

Archdiocese of Mobile

OYM Newsletter

February 2009

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www.go2mass.com

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Feb. 11 is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with the words: "I am the Immaculate Conception". Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of Jesus' healing miracles—now performed at the intercession of his mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. Many who visit Lourdes return home with renewed faith and a readiness to serve God in their needy brothers and sisters. There still may be people who doubt the apparitions of Lourdes. Perhaps the best that can be said to them are the words that introduce the film *Song of Bernadette*: "For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible."

From www.americancatholic.org

Mobile OYM Office has Moved!

If you haven't heard yet, the Mobile OYM office has moved! In an effort to save some money and create a larger working community, we've moved in with the Office of Catholic Schools at their location on Dearborn.

The staff at OCS has been extremely gracious in welcoming us downtown!

Our phone and fax numbers will remain the same as before. Please make note of our new mailing address:

P.O. Box 40245
Mobile, AL 36640

We welcome visitors to stop in to our new office and say hello... but be forewarned, you may be asked to help unload a box or two!

ACYC 2009 - "The Ripple Effect"

Plans for the Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Conference are coming along very well! Registration packets are still coming in from our parishes. We will continue to accept late registrations until noon, February 23rd. After that, no registrations will be accepted, no exceptions. Archbishop Rodi will be spending Sunday morning with us at the Conference. He will have a question and answer session with the teens and then he will celebrate our closing liturgy.

Christina Theriot and Greg

Thompson, our keynote speakers, are excited to be making the trip to our archdiocese.

We have a variety of workshops offered for our teens, and a few surprises planned too!

Greg Boudreaux and his band will be filling the conference with great music, and Resurrection Parish's music ministry team will be leading us in beautiful song for our closing liturgy!

Youth Ministers are reminded to bring a banner representing their youth

group to the Conference - more information about the banner can be found in the registration packet or on the ACYC page of the OYM website: www.go2mass.com.

When arriving at the Best Western hotel, please note that underground parking is available at the hotel in addition to the street level parking lot. If you have any questions concerning ACYC, please call either OYM office for more information.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone there!

NCYC 2009 - "Christ Reigns"

Imagine 20,000 Catholic teens from across the country coming to Kansas City to worship, learn and have fun together... that's what NCYC 2009 will be!

The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry sponsors a conference for Catholic teens and their leaders every other year, in odd numbered years (Conferences for Youth Ministers are held in even

numbered years.). The NFCYM brings together the best Catholic speakers, presenters and musicians from across the country for an amazing three day experience.

The OYM is sponsoring a trip to Kansas City for this year's conference. The dates are November 19-21. The cost will be \$575 per person, which includes bus transportation, conference registration, hotel accommodations, breakfasts

and a t-shirt. A limited number of spots are open on a first-come, first served basis.

A promotional video is available to be downloaded at <http://ncyc.nfcym.org/index.htm> which can be shown to your youth group.

To make a deposit on spots for your group or for more information, please give Mary Grayson a call in the Montgomery office.

Just a reminder...

If your group wants to participate in a work camp this summer such as Catholic HEART WorkCamp, you need to reserve your spots ASAP! Workcamp locations are filling up quickly—in fact, many CHWC locations are already full! If you're new to summer work camps but would like to learn more about them, please give one of us a call in either OYM office!

Register Now for On-line Wellspring Courses!

March Offerings:

PCL/YML 3.0 - Leadership in Ministry

March 8-14 - Ice Breaker
March 15-April 4 - Course (3 weeks)
Register by March 1st

CC 1.1 - Role of the Catechist

March 8-14 - Ice Breaker
March 15-28 - Course (2 weeks)
Register by March 1st

New to on-line courses? No worries! We'll lead you through the process! 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.

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 3.0 or CC 1.1)

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

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

SEARCH Retreats are Returning to the Archdiocese!

A small group of teens in the Mobile area recently traveled to Laurel, MS to experience a SEARCH retreat. This group will be trained during the coming months to lead, with the help of teens from Biloxi, a SEARCH retreat here in our archdiocese.

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. More information about this year's retreat will be coming soon!

Mark Your Calendars!

For those in the Mobile & Baldwin Deaneries - Stations of the Cross at Christ the King, Daphne

Friday, April 3rd, 7-10pm

We'll pray together a very special Stations of the Cross, led by Christ the King Youth Group and then the CTK group will host a social time in their gymnasium. If your group wants to attend, please call the OYM Office (251-433-4138) by March 30th with the number that will attend. Both Jr. High and Sr. High students are welcome. We hope to see you there!

Youth Ministry Leader & Pastor Appreciation Dinners

Montgomery/Dothan – Tuesday, April 28th at St. Bede

Mobile/Baldwin – Thursday, May 14th at Little Flower

Invitations will be mailed out about three weeks prior to the dinner dates

PCL/YML Annual Retreat - July 31-August 2, 2009

At the Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat in Fort Mitchell, AL

Budget about \$140 for the weekend

More information will be available later in the spring

Other Summer Events...

Steubenville South (Alexandria, LA) will be held June 26-28. Deadline to reserve your spot is March 1!

Steubenville Atlanta (Atlanta, GA) will be held July 17-19. Google "Steubenville" for more info!