

Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Diocese of Buffalo



Youth & Young Adult Ministry Connections

January 2012

2012

February 17-19
[60th Annual Diocesan](#)

Greetings!,

Yes, the [60th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention](#) is coming up,

2012

February 17-19
[60th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention](#)

February 19
[Parent Track: Surviving & Thriving with our Teenagers](#)

April 3-7
Young Christians at Work

June 24-30

[Christian Leadership Institute](#)

Diocesan/Parish Events

January 23
March for Life

January 26
[re] @
Blessed John Paul II,
Lakeview; 7:30

March 16-18
[Youth 2000](#), St. Leo the Great, Amherst

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Greetings!,

Yes, the [60th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention](#) is coming up, and that gives our department plenty to talk about and share with you...but there is another important event happening at that same time that I want to bring to your attention.

On Thursday, February 16, Bishop Kmiec is inviting all priests and deacons of the diocese to join him for lunch and a critically important conversation at a [Clergy Day on Engaging Young People in the Faith Community](#). Dr. Bob McCarty, Executive Director of the [National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry \(NFCYM\)](#) will be facilitating this gathering. (Bob will also be joining us for the Convention - doing the adult workshops and the Parent Track. You won't want to miss those!)

When Bishop Kmiec visited with the Holy Father in November, the Pope asked him about the young people in our diocese. Bishop Kmiec shared his great concern about the secularization that surrounds them and how this challenges their faith and their efforts to live good holy lives. The Holy Father then asked him, "But can they be reached?" Our Bishop (who had just recently Witnessed the Spirit at our Nov. 11th event) responded most



assuredly in the affirmative! He believes that we can effectively engage our young people - through their families, in our parishes, in Catholic high schools and through our diocesan youth ministry programs. And he knows that the leadership of our clergy (in close collaboration with us, the laity) will be needed to foster the faith of our young people in a special way.

I believe this [Clergy Day on Engaging Young People in the Faith Community](#) will provide our clergy with a contemporary vision for our ministry with youth and help them better connect with and support the young people and families in our communities. They are hungry for meaningful relationships, a chance to use their gifts in service, and a connection with God, and we can offer all of those things through the Catholic Church.

I expect this event to be a wonderful opportunity for our clergy to learn and dialogue together about their concerns and hopes for the young Church. I hope that it will have a great impact in your parishes and throughout our diocese as we all re-focus our energies on providing effective pastoral leadership and designing approaches that effectively respond to the needs and

gifts of post-modern youth.

Every active priest and deacon in the diocese should have received an invitation in the mail - please follow up with those you know and encourage them to attend! I will be sure to share highlights from that day in future issues of this e-newsletter!

Peace and blessings,
[Kathy Goller](#)

60th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention "Turn the Page . . . Live His Story"

Don't miss the largest gathering of Catholic youth in our diocese!

The 60th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention will be held from Friday, February 17 - Sunday, February 19, 2012 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo.

Why Should You Attend? In the words of a teen . . .

"I learned that it was OK to openly share my faith and that I wasn't the only teen who felt passionate about faith. I also learned more about myself and I realized all the potential I had within me to make this world more positive. Convention helped heal me because for the first time in my life I felt accepted for who I was and from then on I gained the courage to always be myself and to help others feel more comfortable with who they are."

1) ADULT CHAPERONE MEETING:

Mark your calendar and plan to attend one of the mandatory Adult Chaperone Meetings. All adult and junior advisor chaperones **MUST** attend one of these meetings:

Thursday, January 19 - 7-9 PM at the Catholic Center, downtown Buffalo (795 Main Street)

OR Saturday, January 21 - 11 AM to 1 PM at Holy Apostles Parish, Jamestown (Ss. Peter & Paul site, 508 Cherry Street)

We will discuss important information and reminders about this year's event - please don't miss it! [More information for](#)



chaperones...

2) REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

Registration forms, money and hotel reservation forms are due Thursday, January 19.

3) HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Remember that all hotel reservations must be made directly with the Adam's Mark Hotel by sending the hotel reservation forms to SARAH KLEIN.

4) AWARD NOMINATION FORMS:

Nomination forms for the Manus Christi Awards (presented to outstanding high school seniors) are available by contacting Diane Ruminski. Forms are due on January 19. Please make every effort to submit your nominations by this deadline.

