



June 2011

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Connections  
Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Department of  
Youth & Young  
Adult Ministry

July

Dear Heather,

Last month, I shared some of the "plans for change" that our department is making for the coming year. This month, I had ample opportunities to reflect on and be grateful for values and traditions that I hope are constants.

## Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

July

1st-3rd  
[Camp Turner Reunion](#)

10th-August 29  
[Camp Turner](#)

20th [Off to College: 6-9 PM; St. Joseph University Parish, Buffalo](#)

21st Colleagues in Ministry; 7:30; Mississippi Mudds/Old Man River, Tonawanda

25th & 26th  
[Retreat Training](#)

November

17th-19th  
[NCYC](#)

2012

February 17-19th  
[60th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention](#)

Other Ministry Opportunities

7/27 - [Keith Heider Concert; 8:30 PM; St. Gregory the Great, Williamsville](#)

Dear Heather,

Last month, I shared some of the "plans for change" that our department is making for the coming year. This month, I had ample opportunities to reflect on and be grateful for values and traditions that I hope are constants.

I have been reminded again, in a number of ways, that those of us engaged in this ministry really are a family. Not just colleagues. Not just "co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord," but often, *family*. On June 10, our family lost one of our dear members: [Louis F. Lombardo](#), former Associate Youth Director, left our earthly home and entered his heavenly reward. Lou served our diocese through his work in our department for thirty-five years (1964-1999)! He was a dedicated servant, master storyteller, expert retreat facilitator, and a beloved guide and mentor for youth and adults alike. Lou worked in the Jamestown office for our department, and while known throughout the diocese, he was especially treasured across the Southern Tier. Several of us members of the youth and young adult ministry "family" traveled to Jamestown for Lou's funeral to join in solidarity as we mourned this loss and celebrated Lou's life and legacy. As I stood in the church that morning, surrounded by Lou's family, youth ministry leaders, and young people who had been inspired by Lou, I was profoundly aware that we are indeed all family - all of us on earth, but in a special way all of us who band together to follow the Lord's call to feed his sheep - especially the young.



In the process of seeking feedback and input on the upcoming changes to our programming, I've also had the opportunity to talk with, have coffee with, and have breakfast or lunch with many youth ministry leaders. Like Lou's funeral, these conversations have reminded me of the profound bond we share, and have been powerful witness to the unity and family nature of our ministry. I am so blessed by each of you who share in this ministry; I'm blessed to count you among my family.



As our department moves toward change in some of our programs, I truly hope that we (all of us - staff and all parish and school leaders) hold fast to the value of unity, and hold fast to each other as colleagues and family. When training those who will serve in leadership roles in ministry, I often remind people that "Who we are is more important than what we do." I offer that same reminder to myself and all of us now - who we are as a youth and young adult ministry family is more important than what we do, what program we run, how many people we're gathering, etc. Thank you for being part of the family!

Peace & blessings,

[Kathy Goller](#)

7/14 - [Young Adult Ministry: Re; 7:30 PM; Nativity of Our Lord, Harris Hill](#)

7/18 - [Young Adult Ministry: Theology on Tap; 7 PM; Dave & Busters, Eastern Hills Mall](#)

August 1-4 - [INYM; Chicago](#)

[CKS Fall Courses](#)



***Camp Turner - Honoring God in the Children confided to our care since 1923.***

SUMMER CAMP - Registrations are being accepted for all summer sessions for children ages 7-16. Visit [www.CampTurner.com](http://www.CampTurner.com) to sign up. Use your credit card or Independent Health Flex Fit Card.

OPEN HOUSE is Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> from 1 PM - 4 PM. Meet the staff and administration. Try the activities. Free Hot dogs with a tour of camp.

ALUMNI SERVICE WEEKEND - Former staff and immediate families are invited to attend and help get camp ready for the summer. Begins Friday, July 1, 6 PM. Concludes with Commissioning Mass for 2011 staff on Sun. July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 PM. Free lodging and meals with RSVP to [www.CampTurner.com](http://www.CampTurner.com).

