



Fire of Faith

A Publication of the Diocese of Pittsburgh Young Adult Ministry Leadership Team

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2009

Lord, Send Forth Your Spirit!

Young adult ministry in Pittsburgh is alive and growing. Please let us know what young adult ministry topics you would like to see addressed in the newsletter or send in your own submission. The next newsletter will be sent out in Fall 2009. For more information or to send in a submission, you can contact Christina at namyoun-gadults@yahoo.com or Gary at yampgh@diopitt.org.

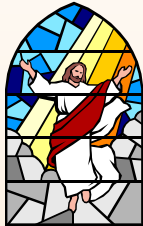
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Christ, our Hope

“We have set our hope on the living God, who is the savior of all, especially of those who believe.”

~ 1 Timothy 4:10



You Are Our Hope

Diocese Planning Young Adult Sunday Celebrations

By Dan and Maria Stover

Hope is a word we hear often these days. At the 2002 World Youth Day, Pope John Paul II, said “You are our Hope!” He was not talking to world leaders or to leaders in the Church. He was talking to young adults and future young adults. The pope recognized the value of young adults before most others did.

Young adults are today’s leaders and the leaders of tomorrow. Young adults are, or will be, leading families, workplaces, and governments. Young adults are the hope of the Church as well, becoming her leaders and body, proclaiming Jesus through their actions and words. To that family member who has gone astray, you are their hope for salvation. If you do not say anything or lead by your actions, who will? To those co-workers who are searching, you are their hope. To the lonely elderly lady across the street, you are her hope. To the unborn who have no voice,

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Young Adult Sunday Kickoff

Saturday, June 27th, 7:05 p.m.

Homestead Grays Cap Giveaway & Fireworks Night

Evening includes a 5 p.m. pre-game Mass at Saint

Mary of Mercy Parish at the Point/Gateway Center (202 Stanwix Street), a pre-game tailgate party after Mass, and post game fireworks after the Pirates take on the the Kansas City Royals!



Young Adult Sunday

Sunday, August 2

Plan an event at your parish to celebrate young adults! For more information, as well as a flyer on a YAS Pirate game on August 1, please visit our Web site, www.yampgh.org.

Young Adult Stewards

Taking care of God’s gifts is an important part of Catholicism

By Christina Praskovich

As young adults in today’s fast-paced environment, we have many responsibilities towards family, work and our country.

With so much going on, we often forget our most important responsibility is to God. In spiritual terms, responsibility refers to answering God’s call to be stewards, taking care of what He has given us and giving back.

“I am convinced that if we can make stewardship part of our faith life, we can truly change the world,” said Bishop John J. McRaith of the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky, in the 2003 publica-

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Workshop to address Young Adult Sunday and popular Theology on Tap program

By Gary Slifkey

The Department for Youth & Young Adult Ministry invites you to our annual Young Adult Ministry Workshop. This workshop provides an opportunity to learn more about how to start a young adult group to those interested in reaching out to young adults at their parish. This year, the same program will be offered at two different locations on Monday, May 11, 2009. An afternoon session is scheduled for Saints John and Paul Parish, Sewickley, from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. An evening session will be held at Saint Elizabeth of Hungry Parish, Pleasant Hills, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost of the program is \$5.

The keynote presenter for the training is Ms. Anna Marie Troiani, Associate Director for the Office of Youth, Campus and Young Adult Ministry in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Ms. Troiani has extensive experience in young adult ministry and travels throughout her diocese working with parishes in their efforts to reach out to young adults.

In addition to our keynote, the Young Adult Ministry Leadership Team will be offering two breakout sessions. The first is "How to Start a *Theology on Tap* Program." The other session is "How to Make the Most Out of *Young Adult Sunday*." For your convenience, an information/registration form is available at our web-

Young Adult Ministry Workshop

Monday, May 11, 2009

Keynote Speaker Ms. Anna Marie Troiani

Breakouts on How to Start a *Theology on Tap* Program and How to Make the Most Out of *Young Adult Sunday*

Saints John & Paul

1:30 - 4 p.m.

2586 Wexford Bayne Road,
Sewickley, PA 15143

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

6:30 - 9 p.m.

1 Grove Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

Young Adult Sunday Ideas

- † Picnic
- † Young Adult Mass
- † Pirate Game (Diocese Pirate game August 1, 7:05 p.m. with post-game concert. See more information on www.yampgh.org)
- † Ice Cream Social
- † Praise and Worship Concert
- † Dinner
- † Movie Night
- † Send-off gathering for college students
- † Ministry fair inviting young adults to share their talents with the parish
- † Development of mailing list for young adult parishioners
- † Promotion of fall young adult programming

Young Adult Sunday Celebrations

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you are their hope. To the starving man on the street, you are his hope.

In their song "If we are the Body" Casting Crowns asks...

**But if we are the Body
Why aren't His arms reaching
Why aren't His hands healing
Why aren't His words teaching
And if we are the Body
Why aren't His feet going
Why is His love not showing them
there is a way**

These questions are posed to all, but never ring louder than in the ears of the young adult. Young adults are the ones who the hope of Christ rests upon; Jesus himself was a young adult.

Recognizing the importance of Young Adults, the Diocese of Pittsburgh will be celebrating Young Adult Sunday on August 2. For information on which parishes are celebrating the day, please visit www.yampgh.org or check at your parish office. Also, the Diocese will be hosting a Young Adult Sunday Kickoff Party at PNC Park on June 27, with a pregame Mass and tailgate party. Please check the Web site for more information and to order tickets.