5) LAST CALL FOR YOUTH INVOLVEMENT:

If you know teens who want to share their gifts and talents with the Convention in any way (MCs, readers, prayer leaders, dancers, witness speakers, actors, activity leaders, etc.), please ask them to contact Jennifer Belock as soon as possible so that we may finalize our planning.

6) CALLING YOUTH MUSICIANS AND SINGERS:

We need musicians with experience and singers who can blend their voices to lead our congregation for our Closing Liturgy. There will be two more rehearsals prior to the Convention and one sound check at the Convention. Please pass this request on to those you know who have musical gifts, and ask them to contact Bryan Zielenieski.

7) YOUTH FACILITATORS NEEDED:

This year's Convention will feature times for small group discussions, led by youth facilitators! If you know a young person who has demonstrated good communication and group facilitation skills, please send their name and contact information to Jennifer Belock.

8) HELP CREATE OUR PLAY LIST:

Your teens can help create the play list for our dance on Saturday night! Have your teens work together to nominate up to 10 songs that they would like to hear at Saturday's dance. We can't guarantee that all songs will be played, but we'd love for the teens who will be there to tell us what they'd like to hear! Send your list of songs (including title and artist) to Heather Hoffman by January 19. As a youth ministry or campus ministry leader, please be sure that you review all suggested songs with your teens to be sure that they are appropriate and reflect Catholic Christian values.

9) GROUP PHOTOS:

Don't forget to send a few photos of your group to be included on the big screens throughout the weekend! Send photos digitally to [Jennifer Belock](#).

10) DONATIONS OF FLEECE (or funds):

At the Convention Expo, young people will have the opportunity to help their brothers and sisters making fleece tie blankets which will be donated to agencies that serve those in need. BUT...in order to make that happen, we need FLEECE! Or the money to purchase it! Are you able to help us seek donations? Your young people might want to donate - great! But we don't want to put more of a burden just on the youth or campus ministry programs . . . is there a St. Vincent DePaul Society at your parish that might be able to make a donation? What about Holy Name, Altar Rosary Society, etc.? Please request a donation letter from [Kathy Goller](#) if you can share it with anyone or any group who may be able or willing to help.

11) DONATIONS FOR DIGNITY BAGS

One more service project . . . and request: The Expo will also feature an area where teens can fill Dignity Bags with toiletries that are needed by those who are struggling financially. If each person coming to the Convention could bring at least ONE item (from the assigned list below), we can make at least 100 bags! If people can contribute more items, that just means we'll be able to make even more bags! All items requested can be purchased at your favorite neighborhood dollar store (for \$1!). Donations will be collected in the Expo at the start of the Convention, and teens can help fill the bags all weekend! Please ask your group members to bring the item that is assigned to your county/vicariate:

4.25 oz. bar soap: Northern Erie

18 oz. shampoo: Southern Tier: Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany

20 oz. body lotion: Eastern Erie & Tri-County

6 oz. toothpaste: City of Buffalo: Northwest Buffalo and Southeast Buffalo

42 soft full toothbrush: Niagara, Orleans, Genesee & Wyoming

2.6 oz. deodorant: Southern Erie

12) SPONSORS, EXHIBITORS, ADVERTISERS:

Generating significant sponsorship revenue will help us to lower the price of the Convention! Do you know a person, business leader or organization that might be interested in sponsorship, exhibiting or advertising opportunities with our Convention? Please [review the information](#) and invite those who may be interested to consider the possibilities! Contact [Kathy Goller](#) for more information. Your parish or school might also be interested in placing an ad in the souvenir program!

If you need assistance preparing for the Convention in any

way, please do not hesitate to contact our staff!
Thanks for all that you are doing for our young people and our Convention!

Surviving AND Thriving with Our Teens

Come and spend a morning to discuss the challenges and mysteries of our adolescent sons and daughters with Dr. Bob & Dr. Maggie McCarty, experts in the area of adolescent behavior and development. Together they will provide practical



communication techniques and other guidelines for surviving and thriving with our teenagers!



Sunday, February 19 from 9:00am-1:30pm (brunch included) at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown Buffalo. [Download a registration form...](#)

Safe Environment Update

Please remember that all adult and junior advisor chaperones for the Diocesan Youth Convention must be in full compliance with diocesan Safe Environment policies. This includes:

- Completed Uniform Volunteer Application on file at parish
- Signed Code of Conduct on file at parish
- Two reference checks by parish personnel - notes on file at parish
- Have had a criminal background check through the diocese
- Attendance at a Protecting God's Children seminar
- Up-to-date on reading online training bulletins



All parish group leaders must sign the [Safe Environment Compliance letter](#) and return it by January 31, 2012. The diocese will audit all chaperones to be sure that all are in full compliance and will contact group leaders to resolve any issues.

