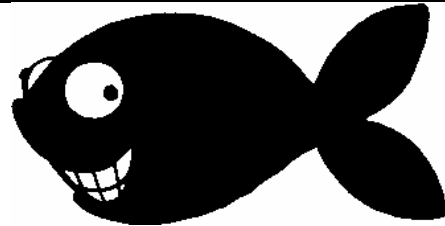


# Go Fish

a newsletter for adult youth ministry leaders

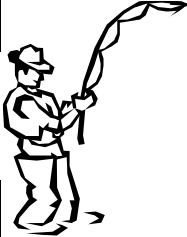
On the Web at [www.cdowk.org/yyam](http://www.cdowk.org/yyam)

Mt. 4:19



January  
2007

For more details on any of the following, contact the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries (316)269-3930



## *Casting into Deeper Waters*

By Christine Edmonds

*Keep Your Eyes on the Goal*



### **Resolution time?**

Ah, it is now 2007. A brand new year, full of promise and full of unknown blessings! I suppose it is human nature to look back on the old year, and decide that this year will be different in some way—happier, healthier, more organized. Isn't that where all those well-meaning resolutions come from anyway?

This natural tendency for new beginnings may also apply to your ministry. So, how might your youth ministry be different this year? Is it in need of major overhauling—or just some minor tweaking—or is it just fine as it is? Wherever you fall on the spectrum of change, it is important to keep your eyes ever fixed on the goal. We cannot expect to enjoy success if we are unaware of the goal we seek—or the means to reach the goal. So, let's review our goals.

### **The Goal of the Office**

The goal/purpose of this office is to "Support parishes in responding to the needs of youth and young adults, empowering them to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in the Catholic faith." Ever mindful of this goal, my staff and I are always ready to assist you in your efforts. We are available to meet with your parish staff and/or volunteers at your parish to inspire, train and/or evaluate your current program and make recommendations. This is a painless process that incorporates creative brainstorming and energizing ideas to enliven your ministry. Please avail yourselves of our free services!

### **The Goal of Youth Ministry**

The goal of your youth ministry is to "develop disciples." Basically, a disciple is a young person of maturing Christian faith. This is really at the heart of all we do, and there are many different approaches that one could take to move toward this goal. As you consider your youth ministry, are there programs in place to nurture faith development? What areas/programs do you have that are already working well? How can you use them to strengthen other areas? In this issue of *GoFish*, you will find a summary of the characteristics of a maturing Christian youth. This can be the first step to developing a fresh approach to achieving your youth ministry goal. (This is just one of the resources gained at the recent National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry.) You may use these characteristics to see which areas of ministry and/or programs are supporting their development—and which could be added or enhanced to do so. You don't always have to recreate the wheel. Begin by concentrating on what you already have! New doesn't always mean different—it can also refer to a discovery—an uncovering of something that already exists.

### **All Things Made New!**

Are you open to discovering how God may be moving in your life and in your ministry? With our eyes fixed firmly on our goals, let 2007 be a year of renewal and discovery in the light of the grace of God. In the words of Isaiah (43:19) "See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" May you be blessed with a new, hope-filled year!

Discover how your group can still sign up.



NCYC  
2007



Good News!

You haven't missed the boat.

*"... By living in the Church, you Discover that you are not alone on the 'Way...'"*

Ahoy! Discover the Way as we gather as the larger Church, and along the way discover new friends from around the country. Join us, as we join with 20,000 others, for the National Catholic Youth Conference in Columbus, OH, from Nov. 8 to Nov. 10. NCYC is an exciting three days full of amazing speakers, inspiring workshops and dynamic music by Catholic artists.

The Diocesan Youth Office will be taking 2 buses to Columbus this year and you are more than welcome to come aboard the ship. We have too many signed up for one bus, but not enough to fill the second bus. This means we have approximately 30 additional openings for youth and adults. The cost is \$475 per person plus meals.

Call David (316-269-3928) by February 12, 2007 to sign up your group.

