

**From:** Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry [mcoates@buffalodiocese.ccsend.com] on behalf of Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry [youth@buffalodiocese.org]

**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2011 4:16 PM

**To:** Goller, Kathryn

**Subject:** News from the Diocese of Buffalo - Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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**May 2011**

**Youth & Young Adult Ministry Connections**

**Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry**



**Dear Kathy,**

It never ceases to make me laugh when people complain that the Church never changes! I understand what they mean at some level, and I admit that there are aspects of our Church that we might consider "unchanging." However it seems to me that every day brings some new change to our ministry, and that the pace of change in our world and in the church only seems to grow exponentially with each passing month and year!

This is definitely true in the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. Many of you will remember that last year we engaged in an extensive assessment and evaluation process. Our staff began implementing the resulting action plan throughout this past school year, and this year will bring more substantive change as we move into further action items.

Some major changes to our programming that we want to alert you to:

- The **Midsummer Charity Ball** will not be held this year. While still popular with some teens and parishes, attendance has steadily declined and many parish leaders indicated that this event does not serve a significant purpose for their ministry. We will explore other ways of raising money for the Convention scholarship fund.
- **Lights for the World** will not be held this fall. While a popular event for some, others have commented that early in the fall is a difficult time to gather large groups of teens for an event. This program was not as highly rated as others in our survey of parish leaders last year.
- A planning committee will be formed to explore the possibility of creating an **event for middle school youth**. (If interested in serving on this planning team, please contact [Jennifer Belock](#).)
- The **Bishop McNulty Award Dinner Dance** will be discontinued in its current form, HOWEVER, a new "awards/celebration event" will be planned for the fall. Stay tuned for details!
- We plan to present awards only once each year - at this new fall event (and not at the Convention any longer). So, we need volunteers to serve on an "awards revisioning committee" - if interested, contact [Kathy Goller](#). (This group will re-examine and revise all awards presented by our department, including those presented at the Convention.)
- The Convention will remain as a weekend event at the Adam's Mark Hotel, but will undergo an "[Extreme Makeover!](#)". We're celebrating our 60th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention, so save the dates for February 17-19, 2012!

I have great hope that this "pruning" of our ministry will be the catalyst for new growth. Our staff has a strong desire to work more closely with parishes and parish leaders, providing support, consultation, training and resources for you as you engage in ministry with youth and young adults. We hope that reducing some of our youth ministry programming will allow us to redirect more resources to these areas.

I hope that these changes will bring much life to our shared ministry throughout the diocese. I know that for some, these changes might be tough. For others, they may be met with excitement. Whatever your reaction is, I hope that you will stay in touch with us about your needs, and continue to walk with us and work with us to serve youth and young adults throughout our diocese.

Peace and blessings,  
[Kathy Goller](#)



## Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry Events

### May 26th

Colleagues in Ministry; 7pm; St. Mary of Lourdes, (Mayville/Bemus Point)

### May 25th

[Strong Catholic Families...Strong Catholic Youth Coffee Hour](#)

## June

### 6th

[Millennial Milestones Showcase](#)

### 17th

[DYRT Application Due](#)

**25th-July 1st**

[Christian Leadership Institute](#)

**16th**

Colleagues in Ministry; St. Stephen, Grand Island 7:30-9:30 PM

**July**

**1st-3rd**

[Camp Turner Reunion](#)

**10th-August 29**

[Camp Turner](#)

**25th & 26th**

[Retreat Training](#)

**November**

**17th-19th**

[NCYC](#)

**2012**

**February 17-19th**

60th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention

**Around the Diocese**

5/23 - [Young Adult: Theology on Tap; 7:30 PM: Dave & Busters, Williamsville](#)

5/31 - [African Children's Choir; 7:00 PM; St. Ann's, Buffalo](#)

6/18 - [Young Adult: Re Picnic, Mass, & Fellowship; 1:00 PM: Chestnut Ridge Park, Orchard Park](#)

6/22 - [Immigration and the Catholic Response: 7-9PM; Catholic Center, Buffalo](#)

[CKS Fall Coures](#)