But more than just a celebration, these events are meant to connect young adults with their peers; people who have the same struggles, life events and interests as you. The events are meant to build up young adults and encourage them to continue the journey and to be the hope of the world that they are.



Young adults as stewards of God's gifts

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tion, "Stewardship and Young Adults." "We can make this a much better place in which to live—not just for us, but for everyone. I am convinced of this because I am convinced that it will attack the selfishness that besets all of us... It turns us from just loving ourselves to loving others as Jesus loves them."

Stewardship brings out the best in human nature and helps the church grow stronger. Bishop David Zubik writes in "The Church Alive!" that prayer, sharing and service can help us understand the meaning of stewardship. In the Beatitudes, Jesus directed us towards these three realities, which provide a good basis for young adult ministry.

Jesus spoke of those who yearn to share God's gifts when he said, "*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.*" However, before we can understand how to take care of God's gifts, we need to realize what those gifts are. Stewardship involves a realization that all we have comes from God – talents, health, life and salvation – and that we did nothing to deserve them. God gave them freely to us. Parishes and young adult programs that focus on prayer and Eucharistic Adoration help young men and women understand what it means to receive "the gifts of God with gratitude" ("Stewardship and Young Adults").

With this attitude, we can fruitfully share what God gave us. While sharing can refer to discussing our faith at fellowship groups and Bible studies, it also means using our talents and what we are given to bring God's Kingdom closer to others.

We have a responsibility to use our personal gifts for God's glory. For example, good speakers can evangelize, witness on behalf of the unborn or speak up for the religious beliefs on which our nation was founded. Parents have a responsibility to nurture their children and bring them up with sound moral values, and all Christians have the responsibility to share their time and energy with those less fortunate.

Sharing goes hand-in-hand with service. Jesus challenged us in the Gospels to become servants for others. After Jesus washed his disciples' feet, he said: "As I have done for you, so must you do for each other." (John 13:15).

When we serve God and others, we submit ourselves to God's will and use our talents to accomplish his will. I've witnessed this spirit in other young adults as they help the homeless at local soup kitchens and visit the elderly. Service activities invite young adults to responsibly take care of God's greatest creation, made in His image and likeness.

Stewardship fulfills the goals of young adult ministry – to connect young men and women



with Jesus Christ, with their peers and with the mission of the Church. While it is a challenge to always follow in Christ's footsteps, young adult ministry can encourage young adults on their journey. Living the life of a steward means living a life of purpose, drawing closer to ultimate happiness in heaven, and it helps to know that there are others striving towards that same goal.

"I truly believe that young adults...want to connect with others who are sharing in the joys, sorrows, and challenges of being a young adult," said Erica Gamero, St. Bernard young adult minister. "They are asking the Church to support them on their journey."



Inspiration

"We have to ask God: What are You calling me to do now, in this Present Moment? Not yesterday or tomorrow, but right now. God's will is manifested to us in the duties and experiences of the Present Moment. We have only to accept them and try to be like Jesus in them."

~ Mother Angelica

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him."

~ Ephesians 1:3



Summer Start

Organize or reenergize your parish young adult group

By Christina Praskovich

Summer offers many opportunities for parishes to start a young adult group or reenergize its existing group. There are so many great activities to bring young adults together, and many college students, who are often searching for happiness and fulfillment, are home. Here are some great ideas to get a young adult group going.

Promotion:

Bulletin announcements and flyers, church announcements, emails/letters to young adults at your parish, Facebook, volunteers at back of church after Mass to greet young adults and tell them about the group

Activities:

- † **Ice Cream Social:** This would be a great way to start off a young adult group because it offers an opportunity for people to mingle and meet others and also enjoy a cool treat!
- † **Cinema in the Park:** Go to Mass or have a Bible study and then enjoy a fun evening at a city park that offers free movie showings. One of the most popular “cinema in the park” sites is Flagstaff Hill in Oakland’s Schenley Park. Flagstaff has movies on Sunday and Wednesday evenings starting at dusk. For more information, log on to http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/parks/html/cinema_in_the_park_and_cinema_.html.
- † **Theology on Tap:** Get young adults together in a fun, relaxed restaurant atmosphere and away from the summer heat to hear a speaker talk on important faith issues. Contact Gary Slifkey at (412) 456-3140 or gslifkey@diopitt.org for more information about how to start one of these speaker series or attend our young adult ministry workshop on May 11 (see page 2 for details).
- † **Bible study or faith discussion outside:** Young adults can talk about their faith while taking in God’s great creation.
- † **Young Adult Mass and BBQ:** Invite young adults to attend a particular Sunday Mass, sit together and then have a great summer feast afterwards. The group can also have a potluck picnic at a local park and then enjoy a game of volleyball or badminton.
- † **Mini golf:** Score a hole-in-one with young adults with this enjoyable activity.
- † **Young Adult Day at Kennywood, Sandcastle or Idlewild:** Have a fun day at one of Pittsburgh’s great amusement or water parks!



*A Publication of the Diocese of Pittsburgh
Young Adult Ministry Leadership Team*

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Check us out on the Web! www.yampgh.org

Mission of Young Adult Ministry:

The Diocesan Young Adult Ministry works with parish pastoral ministers, young adult organizations, volunteers and young adults. Our ministry is directed toward single & married Catholics in their 20s and 30s.

Goals of Young Adult Ministry:

- † *To connect young adults with Jesus Christ.*
- † *To connect young adults with the Church.*
- † *To connect young adults with the mission of the Church in the world.*
- † *To connect young adults with a peer community.*