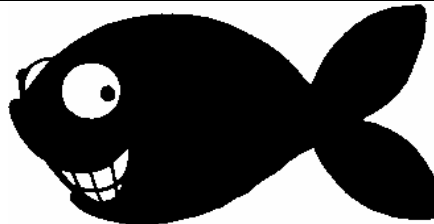


Go Fish

a newsletter for adult youth ministry leaders

On the Web at www.cdowk.org/yyam

Mt. 4:19



May - June
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



"If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

--John 13:14-15

The Joy of Leadership

The Three Elements of a Successful Ministry

The feature in this May-June issue of *GoFish* is the third in a series on elements for a successful ministry. The first two elements, VISION and STRUCTURE, were addressed in the January-February and March-April issues, respectively. This issue will focus on the third element of LEADERSHIP. It makes sense that even if you have a wonderful vision, and you have a structure or plan in place to see that vision realized, you still need people to implement the vision within the structure—in other words, you need good leadership. In fact, it is easy to see how all three elements form a sort of tri-pod. You can't have one without the other two.

Jesus as Model

During youth leadership events, we often re-enact the "washing of the feet" as found in the Gospel of John. Jesus showed his disciples that servant-leadership is what his ministry was all about. He demonstrated for them, in a very clear way, the attitude of humility and service which characterizes true Christian leadership. We are asked to "put our gifts at the service of one another" (1 Peter 4:10.) And, indeed, leadership is a gift. Whatever level of leadership you may be experiencing in youth ministry, it is truly a blessing from God. And you have been asked to share that gift with others. We have a perfect model in Jesus. And much more than merely a model, we have the assurance of the Holy Spirit to inspire us, and support us, and guide us in our ministry. "Do not let your hearts be troubled." (John 14:1.) Remember, whatever God has called you to, He will bring you through.

The Joy of Leadership

This assurance of God's abiding presence is the joy of being a leader in Catholic Youth Ministry. We have been given so much—the gift of faith, the treasury of our Catholic tradition, and the joy of the Spirit burning in our hearts—that we are fairly bursting to share the reason for our joy with others! God has called each of us to serve Him in some way. What better way to serve than to lead young people to an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ? It is a privilege and an honor to give back to God the blessings He has bestowed upon us. And, then, to be able to do that in the company of enthusiastic, faith-filled, amazing young people—well, that is just icing on the cake!

Share the Joy

Every adult in the faith community has a part to play in this invitation to young people for discipleship—it is not the exclusive role of a youth minister or CYO advisor. Developing our leadership skills enables us to find new and creative ways to incorporate all of the adults in our parish in some form of leadership in youth ministry—be it direct service to youth or through behind-the-scenes prayer support. This issue of *GoFish* is filled with leadership opportunities on all levels for adults and youth. May these ideas inspire you to climb aboard the leader "ship" and sail into a wonderful future for Catholic Youth Ministry!

“AND THE DESERT SHALL BLOOM”

—Reflections on the National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM)

By Tina Wier

As a first time attendee to this conference, I wasn't sure what to expect. Imagine if you can all the excitement and spiritual emotion that comes with our local conference each spring, but with only adults in attendance. We all love our youth, but this weekend is for filling OUR spiritual tanks so that we can go the extra miles needed with the kids in our own parishes. The first thing you notice as you tour the different booths at the Resource Expo is all of the literature that is freely given, so that you may bring it back and put it to good use. And that first evening is filled with the wonderful music and speakers that make you feel like you are the greatest because of the work that you do with your youth. Many times you wonder how you can go on, but this conference is just the spark you need to get yourself jump-started.

And after you have listened to speakers in general sessions and workshops, you KNOW that what you do is so important to our church's future.

You can participate as much or as little as you want, but it is evident from the start that you are going to want to be at every session possible. There are also the extra things, like listening to Jesse Manibusan and Curtis Stephan playing to a small group of about 50 over lunch with music that is so inspiring, or spending time in the Prayer Labyrinth, which helps you unwind and connect with God, even in a place like Las Vegas, or the sessions that help you become even closer to the friends with whom you attended the conference.