**Christian Leadership Institute: Deadline Soon!**

Do you wish that young people in your parish or school were trained as leaders? The **Christian Leadership Institute (CLI)** prepares high-school aged teens for active and meaningful leadership in their school, parish and community. CLI fosters leadership potential and teaches practical skills. This faith-based institute forms young Catholics as servant leaders and inspires them to lead as Jesus did. Consider these words from a young person who attended in 2010: "*CLI enabled me to connect with people my own age on a much deeper level than I ever imagined possible. I left CLI with a newfound confidence in myself and my generation, knowing that I had met a group of teens who shared the same beliefs and values.*"



The registration deadline for the **Christian Leadership Institute (CLI)** is June 3. If you plan to sponsor teenagers to attend this week-long leadership training program, don't delay! (Scholarships are also available for those with significant financial need.) CLI will be held from **June 25-July 1, 2011** at the St. Columban Center in Derby. More details can be found at our [website](#) or by contacting [Heather Wolcott](#).

## Extreme Makeover: Convention Edition

### Will you be a part of it?

Next February will bring the 60th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention . . . after 59 years, it's time for some remodeling and updating! Are you (and your young people) interested in participating in the makeover? We'll come to you to get your input! When do you already



have your teens gathered? Or when can you gather them for some conversation about the Convention? [Contact Kathy Goller](#) and let her know when you'd like one of our staff to come and visit with your group as part of the Extreme Convention Makeover project! To get you (and your group) started in thinking about this, consider this question:

***Given what you know about teenagers today, about the church (and parishes) today, and about society today...if the Convention didn't exist, and we wanted to start from scratch in creating it, what would we include?***

Time to get your toolbox and hardhat!



## Celebrate Graduates (high school & college too)

How does your parish recognize the graduation milestone? Are you able to help those graduating and their families see this time as holy? [Click here for some strategies that may help you and a blessing for graduates.](#)

## Strong Catholic Families...Strong Catholic COFFEE??

Give your ministry a JOLT by coming to hear great ideas about engaging parents more fully in the life of the church and the faith formation of their children! Join us on **Wednesday, May 25 (9:30-11:30 AM)** for a [Coffee Hour](#) to explore parental engagement and how the [Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth](#) initiative might be a valuable resource for your parish. Come for great conversation, networking, and inspiration or help in planning for 2011-2012! RSVP to [Elizabeth Santini](#).



## Safe Environment Compliance Form DUE

The month of May seems to be speeding by...don't forget that IMMEDIATELY after May comes **JUNE 1st - the deadline for submitting your Safe Environment Compliance Report!** And if you send in your form by June 1st, you will be entered in a drawing for

fabulous prizes! (Not a trip to Hawaii, but gift cards for some of your favorite places are always the right size aren't they??)

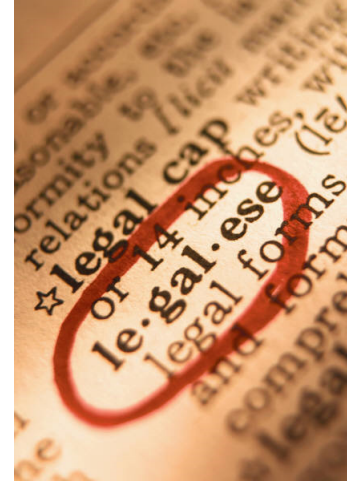
All parish catechetical and youth ministry leaders are responsible for verifying that all staff and volunteers in their programs are in compliance with Diocesan Safe Environment policies. (For clarification about what "compliance" means, please see [Bishop Kmiec's letter from April 20, 2011](#) .) The diocese is audited by the USCCB each year, and in order to complete our preparations for this audit, we need a form and report from you.

- **Form is due BY JUNE 1, 2011.**
- **The form and process to complete the form will be the same as last year.**
- [Download the form and the instructions.](#)

Remember, if you have been maintaining your list (Master Report) of volunteers all year, completing this form will be easy! If you need help with this

process, catechetical leaders should contact [Mary Beth Coates](#) and youth ministry leaders should contact [Kathy Goller](#).

**Don't delay - complete your form in May!**



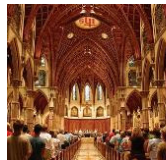
## Are you interested in hearing about "what works" in young adult ministry?