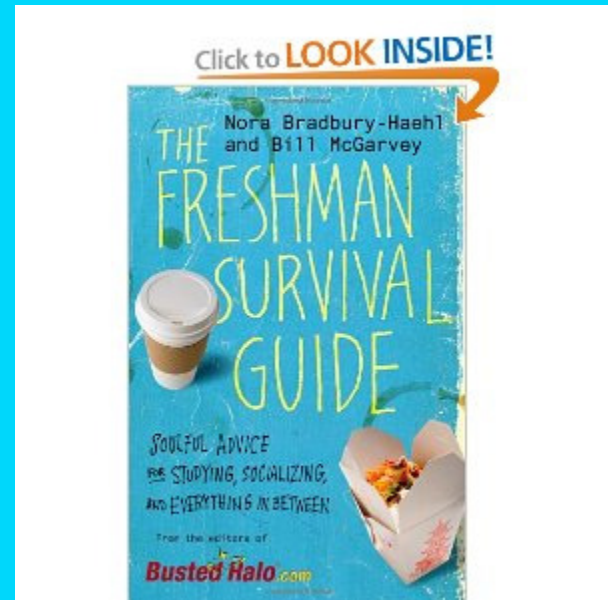
## Off to College An event for your high school graduates!

**Are you beginning your college career in the fall?** Find out answers on topics like *Be Generous with Your Friendship but Stingy with Your Trust* and *"Growing Up" Your Religion* from local college students and Nora Bradbury-Haehl, the co-author of Busted Halo's *The Freshman Survival Guide*. This dynamic and fun-filled evening will be held

**Wednesday, July 20, 2011 from 6 - 9 pm at St. Joseph University Church, 3269 Main Street, Buffalo** (adjacent to UB's South Campus). Free dinner included. Sponsored by The Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, St. Joseph University Church & The Newman Center at UB.

For more information or to RSVP contact [Greg Coogan](#) at 716-847-8793

[Click here for the flyer](#)



## New National Gathering for Young Adults!

The National Catholic Collegiate Conference will be held simultaneously with NCYC. This exciting gathering is a way for young adults (ages 18 - 25) to gather, to celebrate, and to pray. Conference participants will join NCYC's Opening Session and Closing Liturgy. The NCCC will be November 17 - 19, 2011 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Two options are available:

- Register directly with NCCC. Accommodations, meals, and transportation are the responsibility of the participant. The official conference hotel is also the NCCC conference site, the JW Marriott. It will offer rooms to participants for \$186 per night (up to 4 people per room), but participants may stay anywhere they choose. [For more information.](#)
- Travel with the other attendees from the Diocese of Buffalo. Accommodations and travel arrangements are available. For more information about this exciting opportunity, please contact [Denise York](#) 716-652-6400 or [Jennifer Belock](#) or 716-847-8789.

## Retreat Training

### WHAT IS A RETREAT?

A retreat offers young people the opportunity to reflect on how God has been working in their lives, their relationship with Christ, and to begin to explore their own call to discipleship which they received at Baptism. Retreats, especially those that include peer ministry, are perhaps one of our Church's most effective methods of evangelization and catechesis.

### WHO CAN DO RETREAT MINISTRY?

Any faith-filled disciple with the proper training can be involved in retreat ministry!

Effective retreat ministers are those who are actively living their faith and are willing to share that faith journey with others. If you are a responsible, honest, mature leader, Retreat Ministry Training will help you develop the skills you need to be a retreat minister.



**COST:** Registration is only \$30 per person which includes all program materials and lunch on both days.  
**GROUP DISCOUNT:** If your parish or school sends 6 or more people, the cost is \$25 per person.

