



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

Annual Report 2009-2010

The Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Buffalo is pleased to present this annual report of our activities and accomplishments from September 2009 through August 2010. Please join with us in celebrating all that has been accomplished in this ministry during this past year!



2009-2010 Goals

1) Develop a plan for young adult ministry and begin implementation.

Greg Coogan began his tenure with the DYYAM in August 2009 and immediately began work on this plan. Consultations took place throughout the fall, and the diocesan pastoral plan for young adult ministry was released in January 2010. The major initiative begun in this area is the **Millennial Milestones Project**, a collaborative project with the Department of Lifelong Faith Formation funded by the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo. This endeavor will build diocesan infrastructure and parish capacity to more effectively reach out to young adults at important milestones in their lives. Other endeavors thus far include: launch of a young adult ministry section on the department

Because of CLI, I now have the skills I need to serve as a leader. I also have a deeper understanding of what it means to be a servant leader just as Christ was for us. I definitely feel called to follow in Christ's footsteps and lead as he did.
 CLI 2010 Participant

web site; a Catholic Leadership Training program for 18-22 year olds held in January; establishing a Youth Adult Ministry Committee in April; initiating the College Connection program in May.

2) Contact all parishes in the diocese to update youth ministry contact information.

From December through March, the DYYAM staff contacted leaders in every parish in the diocese and obtained current contact information for youth and young adult ministry leaders. This information resulted in the development of diocesan email distribution lists, and has enabled the DYYAM to more accurately and efficiently contact the key leaders in each parish.

3) Evaluate current programming of the department and revise schedule for 2010-2011.

This goal expanded throughout the year to become a complete strategic planning process, including a diocesan needs assessment. Focus groups were held in February, and an online survey was conducted in April.

Preliminary results were presented in May and the complete reports were disseminated in August. The DYYAM will begin implementing the strategic action plan resulting from this work in September.

Other Key Accomplishments

- 1) Two new staff members (Greg Coogan and Jennifer Belock) joined the department and began contributing in significant ways to our ministry in the diocese.

BY THE NUMBERS	
109.....	Parishes Served Overall
80.....	Parishes served through Youth Programs
65.....	Parishes served through Adult Training/Formation
49.....	Parishes served through Consultation Contacts
256.....	Lights for the World
873.....	Youth Convention participants
50.....	Young Christians at Work participants
48.....	Christian Leadership Institute participants
65.....	Retreat participants
16.....	Diocesan Youth Board members
11.....	Diocesan Retreat Team members
25.....	Young adults at Catholic Leadership Training
123.....	Catholic scouting troops in the diocese
230.....	Religious emblems awarded to scouts
28.....	Rental groups at Camp Turner
395.....	Summer Campers
1,591+ ...	Youth & YA served by dept. programs/services

- 2) The DYYAM launched a new department web site (www.dobyouth.org) and department Facebook page.
- 3) We piloted a successful Parent Track at the Diocesan Youth Convention.
- 4) The volunteer base for the Diocesan Youth Convention was expanded, including more people in planning and implementing this event.
- 5) A wealth of resources were created and provided to the parents of the Christian Leadership Institute participants so that they might be better prepared to support their children as young leaders. Parents were also invited to the CLI Closing Prayer Service.

Your department is doing a wonderful job. Thank you for all you have to offer and thank you for always being just a phone call or e-mail away!

Parish Leader responding to department evaluation survey

Goals for 2010-2011

1) Begin implementation of action plan resulting from strategic planning process.

Implementation will begin in September 2010 and continue through 2012. Every area of our ministry (direct programs for youth, young adult ministry, Camp Turner, training and formation of leaders, parish support and consulting services) will be impacted by this plan.

2) Expand diocesan efforts in young adult ministry.

This goal will be achieved in large part through the Millennial Milestones Project as the DYYAM and Lifelong Faith Formation support the project parishes and build our own infrastructure to support

young adult ministry. Other diocesan programs for young adults (retreats, workshops, etc.) will be piloted.

3) Increase communication with constituents, especially through electronic means.

The DYYAM will develop and implement a communications plan that includes a monthly e-newsletter, regular Facebook updates, and expansion of the web site, as well as targeted personal visits to parish leaders.

Trends to Attend To

The DYYAM is continuing to observe and respond to three key trends in our ministry:

1) Integration of catechesis and youth ministry

Fully 50% of the key youth ministry leaders in our diocese are their parish's primary catechetical leaders, and we continue to see more youth ministry leaders who have responsibility for adolescent catechesis as part of their job description. The DYYAM will continue to work closely with the Department of Lifelong Faith Formation to help parishes design effective ministries for youth that integrate solid, intentional, well-planned catechesis within a comprehensive program of ministry opportunities for youth.

2) Attention to Parents

The results of the National Study on Youth & Religion are clear: parents matter—a lot. The faith traditions that have historically fared best on measures of religiosity and devotion to faith are those that have anchored faith in the home. The Catholic Church, unfortunately, has developed a default position that encourages parents to delegate their responsibility for faith formation to “the professionals” at the parish. To help inspire a paradigm shift in our parishes’

Many Thanks . . .

For the following Grants:

- ◆ \$95,500 from the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo for the Millennial Milestones Project
- ◆ \$15,000 from the Msgr. Amico Trust for a school bus for Camp Turner
- ◆ \$3,500 from the Bishop’s Council of the Laity for scholarships for the Christian Leadership Institute

ministries, the DYYAM and Department of Lifelong Faith Formation are teaming up in the coming year to present an in-service for parish leaders entitled, **Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth.**

3) Importance of Technology

Technology continues to be critical in the lives of our youth and young adults, and thus it must be an important tool in our ministry. The DYYAM will continue to promote effective strategies and guidelines for using technology in ministry.

The young people that went to Convention continue to be involved in youth ministry here at the parish. Convention helps them feel more connected to the Church as a whole. Convention is the catalyst for their excitement about getting young people involved in youth ministry at the parish. The young people that went this year want to bring even more next year. They see how being involved benefits their peers. They are not inviting teens just to go to Convention, but to be an active part of their parish faith community. I think the momentum will give energy to the current youth ministry program.

Parish Youth Ministry
Coordinator