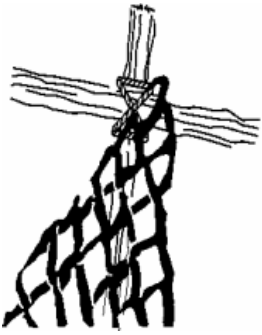
I don't think there is anything negative to say. God was with us those 3 days and we could feel it. The next NFCYM Conference will be in 2 years, in Cleveland. I hope to be there and I hope that you will try to make it also. You won't be sorry.

TEN WAYS TO FIND AND SUSTAIN VOLUNTEERS

The following are 10 principles to build support for your Youth Ministry. Some examples were given, but there are many more examples for each.

(Excerpted from a workshop presented by Rich Curran at NCCYM 2006. For more information on this topic, please contact the Youth & Young Adult Ministries Office (YYAM).

- 1) Have a Contagious Vision for Your Ministry
- 2) There is No Recruiting Season
 - Every day is an opportunity for invitation and ministry growth
- 3) All Volunteers Deserve A Clear, Specific and Written Job Description
- 4) Bill Gates Model of Ministry: Make it User Friendly
 - Place people according to their passion and talents and not your need
- 5) Provide Stimulating & Interactive Training and Formation
 - Create multiple avenues for volunteers to network
- 6) Build A Ministry Family
 - Invest 30% of your time getting to know and serving your volunteers
- 7) Families That Pray Together, Stay Together
 - Provide for the spiritual needs of volunteers
- 8) Control Freaks Make Terrible Leaders
 - In the same way God wants to use you, He wants to use others
- 9) Affirmation Comes in Many Forms
 - People first. Paper & programs second.
- 10) Let the Parish Know What You Are Doing
 - Community Knowledge + Community Investment = Community PR = More Volunteers



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*

Since I'm sure that all of you faithfully check out the Youth Ministry Box* in the Catholic Advance each week, let me lead you straight to the chase. You may have noticed something listed called XLT. As a good leader you are probably wondering "what is XLT, and how can I find out more?"

WEB-SITE of the month: www.xltwichita.com. This is the web-site for XLT. Here you will find more information on dates, upcoming speakers, and an opportunity to listen to past XLT night podcasts, streaming downloaded audio from the internet.

"XLT (eXaLT) is a Wichita metro area night of full band praise and worship, a night of excellent youth-oriented speakers from around the Wichita Diocese, and a night of awesome adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist. Above all, XLT is an experience. An experience your teens will never forget. XLT is a diocese support ministry. A ministry that supports what you are already doing at your parish. We would like to invite you to bring your teens to XLT, every other Thursday night starting at 7:11 p.m. and finishing around 9 p.m. at "The Ville" at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Andover, 123 N. Andover Rd." Quoted from the XLT Plugged-In flyer which can be found on the Youth Office web-site www.cdowk.org/yyam/.

I believe that leaders are motivators. Rupert Murdoch said, "In motivating people, you've got to engage their minds and their hearts." That is what XLT is all about. It's another outlet for motivating our high school youth to lead them closer to Christ.

**The Youth Ministry Box runs in every issue of the Catholic Advance, space permitting. In it we list upcoming youth events from around the diocese. We also mention any upcoming deadlines for forms, applications, etc.*

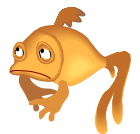
Until next time, "keep on casting your net to the right side of the boat."

walker@cdowk.org

www.cdowk.org/yyam/

FOND FAREWELL FISHES!!!

It is with a great deal of sadness that we bid farewell to Rose Mary Wells who is retiring. Rose Mary has been the Administrative Assistant for the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries for the past 8 year. For years, Rose Mary has single-handedly coordinated the annual National Evangelization Team (NET) visits, formatted numerous versions of our various newsletters, as well as kept up with correspondence to all of our parishes and program participants. It has been an absolute JOY to have Rose Mary on staff for these many years. Please join me in offering Rose Mary our very BEST "fishes" for a relaxing and fun-filled retirement!



PLEASE NOTE—

This is the last paper issue of GoFish. Beginning with the July-August 2007 issue, GoFish will **only** be available on the Internet and may be found at www.cdowk.org/yyam . If you do not have access to the Internet, please let us know so that we can make other arrangements to get GoFish to you. Email reminders about future GoFish issues will be posted in the monthly First Friday Fish. If you currently do not receive the First Friday Fish emails, please notify us at yyam@cdowk.org. Thank you!

