

Archdiocese of Mobile

OYM Newsletter

June 2009

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Check it out!

**Watch the archived
webinar featuring Frank
Mercadante speaking
about "Ministry with
Millennial Teens"**

Log onto: https://www.bostonconferencing.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=736&Itemid=218

Or e-mail Janet or Dave for the link.

On April 30th, a group of us from OYM and ORE gathered together to watch our first webinar put out by The Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association. Watching Mercadante's Powerpoint while listening to his presentation and then talking about it afterwards was worthwhile.

Here is a portion of the write-up which PNCEA published after his presentation:

Mercadante began by observing the distinctiveness of today's changing world and the Millennial Generation. He emphasized that as products of the postmodern era and as representatives of their own unique generation, the Millennial teens demand a change in the approach of our Church's youth ministry.

Continued, next page....

Future Plans...

Our thanks to all of you who took the time to call, e-mail, or fax your opinions about OYM events to us in April. We were happy to hear from so many of our youth ministers.

The opinions expressed varied tremendously... with passionate views from every side. Our staff took all of the views in consideration, and in the end we decided that AS A TRIAL, we will go to an every-other-year format for the Archdiocesan Youth Conference. In the years that we do not have ACYC, we will hold four one-day events throughout the archdiocese. One day events will be much more affordable—especially for

our less affluent parishes who can't even consider sending a group to a higher cost event.

We understand that this decision is not popular with everyone, but our goal is to provide resources to the entire archdiocese.

Our next ACYC will be held February 25-27, 2011. We are currently reviewing proposals as to the location of the conference, and we hope to have the location nailed down very soon.

This year we will have four one-day events, currently scheduled for the following dates: October 11, November 1, December 6, and April 18.

We are still working on our speakers and plans for our one-day events, so please bear with us if we need to change a date! We are committed to providing quality events at reasonable costs for our teens and their families. We hope to have these plans finalized soon.

In addition to our one-day events this year, we are sponsoring a trip to NCYC (see below) and we are also bringing SEARCH retreats back to the archdiocese.

For easy access to our calendar, go to the archdiocesan website or to www.go2mass.com

NET 2010 Dates

Just a few dates are still available for the National Evangelization Team to direct retreats in our archdiocese! As of the day I'm writing this, the remaining dates are:

Tuesday, Feb. 23

Wednesday, Feb. 24 and

Sunday, Feb. 28

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 or to schedule a retreat, please call the Mobile OYM office.

NCYC Plans

Registration forms are now coming in for our Office's trip to Kansas City for the National Catholic Youth Conference! Spaces are limited - please be sure to get your registration in soon!

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. Although we'd like to see as many parish groups join us as possible, individuals from parishes are welcome to join the group! Please encourage your teens to sign up!

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

SEARCH Retreat

We are still accepting registrations for this year's SEARCH retreat which will be held June 26-28 at the Seton Center in Mobile. The SEARCH Weekend is a Christian Life experience, peer guided and peer given by a group of young people from our archdiocese and the diocese of Biloxi, along with adults from our Archdiocese. It is designed for older high school teens. We will accept up to 35 participants for the weekend, and up to 7-8 people from each parish.

On a SEACH Weekend there is sharing by the community members, songs, prayer, small group discussions, Eucharist, Reconciliation, quiet time and great fellowship . The weekend begins on Friday evening and goes through Sunday afternoon.

Only those who have completed a SEARCH Weekend will be eligible to apply to be on the SEARCH Team for the 2009-2010 school year.

The fee for the weekend is \$65.00. This fee includes sleeping quarters, meals, and all the materials for the weekend. A non-refundable \$25.00 deposit is required with all applications. **DON'T LET COST BE THE DECIDING FACTOR! IF THERE IS A PROBLEM, CONTACT THE OYM AND WE WILL WORK SOMETHING OUT!**

To register, go to www.go2mass.com to download an application

PCL/YML Retreat!

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

Psalms 37:4

Registrations for this year's retreat are now arriving at our offices! Make plans now to attend the annual retreat for Parish Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministry Leaders! After last year's retreat, we expect that we will fill the retreat house this year, so get your registration forms in soon!!!

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.

St. Bede's Welcomes a New Youth Minister

Ryan Bravata will be taking over as Youth Minister at St. Bede's in Montgomery later this summer, working with Shannon Brunson. Ryan will also be teaching Theology at MCPS. Welcome, Ryan!

A Prayer Request...

Please keep Stephanie, a teen from Holy Redeemer (Eufaula) in your prayers. Stephanie was diagnosed with Stage 4 Hodgkin's Lymphoma earlier this year. Stephanie travels to Birmingham for her chemo treatments. The chemo and the shots to boost her blood levels are doing a number on her body, but her spirit is still doing well. She wants to be able to be back in Eufaula on June 12th in order to emcee the teen talent show. Please keep Stephanie and all of the teens battling serious illness in your prayers.

“Millennial Teen Ministry: New Perspective and Strategies”, continued...

Who are the Millennials?

Our speaker first familiarized his audience with the characteristics of this millennial generation, that is, those born from 1982-2002. He explained that the Millennial Generation is larger, more diverse, and more educated than previous generations. He cited survey statistics that described the Millennials as optimistic, civic-and team-oriented, characteristics that Mercadante suggested could enrich the Church. More importantly, as he later related it to ministry, Mercadante noted that because this generation was the most watched and protected, they feel special and feel that everyone is important.

Millennials and the Church

In light of this generation's core characteristics, Mercadante argued, teens need special and more involved roles in their parishes. Instead of waiting until adulthood for teens to join the community, Mercadante observed that the community just does not demand enough of them. The Millennial Generation wants a vision to change the world, Mercadante explained, and the Church is clearly equipped to provide them with this vision. Also, with statistics demonstrating the influence and closeness of parents with the Millennial Generation, Mercadante called for more inter-generational and family ministry opportunities. Building a strong, affiliated connection from childhood, parishes must also evangelize parents as the primary religious educators.

Check out the webinar for more information!