Come for the Emerging Best Practices Showcase on Monday, June 6 from 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm at the Catholic Center in Buffalo. Learn from leaders in other parishes about what has helped them be successful or in some cases what growing edges still exist in their ministry with young adults. You will have opportunities to participate in best practice presentations, visit displays that showcase projects from around the diocese, and network with other parish leaders. Please register with [Elizabeth Santini](#) or 716-847-5505 at your earliest convenience.

[Learn more...](#)



## Are YOU Ready for the New Roman Missal?



Welcoming the  
**ROMAN MISSAL** THIRD EDITION  
*Deepen, Nurture, Celebrate*

In case you haven't heard, some of the words of the Mass are changing, beginning on the First Sunday of Advent in November 2011. Are you prepared? Are your young people prepared? If you are looking for resources to help your teens understand the changes, here are some to get you started. (If you know of other good resources on this topic for young people, please pass on the information to [Kathy Goller](#) so that it can be shared with other parish leaders.)

[Liturgy Training Publications](#) has created "[What's New About the Mass For Teens](#)," a booklet for youth in grades 7-12, plus a [Teaching Edition for catechists and youth ministers](#). They also collaborated with [Spirit Juice Studios](#) to create short videos (2-3 minutes each), featuring teenagers that explain some of the key elements of these

changes (and correspond to the different chapters of the booklet). The [videos are available for FREE on YouTube](#) - and even without the booklets, they would be a great resource for catechesis and discussion with your youth group or religious education class. If you plan to help your middle school and high school youth prepare for the changes ahead, check out these resources and begin planning for the fall!

## **Bowling for Hope Benefits Catholic Charities**

### **The 2011 Catholic Charities**

### **Bowl-A-Thon raised over \$5,000 for Catholic Charities!**



The Bowl-A-Thon is one way for parish youth ministries to help to raise money and awareness for Catholic Charities. With the Appeal continuing, donations are still being tabulated.

We would like to recognize the following achievements.

Parish with the Highest Amount Raised per Person: Ss. Joachim & Anne, Attica

Parish with the Highest Average Score: St. Francis of Assisi, Tonawanda

Highest Individual Average: Jesse Saltarelli, St. Francis of Assisi, Tonawanda

Highest Individual Amount Collected: Ruthie Hewson, St. Joseph University Parish, Buffalo

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Bowl-A-Thon! Thanks to all of the youth ministry programs that made a donation to Catholic Charities! Catholic Charities of Western New York is the largest organization of the church and its services impact thousands of people in the eight counties of the diocese.

Consider connecting your youth or parish [Facebook](#) page to the Catholic Charities of Buffalo, NY page.

## **Make Your Parish Young Adult Friendly by Thomas P. Sweetser, SJ**

Look around you at Sunday Mass? Who do you see? Fr. Sweetser gives an example that takes simple actions to create a young adult friendly atmosphere.



Click here to see how:

[http://www.todaysparish.com/articles/communication/no\\_sub\\_ministry/2010/10-13/make-your-parish-young-adult-friendly](http://www.todaysparish.com/articles/communication/no_sub_ministry/2010/10-13/make-your-parish-young-adult-friendly)

## **Imagining (digital) Parish Life in 2021**

By [Brandon Vogt](#), author of the upcoming book "The Church and New Media: Blogging Converts, Online Activists, and Bishops who Tweet" (Our Sunday Visitor)

"Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices."



Millions of Catholics hear this mantra every week before Mass. And in response, we power down, disconnect and turn off our devices.



But imagine a priest instead requesting parishioners to "please, take out your cell phones, and turn them on." You would surely hear gasps as people wonder whether the priest had misspoken or if their hearing aids need new batteries.

Yet this petition is increasingly being made at parishes all across the country. St. Mary's Catholic Center, the campus parish at Texas A&M University, provides one example. One weekend last September, at the end of each Mass, the presiding priest asked all parishioners to whip out their cell phones and turn them on. He then asked them to text message some basic information to a number associated with the parish, including their name, phone number and email address.

Within a couple of minutes, thousands of parishioners beamed their info to a registration database, establishing a digital connection between the parish and its parishioners (those without cell phones were still able to fill out traditional registration cards). [Read the complete article in OSV Newsweekly's April 17 issue.](#)

### Youth Ministry Best Practice - Mission Trips WITH Parish Connection

Youth ministry and catechetical leaders often agree that mission trips are one of the best experiences for forming disciples. But how can those experiences be powerful and formative for more than just the missionaries themselves? By creating connections with the parish community that sends you forth! Read on to hear some of [Joe Chernowski's](#) story about taking and leading mission trips, making intentional connections with the parish community, and offering a ministry that truly shapes and enlivens the whole parish.



