

Dear Homies,

I know it has been a rather long time since you have received a newsletter- my apologies for that. What a year it has been eh? We have done, seen, and received so much. As I reflect back on this year, I am overwhelmed by all the love, support, and prayers that I have received through being with you. You are awesome! When I am at various meetings with other youth ministers, they tend to get annoyed with me constantly saying that I have the BEST teens in the Archdiocese, more than that, universe. We have had a great go of it so far haven't we? The best part is we are just getting started. This summer is PACKED full of activities for you and friends to join in on. Make sure you check out the summer calendar because there activities I don't want you to miss out on! Some of things that you will want to check out will be our Old Skool Games Night (includes Red Light Green Light, What Time is it Mr. Fox, and Wiffle Ball). We are also planning a Tubing Trip to Eldora in early August, don't miss out on this! Space will be limited to 20 teens!

I thought I would begin this newsletter with a top ten list of events that shaped this year in Youth Ministry. I am glad that so many have been able to participate in things we are doing around here! We are only getting started!

### **Katie's Top Ten List of Youth Ministry Events for 2005-2006 year!**

(In no particular order)

1. **Retreat Team discernment**- Each year, the seniors gather in August to choose the roles they will be on the Confirmation Retreat. This is one of my favorite memories because the Holy Spirit was truly working in that room. The way that group of seniors totally turned them over to God and allowed Him to work- I was amazed and speechless.
2. **Catholic Heart Work camp '05 Raleigh**-We gave of ourselves to the communities of Raleigh Durham, to show love and Christ through service. It was record heat during the day reaching 110 degrees. St. Pat's Youth Ministry pretty much showed everyone what was up with our kicking dance parties and general coolness level- by the end of the week everyone wanted to hang out with us. Yeah that's right!
3. **N.C.Y.C (National Catholic Youth Conference, Atlanta)** - Where's Luda? If he knew what was good for him, he would have been hanging with us and 23,000 of our best friends in the Georgia Dome. We met people from all over the country, and nothing touched my heart more than hearing the stories of those who were proud to be Catholic, those who were confronted by anti-Catholic protestors outside the Georgia Dome and chose to approach the situation with love not anger. Christ was truly present.
4. **CLI**- okay, okay, okay, so it's one of my favorites every year and I love it almost as much as my birthday, but where else can you find- some guy drinking gravy, an operetta, fun noodles, intense and awesome Masses, cabins, and a DJ by the pool? No where else. Every year I come away refreshed and enlightened, and packed with great ideas for the next year. There's no other place in the world like it. I just hope I don't get hit in the face with a football again this year.... NOT COOL!
5. **The Confirmation liturgy and process**- Again, to try to put into words what an event has meant to me is difficult. Everything from the music to the lectors to offertory went beautifully. I was also impressed by the number to teens that attended the mass in support of you all. How cool is it to see that you invited your friends from other denominations to come to celebrate your special day. I hope that's something that you continue to do. It's hard to believe that only a year ago I was stepping into this position and now the first year is almost over. Your Confirmation class will always hold a special place in my heart because you were first. Thank you for making this year so worth it, thank you for stepping up and being outstanding leaders- love to you all.
6. **Sophomore Retreat**- For some this is the first retreat experience teens have, so some aren't sure exactly what to expect when they walk through the door. I hope and pray that the Retreat Team was able to provide an experience that helped the sophomores to reflect on Christ and take a step back to see where God was working in their lives. Hey, I had fun ☺

7. **Sophomore Nights-** Man you guys have some awesome insights and such potential to really shake things up around here! It was so great to hear what you thought, because I hadn't really gotten a chance to spend much time with you, but I am so fired up for Confirmation after watching you in action.
8. **Confirmation Retreat-** Again, to try to put something so powerful into words, something that means so much to me is hard. Funny skits, touching moments. It was evident that the Spirit was at work in more ways than one. I was humbled and touched by it. As I heard from one person, "This retreat gave me my life back and taught me that I wasn't alone." Awesome
9. **9<sup>th</sup> grade Retreat-** This Retreat is totally a voluntary thing. You 9<sup>th</sup> graders have something really special, and I can't wait to see where your leadership is going to take Youth Ministry in the upcoming years! From the images of God made with aluminum foil to the funny skits, you guys rock!
10. **Hanging out in the office-** There are too many funny moments to recall right now of time being spent just hanging out in the office or down in the Youth Center. To me, this is one of the best ways to form community. Thank you all of you who come in just to say hi, eat candy, strum the guitar, etc. Thank you also to those of you who continue to invite new people in, even those who don't go to St. Pat's. I love that many of you realize that this is YOUR parish and you are welcome here. Know that I am always here for you, even if it is to share a joke.

**(As if I could just stop with 10!)**

11. **Good Friday service-** "That was the most beautiful service I have ever been to", "We have such wonderful reverent teens" "Oh my, I can't even speak" Those were just some of the comments that I have heard from the members of the parish in regards to our Stations of the Cross service the teens are in charge of. The music was beautiful, the candle holders and speakers were reverent and prayerful. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this annual service an event the parish continues to get something out of.
12. **Archdiocesan Youth Commission-** the Youth Commission is made up of teens from all over the Archdiocese. They are interested in evangelizing, organizing and getting things changed for teens. It has been a pleasure to work with such fine "movers and shakers" as well as get ideas for things we can do to make our Youth Ministry better.
13. **The Spaghetti Supper-** I think I might have been Italian in a past life, because I do love pasta. Yum! What a great community builder being able to serve the members of St. Pat's and even have fun at the same time.
14. **Service-** There is many things that Youth Ministry has done to help our community from Special Olympics to serving the needy at the Catholic Worker house and Community Meals. I was especially thankful to those of you who volunteered your time and those who made donations to help a Bosnian family from our community. They are most grateful, and it was a good way to see Catholic Social teachings come to life.