This is a great way to expose your youth to the vibrancy and vitality of today's young church. They'll come back and share their excitement and experiences with your other parish youth. NCYC is for Catholic freshmen through seniors and their adult chaperones.

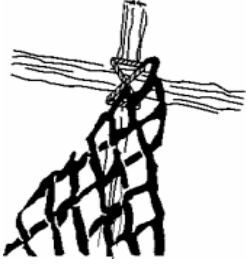
## Themes and Keynote Speakers

Friday Morning: Discover the Way  
Tony Melendez  
(Diocese of Wichita Keynote in 2000)

Saturday Morning: Discover the Life  
Renee Bondi  
(Diocese of Wichita Keynote in 2004)

Friday Evening: Discover the Truth  
Father R. Tony Ricard

Main Stage EMCEE  
Steve Angrisano  
(Diocese of Wichita Keynote in 2006)



## CAUGHT IN THE NET

*He said to them, "Cast your net over the right side of the boat, and you will find something."*

*John 21:6*

Ah, the start of January and the bowl season is going strong. Still to come on February 4 is the big one, the Souper Bowl. It's not too late to stir up your team and become part of the excitement while helping a worthy cause. And not to worry, participating in this Souper Bowl won't cause you to miss that other Super Bowl. In fact you might want to make a party out of watching that one to celebrate your success in the big one.

**WEB SITE of the month:** [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org). Thousands of youth from churches across the country will Stir it Up in the fight against hunger and poverty on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4, 2007. No matter the size of your youth group, you can help provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to the needy. How? Join the Souper Bowl of Caring.

It's as simple as holding soup pots at church doors following worship on or near Super Bowl Sunday and asking worshippers to drop in \$1 to help people who are hungry. Souper Bowl of Caring provides all the materials you need. All you have to do is:

- REGISTER your group at [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org)
- RALLY your youth on Super Bowl Sunday
- REPORT your collection to [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org) on or near Super Bowl Sunday
- DONATE your collection to the charity of your choice



Everyone who is registered will receive a resource kit that includes the materials you need to plan and promote your event: an owner's manual with step-by-step instructions and ideas, a publicity poster, a bulletin insert, a soup pot sticker and a DVD.

In 2006, youth across the country generated over \$5 million for local hunger charities through the Souper Bowl of Caring with Catholic youth collecting \$1 million of that total. In 2007, we hope to mobilize even more youth and generate even more money for those in need. In fact, the national goal is \$8 million with the Catholic goal set at seeing 2007 Catholic parishes participate in 2007. The special Souper Bowl of Caring Catholic web page address is: <http://www.souperbowl.org/stats.php?denom=8>

*"The Souper Bowl of Caring teaches young people the joy that comes from serving others and concretizes Catholic social teaching. We encourage Catholic youth groups to join this ecumenical movement that embodies Jesus' teaching to 'love thy neighbor' and work to transform Super Bowl weekend into the largest weekend of giving and serving in our country."*

-Bob McCarty, Executive Director, National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM)

Until next time, "keep on casting your net to the right side of the boat."

[walker@cdowk.org](mailto:walker@cdowk.org)

[www.cdowk.org/yyam/](http://www.cdowk.org/yyam/)

## REGION 1 NEWS

By Jennifer McKenna, Region 1 Advisor

Region 1 continues to make one big awesome flame in our section of the diocese. On average we have 100 youth attend the regional events. And although most of the regional activities are sports-related, we celebrate Mass together before we begin and generally have icebreaker activities along with some kind of meal together. We started the year off with the 4th annual Mud Volleyball tournament hosted by Sacred Heart in Frontenac. Then it was off to Pittsburg for our rally. The youth braved the cold in October as they enjoyed some softball in Erie. We wrapped up the first part of the year with dodgeball in Cherokee hosted by the youth of Scammon and Columbus. We take a break during December and start up again in January with a Winter Lock-In in St. Paul. We end the Regional activities with a Volleyball tournament in Girard every February.

