

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

St. Peter's & St. Mary's Youth Ministry

THANKS ALL AROUND!

It's hard to believe another year is (almost) complete in Youth Ministry and CRE. It was another wonderful year due to the contributions of many great people. There was a lot of learning going on, relationship building, fun and building up of foundations of faith.

None of this was possible without the involvement of numerous people, especially our catechists. We were blessed with many "veteran" catechists as well as some new faces. Mrs. Tracy Meyer and Mrs. Julie Weinberger continued to bless our seventh graders with their love of our faith and their knowledge of the Bible and the life of Jesus. Our eighth graders met some new faces this year each with their own gifts and talents: Mr. David Krist's eagerness to pass on his love of God, Ms. Anastasia Ferreira's energy and enthusiasm, and Mrs. Monica Verfuert's creativity and positive attitude.

Our ninth graders were blessed with lots of wisdom and experience in Mr. Richard

Zbikowski, Mr. Tim Bultman and Mrs. Bette Anne Brelsford. Each of them brings to the classroom their unique experiences of faith but with a common bond in dedication to our young people. The tenth grade classes had a mix of novice and experienced catechists. Mr. Kevin Shaver returned again to share his knowledge of the faith, while Mr. Bill Nosko was new to our catechetical team, though not new to passing on the faith in different ways. Ms. Ferreira did double duty teaching 10th as well as 8th grade. Finally, Mrs. Kristin Lytle was on our tenth grade team for the first half of the year as a superb role model. Regrettably for her class, she was temporarily transferred for work during the second semester—but we are hoping she can return to our team next year!

We were also blessed with several "substitute" catechists who were willing to step in when our catechists needed to

be away, including Mrs. Leslie Lanser and Mrs. Mary Henkle. And of course without the gifts and talents of Mrs. Linda Guokas in the office and leading us in song our program would not run as smoothly!

Finally, a thank you to all the hall monitors, snack makers and the general support from all the parents and parishioners as we work together to continue to build on the foundations of faith you have already set!

Mrs. Brelsford asked me to pass this on to her class, but I think it's appropriate for all of our families to hear: "Even though it is felt that today's youth have a lot of "toys and stuff", they still seem to grasp that what is really important is the love parents provide as well as the *basic* comforts of life. They recognize the difference between what they want and what they need. They are able to translate this globally as well, understanding how fortunate they really are." Amen!

Dates to remember!

- May 10—Pizza Ranch Fundraiser
- May 12—Pizza Ranch Fundraiser
- May 22—Confirmation
- June 16—Six Flags Great America
- June 21—Pizza Ranch Fundraiser
- June 22—Maryland mission trip gathering
- June 29—Michigan mission trip gathering
- July 10-17—Mission trip to Maryland
- July 18-23—Mission trip to Michigan
- August 3—Noah's Ark trip
- September 13—Youth Ministry CRE parent meeting
- October 2—John Bosco Youth Day at Holy Hill
- October 10 - Confirmation candidate and parent orientation
- October 29-30—Justice Do It

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

This year we packed in a lot of great stuff, both in and out of the classroom. Below are a few of the highlights:

In October, a small group of high school students attended the John Bosco Youth Day at Holy Hill along with 1000 other teens from across Wisconsin. Later in that month, several of our seventh and eighth graders learned that they too can be leaders while meeting new people and having fun at the Leadership Lock-in.

In November, several of our young high school ladies attended the National Catholic

Youth Conference in Kansas City. It was such an awesome experience they are already looking forward to the next one in 2011 in Indianapolis!

In January, we were blessed with musical talent and inspirational talks by Jon LaRoche and Mike Casey who led our young people during the ONE retreat. Both our middle school and high school students also had the chance to get excited by our faith by the NET team, a group of young adults who travel the country leading youth on spiritual retreats.

Also in January, our CRE families, along with families from Port Catholic and parishioners at large participated in the Growing the Cluster sessions. It was an overwhelming success with over 700 people attending the six sessions.

Finally, our Confirmation candidates attended their Confirmation retreats at the Daniel Soref Retreat center in Fredonia. There we learned more about the Holy Spirit while building relationships with each other, celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation, getting closer to God through prayer and faith sharing and



Our NCYC group in KC!

having fun.

All throughout the year as well, our young people who will be attending mission trips this summer have been busy attending different retreats, participating in various fundraisers including a cookie sale, a spaghetti dinner, brat frys, working at the Pizza Ranch, soup sales and more! This is all in preparation for their trips to Michigan and Maryland where they will be serving the less fortunate with others from across the country.

It was a jam packed year—but always done with the goal of building up the Kingdom of God, so worth it!