

Goller, Kathryn

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**Sent:** Thursday, October 21, 2010 2:51 PM  
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October 2010  
**Youth & Young Adult Ministry Connections**  
 Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry



**From the Director**



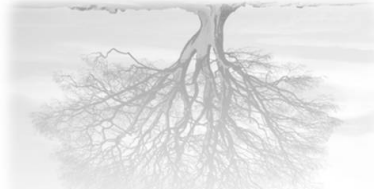
Last month, I encouraged all of us who work with youth and young adults to have a "Whatever it Takes" attitude. This month, I invite us to take one step further...

*"Whatever it Takes - Wherever it's Needed!"*

Earlier this month, I was privileged to meet with the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Regional Director for Catholic Relief Services, Mary McCullough. While I was already familiar with much of the important work of CRS, I realized that we don't share this good news (and the helpful resources!) with our youth ministry and catechetical leaders often enough.

Please be sure to read the article in this month's e-newsletter about the resources and programs from CRS. Yes, CRS is grateful for what we give to them for their work. But do you know how much they give to us - especially to

**Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth**



a new paradigm for ministry and faith formation.

All sessions will be held at St. Gregory the Great, Williamsville. No cost to attend, thanks to the generosity of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo. The Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth initiative is sponsored by the Departments of Catholic Schools, Family Life, Lifelong Faith Formation & Youth & Young Adult Ministry.

**Are You OnCourse?**



Are you looking for a new and easy way to update your knowledge and skills in youth ministry? Try an OnCourse Webinar offered by the National Association of Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders (NACYML) in association with Ministry Training Source. These online webinars are hosted by some of the top individuals working in the field of youth ministry. These webinars are specifically designed to help you develop the skills and competencies which will help you to be a better minister in the community where you serve.

There will be seven webinars offered in the 2010-2011 program year. Participants can sign up for individual webinars, or for the whole series. You can choose to participate in each 90-minute webinar live, or view it in its entirety at your convenience. Topics for 2010-2011 include:

- Integrating Youth into the Parish: The Challenge and the Promise (Bob McCarty)
- Does Evangelization Work Today? (Frank Mercandante)
- "Mmmm...Whatcha Say?" Helping Youth Understand the New Roman Missal (Greg Thompson)
- Taming the Chastity Monster: Inviting Teens to Freedom (Brian Butler)
- Youth Ministry is Dead, Long Live Youth Ministry (Sean Reynolds)
- The "WWHI" of Learning Theory: Understanding & Applying Learning Theory to Youth Ministry (Charlotte McCorquodale & Leigh Sterten)
- Youth Ministry Confronts Global Poverty (Ted Miles & Jill Ruah)

us who work with youth and young adults? Check out the [new site](#) - I **guarantee** that you will find at **least one new idea, resource or action step** that will enhance your ministry!

Please take special note of the resources and call to action for **Peace in Sudan**. This is a critically important and timely issue, and the U.S. Bishops have called for all Catholics to learn about, pray for, and advocate for a peaceful resolution to this dangerous situation. This presents a wonderful opportunity for us and those we minister to in doing "whatever it takes - wherever it's needed." We are needed for these efforts in Sudan. Will you respond? Peace & blessings,  
**Kathy Goller**

#### Upcoming Diocesan Events

[22 - Campus to Parish Dialogue](#)

[27 & 28 - Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth](#)

[29 - Da Bounce presents: Spiritual Warfare: Who is your Peacemaker?](#)

#### NOVEMBER

[19 - Bishop McNulty Award Dinner Dance](#)

#### FEBRUARY

[18-20 - Diocesan Youth Convention](#)

#### Upcoming Parish Events

[October 23 - Worth Living 4: Pro-Life Concert for Teens](#)

(Nativity of the BVM, Harris Hill)

[November 13-14 - Eucharistic Youth Rally](#) (St. Mary of the

[Click here for complete details and registration form.](#) Costs are very reasonable, and there are discounts for NACYML members. [More about NACYML membership...](#)

#### Catholic Relief Services



Some people think of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) as an organization to which we GIVE. Well, it is, but did you also know that it's an organization from which you can GET amazing, helpful and FREE resources for your ministry? CRS has recently launched a new web site designed for parish and school ministry leaders - [Education: Going Global with Youth](#). You will want to add this site to your Favorites! Going Global with Youth is a gateway to lesson plans, retreat outlines, simulation activities, prayer services, stories, and links to other resources and opportunities that explore global issues through the lens of solidarity and Catholic Social Teaching. If you are planning a retreat, youth group night, or religious education session on justice issues, START HERE! And if you are preparing your young people to engage in advocacy and justice work, look no further - the [Catholics Confront Global Poverty Initiative](#) (CRS teaming up with the USCCB!) will help you get started. Looking for a particularly timely and profoundly important issue to capture your young people's hearts and attention? Check out the [Peace in Sudan Initiative](#), and get involved in learning about, praying for and advocating for peace. The 101 Days of Prayer have already begun, but you can still join in! Watch the video and ask your young people how they would like to be involved.