LEADERSHIP AND FORMATION FOR YOUTH

The National Black Catholic Congress (Congress X), July 12-15, 2007, Buffalo Convention Center, Buffalo New York. This year's theme is "*Christ is With Us: Celebrating the Gifts of the Sacraments.*" There will be a special youth track with three mega sessions and several breakout session options. \$125 includes admission to conference, youth track, conference materials and breakfast. For more information, contact the National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC) Attention Marydel Gaiser , 716-693-0178 or email mgaiser@adelphia.net. Forms are also available in the YYAM office.

Catholic Heart Work Camp. This is a national event that is taking place locally. A work camp will be held in El Dorado, KS the week of **July 29 – August 4, 2007**. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve, pray and meet with youth from all over the country! Go to www.heartworkcamp.com

Scouting and Youth Ministry Opportunities

Did you know that Scouting is Youth Ministry? "The mission of the Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Diocese of Wichita is to promote Scouting as a ministry with the Church TO, WITH, BY and FOR youth. Recognizing the common vision of all Scouting to develop the whole person, the Committee seeks to further the spiritual growth of all in Scouting." Scouting medals and patches are available for youth and adults in a number of areas. In addition, information on Venturing units is available from the Catholic Committee on Scouting. Don't overlook this wonderful leadership opportunity for youth! Contact Debi Mansch, chair of the CCS, at 620-488-2967 for more information on various religious emblems, activities, adults awards and almost anything you may want to know about Catholic Scouting may be found at the following websites of by contacting our local chairperson, Debi Mansch at 620-488-2967:

www.nccs-bsa.org (National Catholic Committee on Scouting) www.nfcym.org/nccgscf (National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry/National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire)

Vocational Tool

The Carmelite Fathers have created a 28-minute DVD entitled "Men of Carmel." This DVD was developed to help create a culture of vocations among the young men in our parishes. It is designed to enhance their understanding of what it is to be a religious and may lead some of them to consider religious life in a serious way. For a copy of this DVD, please contact the YYAM office. For more information on the Carmelite Order, please go to www.carmelites.net

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR ADULTS

National opportunities:

The Institute for New Youth Ministers (INYM) in Chicago IL

This Institute is designed for Youth Ministers with 1 to 4 years experience and is scheduled for July 31 – August 4, 2007. The five day conference will help you focus on developing the right vision, the right lifestyle, the right relationships, and the right practical methodologies for disciple-making youth ministry. Cost of \$579 covers housing, all meals and evening receptions, materials and some essential youth ministry resources. This Institute is co-sponsored by NACYML. Partial scholarships are available in the YYAM office.

The National Summer Program for Pastoral Juvenil Hispana – Leavenworth, KS

This is a national event that will held in our "backyard." The *Instituto Fe y Vida* offers four programs from July 1 – 7, 2007. The Symposium and Seminars are designed for adults and young adult leaders (18 and over) who minister to Hispanic youth and are presented in Spanish. Registration fees before May 15 are \$350 plus \$275 for a double room for the entire week. For more information, please contact Walter Mena 209-475-0302 or Joe Matty 209-951-3483 or email wmena@feyvida.org. Forms are available in the YYAM Office.

Regional opportunities:

Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies at St. Ambrose University, Davenport, IA

Cycle One Courses offered summer 2007:

Principles of Youth Ministry—June 7-8

Practices of Youth Ministry – June 9-10

Foundations for Ministry Leadership – July 12-13

Skills for Christian Leadership – July 14-15

Graduate and undergraduate credit is available for participants through St. Ambrose University.

Discounts are available for multiple participants from the same parish/school; *partial scholarships are available through the YYAM Office.* The fee for each two-day course is \$175, plus \$25 per night for a single room.