Deadline for registration is:

July 15, 2011

Please make check payable to:

Diocese of Buffalo

795 Main Street

Buffalo, NY 14203-1250

Phone: 716-847-8789 Fax: 716-847-8797

[Click here for the flyer and more information.](#)



This fall, many Catholic high school graduates will become freshmen on campuses, how can the faith community help their transition? Catholic campus ministries offer strong support but, because of privacy laws and competing activities, struggle to connect with freshman students. The U.S. Council of Serra developed the College Connection Program to help make this connection.

The diocesan department of youth and young adult ministry collects the names of high school graduates in your parish along with the intended colleges and their location. Then, that information is forwarded to the campus ministries who greet the students upon arrival. This information is communicated to the campus ministries only and, otherwise, will remain confidential.

If you would like to make this connection for yourself, your son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter, or other relative, you may enroll them in several ways:

- Enroll on-line: [www.dobyouth.org](http://www.dobyouth.org)
- Fill out a College Connection Postcard from your parish youth minister. (Postcards are available through the department or downloadable from the website)
- Email their name, email address and their college to [gcoogan@buffalodiocese.org](mailto:gcoogan@buffalodiocese.org)
- Call: The Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, 716-847-8793

## **Extreme Makeover: Convention Edition**

### ***Last call for input!***

Are you (and your young people) interested in participating in the "Convention Makeover?" Now is your last chance to stand up and be counted! [Contact Kathy Goller](#) with your thoughts, or to arrange a visit where our staff can talk with your young people. Here is our guiding question:

***Given what you know about teenagers today, about the church (and parishes) today, and about society today...if the Convention didn't exist, and we wanted to start from scratch in creating it, what would we include?***

Time to get your toolbox and hardhat!

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the [60th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention](#) - February 17-19, 2012 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo, featuring Buffalo's own Carrie Ford



## **Emerging Best Practice in Young Adult Ministry**

Think about a recent statement from a 30 something young adult: "You've only got one chance to make a second impression." Weddings and Baptisms are an opportunity to take on this principle with 20 & 30 somethings. St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Lancaster, NY over the past year has been highlighting the Baptism experience (preparation and follow-up) for new parents. One strategy includes a Faith Chest Ministry.

The Faith Chest is given by the parish as a gift for the child on the occasion of his/her Baptism. It is meant to be a repository for those articles significant to the baptized child's journey with Christ throughout his/her life. Things that may be included:

- Baptism Certificate, Baptism Candle, Baptismal Garment and Cloth
- Pictures from the baptism and a written account
- Meaningful prayers and/or Bible verses



Every Faith Chest will be different because each journey will be different!

[To see a copy of the Faith Chest explanation from St. Mary's click here.](#)

Never fear to make the most of points of contact in the lives of young adult parents and Godparents. Think of the many hearts your ministry may touch!

---

## Celebrate Graduates

[Click here for a blessing for graduates.](#)



## Parish Highlight: The Crazy Cancer Crushers

The St. Stephen's Youth Group team, "The Crazy Cancer Crushers", participated in Relay for Life on Grand Island on June 3rd and 4th. The event started at 5 PM on Friday and concluded at 6am on Saturday. All proceeds from the Relay for Life go to help fund the American Cancer Society. Before the Relay, the group was able to hold two bake goods sales and, along with a sale at the Relay, and raised over \$2,000.00 for cancer research. The team decorated their Relay tent with an airport theme including luggage, a snack bar and even their own airplane (well it only fit two people and they got wet as part of our fundraiser.)! Eleven teens made it the whole night and it was beautiful watching the sun rise on Saturday morning. By 6 AM the group was exhausted but it was a great time for an incredible cause. Shannon, the team captain did a fantastic job organizing our team and making sure everything flowed smoothly.



## Looking to Engage Parents More in Church?

[Contact Chris Hanley](#) in the Department of Lifelong Faith Formation to hear about some strategies that have worked for other parishes. Among other ideas, we'll invite you to consider how the [Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth initiative](#) might be a valuable resource for your parish. Now is a great time to make some plans for fall!