Region 1 is located in the Southeast corner of the state. It is made up of 12 counties spanning from Greenwood in the West to Cherokee in the East. Most of our parishes in Region 1 have very strong CYO programs that focus on service at the parish level. Here's what some of them have been up to:

**Yates Center** has a breakfast every month for their parishioners where they serve them cinnamon rolls, biscuits & gravy, pancakes, juice & coffee. They make up gift baskets during the holidays for the under-privileged and have even washed all the windows in the church.

**St. Paul** recognized Fire Safety Week in October where they made breakfast for all the volunteer fire personnel who help protect their rural community. They also have a Santa Breakfast for all the children of St. Francis parish. The children also get an opportunity to get their picture taken with the jolly ol' man. **Scammon** offers landscaping services to the parishioners. During their Turkey dinner they provide the wheels that help get the dinners to those who can not make it to the church. They also go Christmas caroling and make cookies for the older parishioners of St. Bridget's.

**Girard** has a CYO mass once a month where the youth take care of all the responsibilities. They also go caroling to the elderly and make fruit baskets for the holidays.

**Erie** sells window insurance during Halloween to the

townspeople with hopes of protecting every one from egg bandits. They make a turkey dinner with all the fixings for their senior citizens during the fall. And once a quarter they serve biscuits & Gravy to the parishioners of St. Ambrose.

We have good strong parishes in Region 1 and they serve their communities well. But it is nice when we can get together as a region and show our youth how big our Catholic community is in our neck of the diocese. Our youth enjoy their time together and always look forward to the next event.

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## DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

The 2007 Diocesan Youth Conference Registration Packets were mailed out in mid-December. If your parish did not receive one, please call the Youth Office and let us know. The forms and information are also available on the Youth Office website: [www.cdowk.org/yyam](http://www.cdowk.org/yyam). Please note the deadline dates for the various forms. It will help us tremendously if we receive the forms in a timely manner.

We will once again split the Mission Project funds between the medical clinic in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, and the hurricane relief efforts in our southern states. The need in both places is very great, so keep working on those fund-raising projects!

Remember, all adults accompanying youth to the Conference must have VIRTUS training and be registered online. If you have any questions about this, please call the Youth Office as soon as possible.

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Thanks to Charles Dunleavy (See Genesis 3)

06-19-2006

WHY COULDN'T THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT HAVE BEEN BROCCOLI?



## THE ANCHOR

By Joel Arnold

This month, about 400 teenagers from the Wichita diocese will get on buses and travel to DC for the March for Life. Some of these youth will come back forever changed, dedicated to protecting innocent life. Others will say it was “a fun time,” that they had a great time seeing the nation’s capital with their friends. What’s the difference between these two experiences? It’s the difference between a field trip and a pilgrimage.

Now before I get too serious, let me just say up front that I had an unforgettable time on my first March for Life. It was truly an adventure seeing the Lincoln Memorial at night, riding the subway for the first time, and exploring the National Gallery. There is definitely room for fun on this trip. But the motivation has to remain strong and ever-present: I am here to stand for what I believe in. If you lose focus of that, once your toes are numb, your fingers frozen and the crowd is inching along, an opportunity to offer up these sacrifices quickly devolves into “How much longer? Are we almost done?”

As youth ministers, we can make a crucial difference in the experience by our response upon their return. Romans 13:11 says “It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.” Our teens have had a wake-up call! Their eyes have been opened to the serious state of our culture. They are ready for action! Internally, they do not want to return to their normal status quo life, but it is so easy for them to do so if we don’t empower them to make a difference. Here are just a few ideas:

- 1) Encourage stewardship—Volunteer with a crisis pregnancy organization or with a group that works with people who have physical disabilities. Children with disabilities are often targeted in abortion, and working with these joyful people puts a human face on a distressing problem.
- 2) Teach compassion—I remember marching alongside people who yelled and carried signs that made me cringe. This approach is sadly misguided, casting judgment rather than sowing reconciliation. We need to begin building a generation concerned with healing and forgiveness of the other half of victims: the women who were lied to and hurt. Only when this group can feel forgiven and loved will we see any change.
- 3) Pray at Tiller’s—This is a big one. Here in Wichita is one of the most infamous abortion clinics in the country. It is so much more comfortable to forget it is here. It is not easy to go out there. But I guarantee that you will never look at the issue of abortion the same once you stand there and see the look of desperation on the faces of the women who drive in. You will be changed as you grasp that one less person will be leaving that building. It is a sobering reality. And maybe we need that.