Obviously there are so many more things that I wish I could have added to this list with events like QUEST, Archdiocesan Youth Congress, and two Youth Rallies. There are so many things that we are doing around here to get people involved, but there are still needs that need to be met. Keep reaching out, stretching your faith, learning and growing!

### **Catholic Heart Work camp**

Our bags are packed, and we are ready to go! On July 1<sup>st</sup>, we embark for our summer service trip to San Antonio Texas. It's the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row that St. Patrick has gone to a Catholic Heart Work camp, and it's our biggest group yet. The group going to Catholic Heart is: Travis McCarty, Deeni Deery, Daina Deery, DJ Deery, Amy Bangtson, Amy Weber, Abby Conrad, Abby Bermal, Brittaney Konrardy, Caitlin Hagarty, Ben Hagarty, Sydney Steil, Alexa Davidson, Jon Relph, Mike Di Marco, Tom Paniccuci, Anna Javallena, Casi Naber, Alex Ulfers, Bryce Duchman, Danielle Kelly, Katie Kelly, Victor Mujica, Rachel Saul, Courtney Olson, Paige Lake, Amanda Traetow, Laura Formanek, Billy Niner, Brittan Lawrence, Hanna Wiesley, Jason Goulden, and Hannah Walsh. Chaperones are: Cara Walsh, Jill Gansemer, Chris Starbuck, Bob Gross, Julie Schmidt and I.

### **Christian Leadership Institute (CLI)**

The Christian Leadership Institute will be held two weeks this summer, Week I is July , Week II is July 23-28. CLI is a place to develop and strengthen leadership skills, lead and plan different forms of prayer, and a place to meet people from all over the state. The parish pays half of the expenses for this life-changing week but space is limited, we are only allowed to take 7 from each parish and 5 spaces are filled already. If you are interested in going, please contact Katie at 277-3036.

## Confirmation 2006

What a moving celebration on April 29<sup>th</sup> we had! I still have a lump in my throat just thinking about how special it was to share this day with all of you! The bragging rights are still all true when I tell other youth ministers that I have the best teens in the universe. You made the parish so proud! The following teens were Confirmed: *Bradley Bakula, Jill Blanshan, Christopher Byrd, Alexa Davidson, Daniel Deery, Heather Dexter, Michael DiMarco, Rachel Elbert, Stacey Erickson, Kyle Ford, Andrew Friedrich, Colleen Gannon, Thomas Gilbert, Jason Goulden, Benjamin Hagarty, Jason Hall, Jeffery Hellman, Nathan Hohnstein, Katherine Hover, Jacqueline Itzen, Jocelyn Itzen, Danielle Kelly, Brittney Konrardy, Brigid Lane, Brittan Lawrence, Abigail Long, Matthew Nagle, William Niner, Briana Reinke, Jonathan Relph, Benjamin Seemann, Austin Spencer, Sydney Steil, Angela Stoss, Kacie Swanson, Aaron Taft, Rachel Thompson, Alexander Ulfers, and Hanna Wiesley*

Congratulations to all of you!

## Congratulations to all seniors!

We are so proud of your accomplishments and wish you the very best in the years to come. Always know that St. Patrick is your home and you are always welcome here! Make sure that you bring in your address for next year so you can receive "surprises" in the mail ☺

## Catholics in Action

Once again this summer we are participating in the Archdiocesan sponsored Catholics in Action (CIA). The premise of this service experience is to "dig deep" into Catholic Social Teachings. It shows where these teachings are working in our community but also where there are needs. It is a very eye opening experience dealing with homelessness, poverty and hunger. This experience is open for any 9-12 graders. The cost for this experience is \$35.00. A brochure is included in this newsletter, and the registration is due by June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Wednesday Nights= Youth Ministry Nights**  
During the summer on Wednesdays, all teens in high school (9-12 graders) are welcome to join us for Youth Ministry activities. We are planning different activities for all kinds of people. Some of the events we have planned are: Capture the Flag, Water Wars, Kickball, and a Stump the Priest night. We will gather at the Youth Center at 7pm and embark from there! Events will end by 9pm. Friends are welcome and check the bulletin to see if you need to bring any supplies such as water guns.

## Confirmation 2007

Attention soon-to-be-juniors! It's never too early to get started on your service hours! There are plenty of opportunities available! There will be a mandatory meeting

Here are the following events that will take place through the Youth Ministry office this summer. You are welcome to any of these events. Make sure you check the bulletin

## **June**

June 6 Youth Commission meets with Archbishop, Dubuque, 5pm.  
June 7 Capture the Flag Night; meet at YC, 7-9  
June 14 Old Skool Games Night, meet at YC, 7-9  
June 21 Catholic Heart Work camp meeting and potluck, YC, 6pm  
June 21 Kickball Night, meet at YC, 7-9  
June 27-29 Catholics in Action, YC  
June 28 No Wednesday night activity (CIA)

## **July**

July 1-9 Catholic Heart Work camp, San Antonio  
July 5 No Wednesday night activity (CHWC)  
July 12 Stump the Priest Night, YC, 7-9  
July 19 Tie-dying, Parish Center parking lot,  
July 23-28 Christian Leadership Institute, YMCA Camp, Boone, IA  
July 26 No Wednesday night activity, (CLI)

## **August**

August 2 No Wednesday night activity  
August 3 and 4 End of the Summer Blast, Tubing in Eldora  
August 9 Last Wednesday night Youth Ministry Night- Water Wars, YC, 7-9  
August 16 Retreat Team begins, YC, 7-9  
August 23 Retreat Team, YC, 7-9