#### Who Are "Emerging Adults?"



If you work with youth or young adults, you'll want to add the term "emerging adults" to your vocabulary. What does it mean? Find out at [Changing Sea: The Changing Spirituality of Emerging Adults Project](#). This web site is an awesome learning tool about the spirituality of emerging adults that looks at emerging adults' participation in church & civic life, friends, marriage, sex, money and work. The project is also studying the question: "What churches do they like?"

#### Support Education of the Whole Child

On September 27, 2010, President Obama said that he feels the school year should be extended. According to President Obama, American children are in school less when compared with other developed countries, causing them to lag behind other nations in academic achievement. While education reform is essential, should the focus be on extending the school year? Read these comments from the American Camping Association, and consider whether they apply to youth ministry as well:

*"The organized camp experience is a vital component in the development and education of the whole child. Camp provides authentic learning environments and serves as the solution to many of the gaps in our current education system. Camp teaches values such as self-esteem, teamwork, and caring - areas where traditional schools sometimes cause more detriment than good. And camp allows everyone, not just the "A" student and the athlete, to thrive and enjoy the process of learning."*

Extending the school year will certainly impact camps, youth ministry programs (think mission trips, camping trips, extended retreats or leadership training programs) and other youth activities. The [American Camp Association](#) has tools that make it easy for you to advocate for whole child education. Join your voice in support for education of the whole child and advocate for effective education reform that also honors the contributions that other institutions (camps, churches) make to the development of our youth.

#### Looking for a New Direction in Youth Ministry? Try Venturing!



Who says Boy Scouting is just for boys? Or that it's not for older teens? If your parish youth ministry program is looking for some new life, new energy, or a new structure, consider Venturing! [Venturing](#) is a program for young men and women 14-20 years old (or 13 years old and completed 8th grade) to provide positive experiences through youth-led activities that help them pursue their special interests, grow by teaching others, and develop leadership skills. **Remember, scouting IS youth ministry, and Venturing is a program that fits well within the framework for Catholic youth ministry described in [Renewing the Vision](#).** Using Venturing as your senior high youth ministry offers you structure, training for leaders, and an exciting program to offer your teens . . . while still allowing you flexibility to tailor the program to your own setting and build in Catholic activities and faith formation. Catholic Venture Scouts can work on the same [Religious Emblems](#) as other Boy Scouts, providing them with deeper faith learning opportunities. And if your parish already has a Cub Scout or Boy Scout troop, you can (and probably should!) still consider Venturing - its focus on youth leadership and higher adventure help to keep older teens (who might be drifting away from traditional scouting) engaged in church-related youth activities.

For more information, or to see if Venturing might be right for your parish, contact [Kathy Goller](#) (Youth & Young Adult Ministry), [Jim Smyczynski](#) (Catholic Committee on Scouting), or [Patrick Coviello](#) (Scout Executive with Greater Niagara Frontier Council).

#### WinterCamp at Camp Turner



Boys and girls ages 7 - 16 are invited to sign up for WinterCamp 2010 at Camp Turner! The Camp is located in the beautiful Quaker Area of Allegany State Park and runs from Monday, December 27th at 10 am through Wednesday, December 29th at 6:00 pm. This three day, two night event is ideal for first time campers! A round trip bus is available from Hamburg or Williamsville.

Activities include an awesome sledding trip, cool wintry crafts, hiking, snow sculpting, floor hockey, a New Year's ball, campfires and much more. Visit [CampTurner.com](#)

Angels, Olean)

Want to list your upcoming event here?  
Contact **Heather Wolcott** with the date, title and a link to a web site where others can get more information!

or call 716-354-4555 for details and registration information!

### Da Bounce presents "Spiritual Warfare: Who's Your Peace-maker?"



A Catholic youth rally for parishes in the city and its surrounding communities. Youth will celebrate their faith on **Friday, October 29 from 6 pm - midnight** at St. Lawrence Parish at 1520 E. Delevan Avenue in Buffalo. Join Fr. Caleb Buchanan, a dynamic keynote speaker from Brooklyn, who will be "revving the place up" for Jesus. The night will be full of fun, faith, pizza, a dance and fellowship. [More details](#) . . .