This program is offered in conjunction with the Center for Ministry Development and is nationally recognized and offered in over 50 dioceses. **Registration deadline for June workshops is May 30, and for July workshops, June 30.** For more information, contact P.J. Foley 563-333-6041, FoleyPaulJ@sau.edu

Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies in Omaha, NE

Principles of Youth Ministry – Sep 8-9, 2007

Practices of Youth Ministry – Nov 3-4, 2007

Foundations for Ministry Leadership – Feb 2-3, 2008

Skills for Christian Leadership - Apr 5-6, 2008

Graduate and undergraduate credit is available through Creighton University.

The fee for each two-day course is \$175, plus housing. Discounts are available for groups of 4—sharing books.

This program is offered in conjunction with the Center for Ministry Development.

Participants may register at any time. Contact: Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies

Box 4130 Omaha, NE 68104, Phone: 402-554-8493, FAX: 402-554-8402,

e-mail: rmramos@archomaha.org, www.archomaha.com/ORF/ORFPages/cert.html

Local Opportunities:

Summer Theology Institute at the Spiritual Life Center – July 19-21, 2007

“How the Catholic Church Built Western Civilization” For more information, see www.slcwichita.org

Religious Studies Program with a Catechetical Youth Ministry Track – Spiritual Life Center

These classes are held on the second Saturday of each month from September to June. The ministry track begins at 8:00 am, and may be taken separately from the Core Curriculum, which meets from 9:30 am until 3:50 pm.

Partial scholarships are available for those who wish to take these classes.

Quarterly workshops are planned for adult youth ministry leaders in the Catholic Diocese of Wichita. The topics and dates for 2007-2008 are:

Sep 22 – Planning for Youth Ministry

Nov 03 – Catholic Christian Morality

Jan 26 – Building Community with Youth

Apr 26 – How to Plan Retreats for Youth

Fall Regional Dinners will be scheduled in each of the five regions of the diocese. This will provide a nice evening of eating, sharing successes and struggles, and swapping ideas!

Additional Training Opportunities – In addition to these gathered events, discussion boards will be available on the Catholic Youth Ministry Network site, and on-line courses will be advertised as they become available. If you are interested in either of these two computer training sources, please send your email address to yyam@cdowk.org

LEADERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE YOUTH MINISTRY

The following recommendations were made for coordinators of parish youth ministry in book *Effective Practices for Dynamic Youth Ministry* and have been paraphrased here:

- 1) Create time for your own spiritual growth
- 2) Tap into the community and support of other youth ministry leaders in your area
- 3) Make use of local and national resources for you and for the youth of your parish
- 4) Develop a team of adults and youth in your parish to coordinate youth ministry and help shape the vision and plan for your ministry
- 5) Provide ongoing training opportunities for the adult volunteers of your parish to strengthen their skills and nurture their spiritual development.
- 6) Provide leadership, teaching and ministry opportunities within the youth ministry program for youth
- 7) Continue your own education to develop skills through diocesan training programs, certificate training programs, and other programs.
- 8) Strengthen your relationship with other leaders in the parish, (pastor, parish staff, etc.) to enhance collaboration and improve communication and awareness.

For additional information on these recommendations, refer to *Effective Practices for Dynamic Youth Ministry*, by Thomas East. Copyright © 2004 by Saint Mary's Press.

LEADERSHIP ROLES IN YOUTH MINISTRY

Within a parish youth ministry, there are a variety of leadership roles for adults. It would be helpful to keep these various roles in mind when recruiting adults for youth ministry. Each role involves varying degrees of involvement. Here are some suggested roles and their descriptions:

- 1) **Coordinator of Youth Ministry.** This is similar to the role of a D/CRE within a parish. Just as the DRE identifies, trains and supports the catechists in the parish, the Coordinator of Youth Ministry helps to facilitate the gifts of the parish to fulfill its ministry to youth. This facilitation includes working with adults and youth on a team, and helping to infuse the youth into the life of the parish.
- 2) **Youth Ministry Team Member.** Adults on the youth ministry team work with the Coordinator and youth representatives to oversee the vision and evaluation of the parish youth ministry efforts. Team members may or may not be program leaders—but usually in smaller parishes they serve in both roles. This team continues to monitor the youth ministry by considering the “Big Picture.” (For example, the TEC Core Team oversees the health and development of the TEC community, but may or may be currently serving on TEC weekends.)
- 3) **Program Leader.** This person is responsible for a specific youth ministry effort, whether it is a program, activity or event. Depending upon the scope of the effort, a team may be assembled by the Program Leader to assist in the implementation of the effort. (For example, a Program Leader for a Dinner Theatre may assemble a team of adults and youth for grocery shopping, cooking, decorating, set-up and clean-up, talent, ticket sales, etc.)
- 4) **Program Planning Team Member.** Adults who serve on program teams mentioned above.
- 5) **Support Staff.** These adults support the parish youth ministry by serving as chaperones, cookie-bakers, drivers, etc.
- 6) **Advocates/Links.** These adults are members of the parish and larger community that support the efforts of the parish youth ministry. (For example, the local high school principal might be supportive by considering the youth ministry calendar when planning major events such as prom.)



