

Archdiocese of Mobile

OYM Newsletter

October 2008

Office of Youth
Ministry

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Coming together in prayer...

Please continue to mark the First Friday of each month as a day to pray especially for all of our teens and their families. For those who can join us for Mass, Mary will join the Montgomery YMLs at St. Peter's for the 12:10 Mass each first Friday. Dave and Janet will join the Mobile YMLs at the 12:10 Mass at the Cathedral. If you cannot come to the Cathedral or to St. Peter's, please either go to Mass at your parish, or say the Rosary sometime during that day for the intentions of our teens.

Do not think that love, in order to be genuine, has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired.
Mother Teresa

Youth Ministry Leader Meetings

Many thanks to everyone who came to the September meetings—the ideas that were shared among the YMLs was awesome! It's time to plan to get together again!

Dothan Deanery - Monday, November 3rd at 6:30 at St. Columba's in Dothan

Baldwin Deanery - Thursday,

November 6th at 7:00 at St. Bartholomew's in Elberta

Montgomery Deanery -

Tuesday, November 4th at 11:00am at St. Bede's OR Thursday, November 6th at the Resurrection Parish.

Mobile Deanery - Thursday, November 6th at 7PM

(evening meeting only—no morning meeting this month)

at the Seton Center. (Just for this month, let's try all gathering at one time!)

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!**

Deanery Gatherings!

Make plans to come together for an afternoon of fun and fellowship with the parishes in your area!

Dothan & Montgomery Deaneries will celebrate World Youth Day on Sunday, October 26th at Hopper Lodge at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery. The day will begin with Mass at 11:00 and will include lunch, games, and a talk about our Holy Father's message for youth from WYD in Sydney. The gathering will end at

4:00. Each parish is asked to contribute \$25 to help cover food and supplies. If you plan to bring your group, please call Mary in the Montgomery office (334-652-8483) by October 22nd.

Baldwin/Escambia and Mobile Deaneries will focus on All Souls Day with a "We're Hooked" gathering on Sunday, Nov. 2nd at Camp Cullen (south of Fairhope). The gathering will last from 1:00 until 4:00. The

day will include games, snacks, a prayer service for All Souls Day, and talks about how "We're Hooked" to each other - those here on earth, in purgatory and in heaven. Each parish is asked to contribute \$20 to help cover food and supplies. If you plan to bring your group to "We're Hooked", please call the Mobile office (251-433-4138) with approximate numbers by Oct. 27th. See you there!

God in HD - Get a Clear Picture

Young Adult Conference Scheduled for Nov. 15 in Gulf Breeze, FL

If you are ages 18-35ish and are looking for an event that will speak to you and your life, this conference is designed for you. Co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Mobile and the Pensacola Diocese, a team of young adults created this day for people who are married, single, in college or the military, with or without children (free childcare provided), connected or disconnected from the Church. No matter where you are at with your faith, this conference can help you make some connections.

Contact David O'Brien for more info: 251-433-6991, ext 5, dobrien@mobilearchdiocese.org

A Sad Good-Bye...

It's with a heavy heart that we say good-bye to Brandon Hudson, youth minister at St. Columba, as he prepares to head to Vermont to begin a new job in news reporting and anchoring (we knew you were much too talented to stay in a small market like Dothan for long!). Brandon is a "home-

grown" youth minister. Growing up, he was actively involved in Resurrection Parish, he went to MCPS, and often attended St. Bede's youth group with his friends. At FSU, he was active with campus ministry. After moving to Dothan, he soon became involved in youth

ministry. All of us who have come to know and love Brandon will miss him dearly. Remember, Brandon, that your "roots" are here in the Deep South! We won't allow Vermont to keep you very long!

God bless you, Brandon!

Good News Around the Archdiocese...

Holy Spirit - Montgomery

On September 28th, Holy Spirit's Life Teen group participated in Life Teen's "Give It Away Now!" event. Over 50 teens came together at Holy Spirit to spend an evening looking, as LifeTeen says, "at the excess that often crowds our lives and how excess (both physical and spiritual) often leaves no room for God". Denise Katz reports that her group collected 1250 lbs of clothing (75 bags of clothes) and donated them to Catholic Social Services (Denise says that you should have seen the faces on the CSS ladies when they pulled up in a Penske van full of clothes!). The event was both thought-provoking and fun.

Life Teen has the plans for this event free of charge on their website, www.lifeteen.com. From the home page, click "Adult Leaders" and then "Free Resources"

New and/or Renewed Youth Programs

- Corpus Christi has started a Middle School group! Their first gathering was postponed due to TS Fay, but they were able to meet soon after and had a great time. Over 30 MS teens attended. The OYM helped Carole train a group of her high school students to help lead this new MS group. Carole has monthly gatherings planned for the remainder of the year.
- Our Lady of Lourdes teens gathered in Mid-September for a "meet & greet" social. Over 20 teens attended! They plan to continue meeting twice a month.
- Little Flower 8th-12th graders had their first meeting on September 28th. Twenty-two teens and a wonderful group of adults spent the afternoon playing games and getting to know each other. This group will be meeting monthly for social and spiritual events.
- Great plans are being made at St. Mary, at St. John's in Enterprise, St. Martin's in Troy and at St. Pius X! You'll be hearing more about these groups soon!

Upcoming Wellsprings Classes...

In Mobile: On Saturday, Oct. 25th, four Basic courses will be offered at St. Dominic's.

9 - noon CC 2.2 Learning Styles or CC 4.1 Old Testament

12:30 - 3:30 CC 5.1 Role of Church or CC 6.1 Liturgy & Sacraments

If you are interested in registering for any of these classes, please call or e-mail Jean Howard: 251-433-6991 ext. 4 or jhoward@mobilearchdiocese.org

In Montgomery:

On Oct. 7th at St. Michaels, from 6-8pm, the first half of CC 4.1 Old Testament will be offered.

On Oct. 8th at Holy Spirit, from 7-8:30, the first half of CC 6.1 Liturgy & Sacraments will be offered.

If you are interested in registering for any of these classes, please call or e-mail Rona Reder: 334-269-2389 or rreder@mobilearchdiocese.org

World Youth Day—October 26, 2008

 (Perhaps ask your pastor if these blessings can be offered at the Sunday Liturgy in your parish)

Blessing of Youth:

God of youth,
We ask your blessing upon our young people gathered here.
You have gifted each one of them in a special and unique way.
May they come to know and share the wonder and awe that
lives within them as they grow in wisdom, knowledge and
understanding of you.

Guide and sustain them as they discern your invitation to
discipleship.
Bless their openness and enthusiasm
and allow their questions to both enliven and challenge us as a
community of believers gathered to do your will.
Strengthen and support the many good works they do.
Challenge and provoke them along their journey of faith so they
may help lead the church into the possibilities of tomorrow.

In all these things, we ask your blessing upon them this day, in
the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
AMEN!

These blessings can be found at www.nfcym.org

Blessing of Parents:

Creator God,
You know what it is like to be both Mother and Father to us all.
We ask You,
the source and sustainer of all life,
to bless these parents in the role you have set before them.

Gift their lips with the wisdom to speak the truth so it can be
heard.
Gift their ears with sensitivity as they listen to the needs of their
children.
Gift their souls with a faith radiating your intimate presence in
their life.
Gift their minds with patience and understanding to handle the
changing needs and demands placed before them each day.

Guide their hearts as they seek out and reconcile the areas of
conflict and pain that may exist.
And through all these things, may your abundant blessings
continue to affirm and support all they do as parents.

We ask this blessing upon each of them,
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
AMEN!