*I never wanted to go on a mission trip. I still wonder if I'm crazy to be excited about spending a week at an orphanage for handicapped and disabled children in the heart of a third world country - in a building with no screens, not nearly enough fans, no TV or internet, and water that we can't drink. I know my mom still thinks I'm nuts... Well Mom, you can thank Justin. Life Teen was running a mission trip for youth ministers, and Justin, who lives in New Mexico talked me into going - mainly so we'd get to hang out for the week. So I got the vaccines, bought the plane tickets, did it all - and then Justin told me he couldn't make it. I was less than happy.*  
[Read more](#)

### Litany to Mary



Looking for a prayer (other than the Rosary) to use during May to honor Mary? [Try this...](#)



## Ministry Leaders: Refresh Yourselves this Summer



Christ the King Seminary is pleased to offer opportunities for retreat this summer:

1. A 3- or 5- day Directed Retreat beginning July 10 (with directors Sr. Marian Baumler, SSMN, Fr. Joseph Burke SJ, and Fr. Rick Reina)
2. Seminar Retreat for Christian Ministers: "Who We Are, What We Believe" with Fr. Peter Drilling (July 10-15)

Please consider one of these retreat options as a way for you to renew your faith and spirit. [Click here for a descriptive brochure and registration form](#)

## CMD Youth Retreat Workshop

Leaders from around the Diocese shared in a day focused on Youth Retreats. The most beneficial part of the workshop was the practical resource in working with one another and generating ideas to be used for retreats. Each group had twenty minutes to begin laying the ground work and pieces for a retreat. [Click here for ideas from each of the groups.](#) These ideas can be used and adapted to a variety of settings in multiple contexts including retreats for Middle School, High School and Confirmation.

For those interested in taking the workshop to the next step, parishes are encouraged to look into the Diocesan Retreat Ministry Training. Adult leaders, youth and parish teams may attend the training to acquire the skills and resources for implementing retreats.

[Information can be found here.](#)

## NCYC: Called to Glory

Imagine 20,000 Catholic youth and young adults gathered in one city for three days . . . the energy, the excitement, and the affirmation that they are not alone in their faith. That is NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference), the largest gathering of Catholic youth in the United States.

This year's event is being held from **November 17-19 in Indianapolis** and the theme is "**Called to Glory.**" NCYC has been described by youth, priests, and other adults as a faith-filled, action-



packed, and fun! The participants are treated to some of the most amazing liturgies and prayer experiences, great speakers



For more information about this exciting opportunity, please contact [Denise York](#) 716-652-6400 or [Jennifer Belock](#) or 716-847-8789. We would be happy to send you a NCYC Promo DVD that includes this year's promotional video. You may also visit the [NCYC website](#). We look forward to being "Called to Glory" with you and your young people!

## How will You Respond?

Would you or young adults you minister like to make a difference in your community, the country, or the world? Do you want to serve those in need and work for social justice?



With nearly 200 programs and thousands of opportunities, RESPONSE 2011, the most comprehensive guide of faith based service opportunities is available and it's free. Summer and school break opportunities are also available. Positions are available for both single and married volunteers, including those with children. Visit [www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org](http://www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org).

## Charis Retreat brings young adults from NYS together in Ingatian Spirituality

"This retreat was an excellent opportunity to meet like-minded, young Catholic folks in a wonderful atmosphere and location." John, age 27

Retreats for, by and with young adults are here in Buffalo! [Read about a new partnership with Charis Ministries that brings a best practice in young adult ministry to our diocese in the National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association Newsletter.](#)



## Contact Info

Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry  
795 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203  
phone: 716-847-8789  
fax: 716-847-8797  
[www.dobyouth.org](http://www.dobyouth.org)  
[youth@buffalodiocese.org](mailto:youth@buffalodiocese.org)

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*"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."  
~Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant." ~Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2*

As we take these steps toward changing our ministry, we have faith that this is what God is calling us to at this present moment. We trust that now is the time to tend to our garden of ministry - uprooting some plants to make way for new growth. Holy Spirit - guide the work of our hands!

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