Heavy article this month, I know. But ultimately, I want all my articles to be about hope. Our youth have the capability to change our society. They are energetic; they are passionate about doing the good; they are tireless. I am convinced that our teens can change this city. They just need the tools.

### COUNTDOWN TO CONFERENCE

<b>February 1</b>	DCYB application forms due to Youth Office
<b>February 9</b>	Regional Catholic Youth of the Year nominations due to Regional Advisors Light of Christ Award nominations due to Regional Advisors
<b>February 23</b>	Airport Hilton reservation form due to Airport Hilton (copy to Youth Office) Conference Registration form & fees and all other forms due to Youth Office
<b>March 24-25</b>	Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference at the Wichita Airport Hilton

## CHARACTERISTICS OF MATURE CHRISTIAN YOUTH

The goal of youth ministry is to empower young disciples of Jesus Christ. What would such a disciple look like? Consider these nine indicators as a means to evaluate your current efforts:

A maturing Christian youth is one who:

- **Seeks Spiritual Growth:** alone and with others pursues questions, guidance and commitment through conversation, study of faith, reading the bible, prayer, small groups, retreats
- **Possesses a vital faith:** keenly aware of God present and active in one’s own life, the lives of others, and the life of the world
- **Practices faith:** actively practices faith in Jesus Christ privately and publicly through regular attendance at worship, participation in ministry and leadership in a congregation
- **Make the Christian faith a way of life:** recognizes God’s “call” and integrates one’s beliefs into the conversation, decisions, and actions of daily life
- **Lives a life of service:** involved in activities caring for others and addressing injustice and immorality
- **Reaches out to others:** reaches out to others who are different or in need through prayer, hospitality, conversation and support
- **Exercises moral responsibility:** lives with integrity utilizing faith in making considered moral decisions
- **Speaks publicly about faith:** speaks openly about Jesus Christ and God’s participation in one’s own life and the life of the world
- **Possesses a positive spirit:** reflects loving and hopeful attitudes toward others and life

(Findings from *The Study of Exemplary Congregations in Youth Ministry* as reported by John Roberto in “The Spirit of Youth Ministry” Workshop at the NCCYM. For additional information about these characteristics and the study, contact the Youth Office and/or go to [www.exemplarym.com](http://www.exemplarym.com))

## UNDERSTANDING YOUTH MINISTRY

Are you stuck in a setting rut? Most youth ministries focus on the “youth group” model of ministry where youth gather with other youth. This is a wonderful setting, but it is only one of at least eight possible settings. In *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*, the bishops recommend multiple ministerial settings to meet the needs of youth “where they are”---mindful that they cannot always make it to a gathered event at the church. The following table offers some examples of activities for a variety of settings. This year, break open some new possibilities for your youth ministry!

	Youth	Family	Parish	Community
<b>Gathered</b>	Youth Group; PSR class; Confirmation class	Parent-teen night; Games with small siblings; Traveling family dinners; Generations of Faith	Blessings at Mass (for grads, cars, trips, etc.); Youth at parish event; Youth host parish event; <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i>	Prayer before school starts; Help at community kitchen; Ecumenical prayer services
<b>Non-Gathered</b>	Small groups; Personal prayer guides; Prayer partners; One-on-one mentors	Dinner discussion starters; Lectionary-based car “chat” cards; Home prayer rituals	Parishioners send “care packages” during exam week; Altar society or men’s club pray for youth	Scholarships for leadership Opportunities; Internships with Service organizations