### Bishop McNulty Award Dinner Dance Honor dedicated leaders . . . and help support Convention scholarships!

Celebrate youth ministry on Friday, November 19 at the **38th annual Bishop McNulty Award Dinner Dance!** And more importantly, take this great opportunity to recognize those in your parish who keep your youth ministry strong! Each parish is invited to **recognize one youth** (Spirit Award) **and one adult or married couple** (St. Christopher Award) who are dedicated to youth ministry. We will also present the Bishop McNulty Award to **Lana Benatovich**, President of the [National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York](#). Ticket order and award nomination deadline is Friday, November 5 but early submission is encouraged! [Click here for complete details](#).

**New this year** at the Bishop McNulty Award Dinner Dance . . . a **Theme Basket Raffle!** All proceeds will benefit the Diocesan Youth Convention Scholarship Fund. Donations needed! **Would your parish donate a basket?** Do you know any organizations that would donate to this cause? Get your creative juices flowing, choose a theme, and create a theme basket (or baskets!) that will help us raise enough money to help everyone who wants to go to the Convention to get there! Contact [Heather Wolcott](#) to make arrangements for your donation.

### Diocesan Youth Convention - Music Opportunities Please pass on to young musicians you know!



**Youth are invited to participate in the Youth Convention music ministry!** In particular, we are looking for a drummer, electric guitar player, and vocalists (especially males!). Those who wish to be involved must be able to commit to several rehearsals between November and the Convention in February (likely held on Sunday afternoons in the East Aurora area). Those interested should contact [Carrie Ford](#) for details.

**Call for work!** The Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry is seeking **original songs (written by young people!)** that reflect the **Convention theme: "Whatever it Takes"** Submissions are welcomed from any young person under age 21, and are due by **November 30, 2010**. Please pass this invitation on to any "young composers" you know and invite them to share their gifts and their faith with us! [Find more details](#), including a [flyer you can download and share](#) with young people.

### November is Black Catholic History Month



November is Black Catholic History month. During this month we knowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of our black brothers and sisters in the faith. Throughout history people of color have served the church and lived their faith in many important ways. From the African who helped carry the cross of Jesus to present day role models such as Sr. Thea Bowman and Fr. Augustin Tolton, black people have witnessed to the good news of God's love and challenge us to love one another.

The Office of Cultural Diversity encourages us all to take time during this month to focus on our black brothers and sisters and their contributions to the life of the Church from its very beginning. Please use this timely resource, [Blacks in Catholic History Moments](#), as part of your prayer and meditation during November or you can share with others. These are inspirational acknowledgments of the black people and events concerning blacks in the history of the Church. We hope that you will be able to use some of these as talking points in your religious education classes, youth group nights, and Bible studies during this month. Contact [Milagros Ramos](#) in the Office of Cultural Diversity for more resources or information. May this Black Catholic History month be a time of celebration of the witness and faithfulness to the Gospel shown by black Catholics throughout history.

### Christmas is approaching...awesome opportunity to accept the gifts of young adults



Christmas is a time to put your parish's best efforts to welcome and invite young adults to your parish. Consider a special emphasis on the virtue of welcome this Advent & Christmas season.

**College students** - make a special welcome at Christmas Eve and day masses to this group who will be with their families. Consider inviting your college students to your liturgical ministries while they are "off" and in town.

**Out of town young professionals** - Remember that Christmas is a key time for families, if their parents are in your pews, they will be with them especially at Christmas. Go to the pews to say welcome home!

**Service** - Offer parish outreach efforts (Habitat for Humanity Builds, Soup Kitchens) during the week at varying times on the weekend and in the evening.

### Great Idea - Support This Now . . . And Try It Yourself Next Year!



The Youth Ministry at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Niagara Falls is selling pumpkins as their annual major fundraiser. Please support the youth in Niagara Falls from October 17-30, 2010. The **Pumpkin Patch** will be open from 1:00 pm - dusk everyday and from 10:00 am - dusk on Saturday and Sunday. There will also be hayrides, story telling, face painting, and games from 1:00 - 5:00 pm on Saturday. Cost of Pumpkins range from \$5.00 - \$25.00+. Running a Pumpkin Patch can be a great way to engage the entire parish community in support of young people. Come check out this Pumpkin Patch now, and consider offering one in your community next year. For more details, contact [Laurie Marshanke](#).