THE ANCHOR

By Joel Arnold

The girls were all admiring each other in their beautiful white dresses and veils. The boys had cleaned up nicely in their suits and ties. It was First Communion day at our parish. The Gospel that Sunday was the story of Jesus and Thomas. Thomas doubts that Jesus is risen and declares it will take quite an experience for him to believe. The next time Jesus drops by, he calls Thomas forward. "Put your fingers here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

I've heard that story many times, but sometimes something new will jump out at you. And that day, I thought: "Whoa. That's pretty personal. Putting your hand in someone's side? Doesn't get much closer than that." And here we were, gathered to celebrate these children entering into an even deeper closeness with Jesus. The Gospel finished with Christ encouraging us, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Though he said it 2,000 years ago, Jesus was delivering a message directly to these kids!

These children come dressed in their best with hearts overflowing with faith: "This is Jesus!" But often, as the years pass, it becomes harder for them to see with the eyes of the heart. Our witness is so important to them! We must continue to bring them to the Blessed Sacrament. The feast of Corpus Christi (June 10 this year) is a great reminder of how we must follow Christ. The tradition on this day is for the parish to process around the block, behind the priest carrying the Eucharist. It is a bold witness, both to the next generation and to people who happen to drive by ("Look at those crazy Catholics! Following that gold container! Why are they doing that?!")

Even if your parish doesn't practice this custom, this summer can be a time to become like a child again. He waits for us to come to him, to draw near to him, to follow him. He waits with grace to pour out. He waits with a vision to impart. For He is the Source and the Summit. May we cry out like Thomas, "My Lord and my God!"

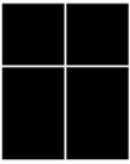
NET NEWS

The National Evangelization Team (NET) will be in the Wichita Diocese from January 25 to February 14, 2008. If you are interested in booking a dynamic retreat for your high school or junior high school youth, contact the Youth Office by phone at (316) 269-3930 or e-mail yyam@cdowk.org.

For your consideration...

The following qualities have been proposed as necessary for a youth minister to effectively communicate the beliefs of our faith to young people. How do these qualities apply to you?

- *Vulnerability*
- *Compassion*
- *Solidarity*
- *Imagination*



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF WICHITA

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

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2007

- 17 XLT, St. Vincent, Andover, 7:11 p.m.
- 28 *Chancery closed for Memorial Day*
- 31 XLT, St. Vincent, Andover, 7:11 p.m.

JUNE 2007

- 1-3 DCYB retreat
- 8-9 Regional Advisors retreat
- 10 Youth Leadership Day, SEAS
- 14 XLT, St. Vincent, Andover, 7:11 p.m.

JULY 2007

- 4 *Chancery closed for Independence Day*
- 14-16 TEC #112, Wichita
- 26 XLT, St. Vincent, Andover, 7:11 p.m.
- 28-30 TEC #113, Pittsburg

AUGUST 2007

- 9 XLT, St. Vincent, Andover, 7:11 p.m.
- 23 XLT, St. Vincent, Andover, 7:11 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2007

- 29-30 CLAY, El Dorado



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NOVEMBER 2007

- 8-10 National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), Columbus, Ohio
- 22-23 *Chancery closed for Thanksgiving break*

DECEMBER 2007

- 1-3 TEC #114, Wichita
- 25 *Chancery closed for Christmas*

LOOKING AHEAD

January 25-February 14, 2008—NET (National Evangelization Team) in the diocese.

So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord."

—John 21: 6-7