Please remember that accounts that were seriously delinquent (no training bulletins read in all of 2011) were suspended on December 31, 2011. Accounts that are suspended can update their personal information but all training is blocked from further access. Remember that ALL individuals who work with youth on a regular basis are required to read each of the monthly training bulletins and have a criminal background check conducted through the Diocese.

What is Venturing?

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years of age. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Venturing is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth, adult leaders, and organizations in their communities. Local community organizations establish a Venturing crew by matching their people and program resources to the interests of young people in the community. The result is a program of exciting and meaningful activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, grow, develop leadership skills, and become good citizens. Venturing crews can specialize in a variety of avocation or hobby interests.

[Venturing goals & methods...](#)



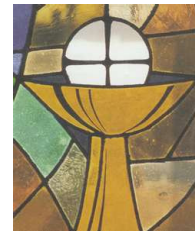
Building Strong Catholic Families

Fifteen parishes in our diocese are engaging with the vision of building [Strong Catholic Families](#). Is yours one of them? Would you like to be? Many parishes are now scheduling Parent Sessions for the spring, or scheduling consultations for the leaders in their parish to share this engaging vision. Contact [Chris Hanley](#) in the Department of Lifelong Faith Formation to learn more.



Minister of Holy Communion Training for Teens

A training session for high school students who wish to be a minister of Holy Communion in their parish or school will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 25 from 6:00-9:00 pm at St. John the Baptist Church, 1083 Englewood (old convent), Kenmore. These formation sessions do not cover the Communion to the Sick training. All applicants must be approved by their home pastor or campus minister and complete registration forms personally received from him/her. Any questions, please contact the Office of Worship at (716) 847-5545.



Youth 2000 NY: Experience the Power of His Presence

St. Leo the Great Church in Amherst will be hosting a youth retreat for teens throughout our Diocese and beyond. All youth and young adults ages 15-30 are invited to a weekend of spiritual renewal, prayer, music and fellowship beginning Friday at 6:30 PM until Sunday at 2:00 PM. The festival will be led by the FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE RENEWAL. Participants may sleep over at St. Leo's or commute each day.



For registration forms and more information, call 716-835-8905 x14 or go to

www.stleothegreatamherst.com.

Colleagues in Ministry

Won't you join us for faith & fellowship at a Colleagues in Youth Ministry gathering?

Evening: Tuesday January 24 7:30pm-9:30pm St Stephen Grand Island (2100 Baseline Road Grand Island NY 14072)

Daytime: Wednesday January 25 10am-12pm St. Gregory the Great St. Gregory the Great (200 St Gregory Ct Williamsville, NY 14221)

Contact [Jennifer Belock](#) for more information.

Spring Enrichment!

Christ the King Seminary is pleased to announce its Continuing Education Classes for the Spring 2012 semester. A wide variety of classes is being offered, including "Community Called Church", "The Gospels", "Spirituality for Life and Ministry", "Religion in the United States", and "Gospel of John", among others. Christ the King Seminary offers classes at satellite locations and distance learning options.

Classes begin the week of February 13. Visit the [Christ the King Seminary web site](#) for a complete class listing and registration form.

Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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Like us on Facebook 

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

From the prayer of Archbishop Oscar Romero

**Group
Leader
Free!**

**Special Offer for Parishes New - or New Again - to
the Convention!**

If your parish has never attended the Convention - or has not attended in the past 3 years - we're rolling out the Welcome Mat! Bring a group of at least 4 youth to the Convention, and the group leader registration is complimentary! (All registrations must be full weekend packages, and the group leader must share a room with one other adult. Group must be accompanied by at least two adults. Value \$177!

Offer Expires: 2/10/12

Save

Special Offer for Returning Parishes!

Looking to save money on your Convention registration fees? Recruit another _____

\$100

parish* to attend that has never attended, or hasn't been in three years or more, and take \$100 off your total bill!**

* Need suggestions or contact information for parishes to call? Contact Kathy Goller.

**\$100 discount applies to each new parish recruited. Send us the name of each new parish that you recruit, and when that parish registers, we will enter a \$100 credit to your account.

Offer Expires: 2/10/12

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