples of
division and hate
throughout his community.
After his conversion
experience, his new ripples
went forth to build up the
body of Christ - as he
traveled to spread the Good
News, the ripples he started
eventually covered the earth!

St. Paul (and his "ripple
effect") is our inspiration
for this year's Archdiocesan
Catholic Youth Conference.
Join us as we come together,

youth and youth leaders of the
archdiocese, to break open
this idea and relate it to our
lives today.

Make your hotel reservations
now! Block prices are only
available until Jan. 27th.
Registrations for the
Conference are due to the
Office of Youth Ministry by
Jan. 27th. For more
information, log on to the
OYM's website:

www.go2mass.com

**Start a ripple in your
community.....**

Wellsprings On-Line Offerings

As I write, six brave souls are
finishing up the pilot program
of our first on-line offering of
a Wellsprings of Faith course.

Our on-line pioneers are
completing "PCL/YML 3.0 -
Leadership for Ministry"
entirely in an on-line format.
Each week for three weeks,
they have completed a
theological reflection, read a
lecture and short articles, and
"conversed" with each other
by posting messages on
"conferencing" boards.

On-line communication
allows the miles between us to
disappear. With this course,
we had YMLs and PCLs from
Mobile, Daphne, Eufaula,

Dothan and Jackson compare
experiences and offer
"Archdiocesan tested"
suggestions for each other's
ministries.

The Office of Religious
Education and the Office of
Youth Ministry are continuing
to collaborate to offer
additional courses in an on-
line format. Plans are in the
works to pull together at least
one more PCL/YML course
and a Basic course to pilot
before the end of the school
year.

A couple of comments from
our on-line pioneers:

C.K from Mobile writes, "The

online course was great. Not
only did it allow me the
flexibility I needed, but it
also provided me with the
much appreciated feedback
from my fellow youth
ministers. I enjoyed it very
much."

A.P. from Eufaula writes, "I
absolutely loved the on-line
class! I was surprised that I
liked it so much! It was good
to set aside time each week
to focus, and reflect on the
way I do things. I liked the
convenience of working on
my own time and at my own
pace. It is definitely
something I would do
again."

Reflections from NCCYM

Dave and I braved the frozen tundra of Cleveland in December (we'll do anything for our Archdiocese!) to attend this year's National Conference of Catholic Youth Ministers. We were joined by over 2000 diocesan directors, youth ministers, exhibitors and friends of youth ministry for a long weekend of prayer and learning.

The conference was a great boost both spiritually and academically. Just being in the presence of 2000 people who truly care about the young church is very uplifting. A couple of themes kept resonating through the conference:

- meeting teens where they are, using technology to reach them
- the teen culture (it's a different teen world today!)
- adolescent catechesis

Dave and I will be sharing some of the things we learned at upcoming YML meetings

The next NCCYM will be held in December of 2010 in New Orleans. Please make plans now to attend. We need to support the good people of New Orleans and I promise that the conference will be a tremendous boost to your ministry.

We're making plans to attend NCYC - the National Catholic Youth Conference - in Kansas City as an archdiocesan group. This conference is for you **and** your teens! Mark your calendars for Nov. 19-21, 2009. More information will be coming soon!

Good News from Montgomery Deanery!

- Heather Drake and the teens from Our Lady Queen of Peace in Selma provided Christmas presents for one of the Selma area Hispanic families.
- Linda Carpenter and the Resurrection youth delivered Thanksgiving fruit baskets and other necessities to approximately 100 shut ins and sang for them. They collected money and a wish list from the parish the month before Thanksgiving.
- St. Bede and Holy Spirit Junior High had a "Can-It" scavenger hunt for food and collected a car full of food for St. Vincent de Paul's can food drive for Thanksgiving.
- Holy Spirit had a Deanery Wide "XLT" in December where over 60 youth from the area participated in Praise and Worship Music and Adoration
- Michelle Schultz and the teens from St. Michael's in Auburn participated in a five mile walk for charity at Calloway Gardens.

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)

I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)

I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)

I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)

I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)

I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)

I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)

I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)

I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)

I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3:20)

I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)

I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)

I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)

I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)

I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)

I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)

I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)

I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)

I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)

I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)

I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)

I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)

I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)

I belong to God

Do you know

Who you are?

Merry Christmas
from the
OYM Gang!