



Diocese of Buffalo
Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
A member of the Catholic Education Division

August 2, 2010

Dear Colleague in Ministry,

I am very pleased to share with you this Summary Report from the evaluation and strategic planning process that the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry has been engaged in since February 2010. Because your feedback was instrumental to this research project, I am excited to share this report of the results with you.

Following are some of my own reflections on these results. I strongly encourage you to review both this summary report and the full report which is available at www.dobyouth.org and has been emailed to you.

Good News

First, I believe this report contains very good news for our diocese:

- The high response rate (58% of parishes) indicates that parish leaders in the Diocese of Buffalo care a great deal about youth and young adult ministry and are invested in the future of these ministry areas.
- Overall, the results show that our department is effective in most programs and services. While there are opportunities for growth (see below), parish leaders are generally pleased with the department's performance.
- The results also point to an overall consensus on the importance of our programs and services. Again, there is a high degree of support for the work we have been doing.

Challenge

Certainly, these results also point to challenges that need attention:

- With finite resources (staff, budget), we cannot add any programs or services without cutting others. Decisions about what might be reduced or eliminated will be difficult when most items were rated as important and effective.
- A large percentage of parish youth ministry leaders lack formal formation and preparation for ministry. We will devote considerable attention to this need.

Opportunity

These results point to several opportunities that our staff is excited about:

- The data related to the experience level of parish leaders in the diocese shows that many youth ministry and catechetical leaders have a considerable amount of experience in ministry. We look forward to creating new opportunities to partner with parish leaders in implementing aspects of our ministry.
- Several aspects of the results point to a strong desire among parish leaders for more training and formation. This is an exciting need to explore!
- The ranking of stakeholders from the online survey shows a sense in the diocese that our primary constituents are parish leaders. This signifies a shift from our primary "customers" being youth and young adults to being a department that primarily serves parish leaders. I

believe that more clearly articulating this key constituency and focusing our ministry on meeting your needs will strengthen our ministry.

- The data shows that there is great opportunity for us to grow in our development and delivery of consultation services. This is another exciting area for growth!

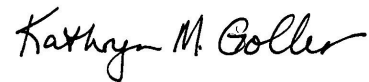
Next Steps

- Please join us at one of the Wine & Cheese & Conversation Gatherings this month to share your thoughts and response to this report!
 - Friday, August 20; 2-4 PM at St. Joseph University Parish, Buffalo
 - Monday, August 23; 7-9 PM at St. Joseph Parish, Gowanda
 - Thursday, August 26; 7-9 PM at Immaculate Conception Parish, East Aurora
- Our Strategic Action Plan based on these results is in development and will be released on September 1st. Watch for it!

I hope to see you this month at one of the Wine & Cheese & Conversation Gatherings to hear your thoughts about our department's future directions. If you are unable to join us at any of these gatherings, please feel free to contact me directly with your feedback at kgoller@buffalodiocese.org or 716-847-8789.

It is our privilege to serve you – a parish leader who serves the youth and young adults of our church. Thank you for your support of our ministry!

Peace and blessings,



Kathryn M. Goller
Director, Youth & Young Adult Ministry