### Harvest House Needs Your Help!



The Harvest House **Bottles for Babies™** campaign helps keep many of Buffalo's needy children safer, warmer, healthier and happier every day, and some of our "biggest" supporters are children and teens themselves. If your school or youth organization is looking for a service project, we hope you will consider the Mother and Child Challenge (with a pizza party for the winning group!). A generous donor has pledged up to \$6,000 to help the Harvest House - Baby and Children's Ministry expand . . . with the provision that people come forward with Bottles for Babies, TM. The "Mother and Child Challenge" started this summer and will continue until the end of the year. Participating in the campaign is easy. All you have to do is take some Harvest House baby bottles and ask people to fill them up by throwing their loose change in at the end of each day. As soon as they are filled, return them to Harvest House or call us up and we can collect them for you. Every bottle that you fill with loose change, cash and checks will count toward the goal of 4,000 bottles that need to be returned by year-end. Please consider having your school or youth group or club participate in this worthwhile campaign. You can help Harvest House "change" a child's life through the **Bottles for Babies™** campaign and the Mother and Child Challenge. Visit the [Harvest House web site](#) for more details or call Tony at Harvest House - 716-825-0929.

### Come & See - Young Neighbors in Action & Just5Days



Summer mission trips are an exciting and important part of youth ministry. Mission trips help others through meaningful service, while building community, helping young people become more conscious of the needs of others, and engaging them in prayer and liturgy.

The [Center for Ministry Development](#) invites church leaders to a **Come and See** event where you can learn more about what [Young Neighbors in Action](#) and [Just5Days](#) are all about.

**Come and See** events are on-line meetings where we share our vision for summer service trips and highlight the unique features of our high school program, **Young Neighbors in Action**, and our middle school program, **Just5 Days**. We will also answer any questions you may have about the programs and share good ideas for how to make this happen for your young people! Our goal is to give you all you need to make the best decision for summer 2011!

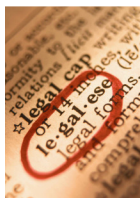
Join us at one of the **Come and See** events listed below. Please register in advance by calling Nancy at 253-853-5422 or emailing her at [nancy@cmdnet.org](mailto:nancy@cmdnet.org). We will send you instructions on how to log on right from your computer. **Come and See** events last about an hour. We look forward to meeting you at a **Come and See** this fall!

**Young Neighbors in Action & Just5Days:** November 4: 1:00-2:00pm (CST)

**Just5Days:** October 28: 10:00-11:00am (CST)

**Young Neighbors in Action:** October 28: 1:00-2:00pm (CST)

### Safe Environment Updates



1) **Quarterly Self-Audit:** The Safe Environment program year is from July 1-June 30 each year, which means that we are through more than one quarter of the year! Now is a good time for youth ministry and catechetical leaders to conduct a quarterly self-audit of the employees and volunteers in your program. **Keeping on top of these details NOW will save you from having a large headache LATER** (in June, when we are asking for mandatory reports!). Ask your local coordinator for a Master Report for your program, check to be sure all of your volunteers/employees are on it, and then check to be sure that they are all in compliance with diocesan policies (background check, Virtus orientation, ongoing training bulletins). **Checking**

**accounts and helping people get in compliance now will prevent many suspensions on December 31 (see below).**

**2) Facilitator Training:** If you know someone who would you like to become a facilitator for Protecting God's Children Workshops in the diocese, please ask them to send an e-mail to [safekids@buffalodiocese.org](mailto:safekids@buffalodiocese.org) and include their contact information or call (716) 847-5532 for more information. The two-day training will be held Nov. 11-12 at Christ the King Seminary.

**3) Annual Re-certification:** The 4th Edition of the Sex Abuse Awareness Training For Adults will be activated soon. This is a longer training that will have several sections. Individuals who have been assigned the 4th Edition of the Re-certification should plan that the training will take about 30 minutes, more or less, depending on reading time. **Please let your volunteers know!**

**4) Suspending Virtus Accounts at Year End:** Please keep reviewing your volunteers' compliance with the Safe Environment mandates. Accounts where training bulletins or re-certifications (BOTH are important) lag by TWELVE MONTHS will be marked as "Suspended for Non-compliance." Schools and parishes have until **December 31, 2010** to work with individuals to get them on track and have training recorded or inactivate the accounts. On January 1, 2011 delinquent accounts will be suspended. Accounts that are marked as suspended indicate that the parish or school considers this individual to be actively working with youth, but doing so in violation of diocesan Safe Environment mandates. Please review your training and background check records to ensure that no accounts get suspended and to ensure that your volunteers get in and stay in compliance with diocesan mandates.

### We are Keepers of the Vision . . .

*"Then the Lord answered me and said: Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets, so that one can read it readily. for the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint; If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late."*

Habakkuk 2: 2-3

It is our job to keep and promote the vision of youth and young adult ministry . . . the vision will not disappoint . . . it will come . . . in God's time.

### Contact Info

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