## NCYC: Called to Glory

Imagine 20,000 Catholic youth and young adults gathered in one city for three days . . . the energy, the excitement, and the affirmation that they are not alone in their faith. That is NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference), the largest gathering of Catholic youth in the United States.

This year's event is being held from **November 17-19 in Indianapolis** and the theme is "**Called to Glory**." NCYC has been described by youth, priests, and other adults as a faith-filled, action-packed, and fun! The participants are treated to some of the most amazing liturgies and prayer experiences, great speakers

For more information about this exciting opportunity, please contact [Denise York](mailto:Denise.York@dioceseofbuffalo.org) 716-652-6400 or [Jennifer Belock](mailto:Jennifer.Belock@dioceseofbuffalo.org) or 716-847-8789. We would be happy to send you a NCYC Promo DVD that includes this year's promotional video. You may also visit the [NCYC website](http://www.ncyc.org) or [click here](#). We look forward to being "Called to Glory" with you and your young people!



## Employment Opportunities

[Click Here for Job Openings in the Diocese of Buffalo](#)



## Fund Raising: Good Search

Search the web to support you charity!

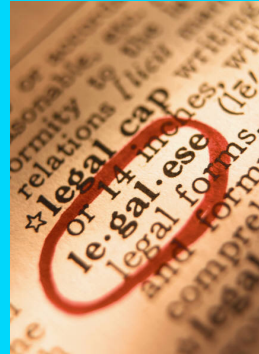
Good Search will give .01 for every time someone searches legitimately and will send a check to your charity. \*minimum of \$20.00 in searches a month.

1. Visit <http://www.goodsearch.com/>
2. Enter Your Charity
3. Search
4. Good Search donates

## Safe Environment Compliance Form - PAST DUE

THANK YOU to those who have submitted a Safe Environment Compliance Form for Youth Ministry! However, there are many parishes that have not provided us with information yet (and those should have received follow up emails from Kathy Goller). If you have not submitted your report yet, please send one of the following responses as soon as possible:

- 1) indication that your parish has NO Youth Ministry program (other than the faith formation/catechetical program)
- 2) indication that any employees or volunteers who serve in Youth Ministry ALSO serve in Religious Education and were already included on the report submitted on Religious Education
- 3) a completed Master Report and the cover sheet (attached) for Youth Ministry.



The official audit year ends on JUNE 30th. After that time, all out-of-compliance parishes will be reported to the Bishop and this has serious implications for our on-site audit this fall.

More information:

- [Bishop Kmiec's April 20 letter](#)
- [Download Compliance Verification Form and Instructions](#)

If you need help with this process, catechetical leaders should contact [Mary Beth Coates](#) and youth ministry leaders should contact [Kathy Goller](#).

## Institute for New Youth Ministers

Try phrases like:  
dramatic savings,  
clearance, overstocked,  
reduced rates, buy 1 get  
1 free, treat yourself,  
you

Imagine a gathering where nationally recognized youth ministry experts identify what they wished they knew when they began as youth ministers. Picture a conference that addresses the common trouble spots, and the real,

but often hidden issues that can make or break a youth ministry. Consider a gathering that helps you focus on the essential elements that lead to a fruitful, disciple-making youth ministry, and you have the **2011 Institute for New Youth Ministers (INYM)**, held at **Techny Towers Conference Center, near Chicago, on August 1-4, 2011.**



The INYM is designed by youth ministry veterans for new youth ministers (0-4 years). Speakers include Bob McCarty, Mike Patin, Ela Milewska, Michael Novelli, and Frank Mercadante.

[Forward email](#)

 SafeUnsubscribe



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to hwolcott@buffalodiocese.org by [youth@buffalodiocese.org](mailto:youth@buffalodiocese.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).  
Diocese of Buffalo-Faith Formation | Diocese of Buffalo | 795 Main Street | Buffalo | NY | 14203