## **TIPS FOR PARENTS**

talkin' with teenagers

**Having trouble communicating with your teenager? What parent isn't, right? According to Charles A. "Chuck" Smith, a child development specialist, if you find ways to talk about your own experiences in your everyday life, you may prompt teenagers to open up about difficult issues. Here are some other tips to help parents talk with their teenagers:**

- Set aside preconceived notions about what a teenager should or shouldn't do. Every person is different—even within the same family—and it's not helpful to compare one teenager to another.
- Think about where the teenager is developmentally. His or her body is changing, so remember how awkward it was when you were that age, and try to sympathize with the intense changes they're experiencing.
- Try to understand what your child's life is like. Rather than criticize music he or she listens to, ask him or her to pick out a favorite selection and listen to it together. The goal is to begin understanding and appreciating your teenager's world. Smith says talking about daily life can make it easier for teenagers to talk about tough issues. Deciding which issues are key to a teenager's growth, development, and personal safety is the key to connecting with your teenagers.

**Source:** [www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/16056/](http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/16056/)

## **YM 101 - Idea of the Month**

TEENAGER OF THE WEEK (OR MONTH)

**Make your youth feel special and create anticipation for upcoming meetings by integrating a "Teenager of the Week" plan.**

Each week during announcement time, give clues about the "teenager of the week." Try to recognize unique characteristics that this person has—such as interesting personality quirks, the way he or she laughs, or even the type of gum he or she might chew. The other youth will love trying to guess who the person is. When the person is finally identified, everyone gets to meet and congratulate him or her. Have the group pray for this person, thanking God for him or her, then give the honoree a gift of appreciation. (Examples: A homemade medal or a crown, or a certificate.) This can create a good sense of community among the young people, and helps them to get to know each other.

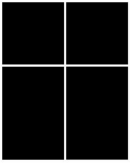
(This idea was submitted to GROUP Magazine by Gabe Taylor of Scottsdale, AZ)

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# **VIRTUS Reminder!**

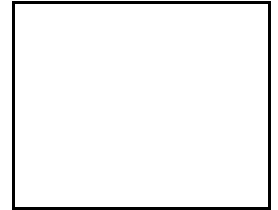
All volleyball coaches must be Virtus certified.

All adults attending the Diocesan Youth  
Conference must be Virtus certified.

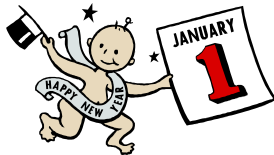


CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE  
OF WICHITA

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries  
424 N. Broadway  
Wichita, KS 67202



## YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### JANUARY 2007

- 1 *Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, Chancery closed*
- 7 Conference Planning Board meeting
- 11 TEC Adult Faith Community, 7 p.m.
- 15 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Chancery closed*
- 18-23 March for Life
- 26-Feb. 15 National Evangelization Team (NET) in the Wichita Diocese

### FEBRUARY 2007

- 2 NET Junior High retreat day, SLC
- 8 TEC Adult Faith Community, 7 p.m.

### MARCH 2007

- 3-5 TEC #111, Wichita
- 8 TEC Adult Faith Community, 7 p.m.
- 24-25 Diocesan Youth Conference, Airport Hilton



### APRIL 2007

- 12 TEC Adult Faith Community, 7 p.m.
- 14 Middle School Ministry Rally (tentative)
- 21-22 CLAY, Mulvane

### MAY 2007

- 10 TEC Adult Faith Community, 7 p.m.

### JUNE 2007

- 14 TEC Adult Faith Community, 7 p.m.

### JULY 2007

- 9-13 YDAC Mission Week (tentative)
- 14-16 TEC #112, Wichita
- 28-30 TEC #113, Pittsburg

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### LOOKING AHEAD

- Nov. 8-10 National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), Columbus, Ohio



*"If you breathe upon a spark, It quickens into a flame."*