

Goller, Kathryn

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**Sent:** Friday, December 17, 2010 4:06 PM  
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**December 2010**  
**Youth & Young Adult Ministry Connections**  
 Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry



From the Director



Last week, the city of New Orleans was overrun with Catholic youth ministers! As if that city wasn't energetic enough . . .!

The National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM) was held in New Orleans from Dec. 9-12, and over 2,500 youth ministry professionals from around the country gathered to pray, learn, grow, network and be inspired.

The theme was "March with the Saints," and throughout the weekend, we were reminded of all the ways that we march with the saints - those among us on earth (young and old) and those who have gone before us (in our tradition and in our own lives).

The Buffalo delegation included 15 diocesan and parish leaders as well as two young adults from our diocese who are working on Master's degrees in youth ministry. What a wonderful representation from our diocese! It speaks volumes to our diocese's commitment to leadership formation and our personal commitment as leaders to grow in our field.

And if you couldn't join us as we "Marched with the Saints," [see below](#)



**59th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention**  
**Whatever it Takes - Feb. 18-20**

*Will you do whatever it takes to join us at the largest gathering of Catholic youth in our diocese?* The 59th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention will be held from **Friday,**

**February 18 - Sunday, February 20, 2011** at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo.

**Why Should You Attend? In the words of a teen . . .**

*"I learned that it was OK to openly share my faith and that I wasn't the only teen who felt passionate about faith. I also learned more about myself and I realized all the potential I had within me to make this world more positive. Convention helped heal me because for the first time in my life I felt accepted for who I was and from then on I gained the courage to always be myself and to help others feel more comfortable with who they are."*

**Convention Promo Video**

The promo video is done! It can be viewed on [YouTube](#). Please send the link to your young people and encourage them to share with their friends and plan to attend. DVDs are in the mail to key parish contacts.

**Are you New (or New Again) to the Convention?**

Try the Convention for the first time (or the first time in at least 3 years), and the group leader comes for free! See the [coupon](#) below for details.

**Are you a Returning Parish looking to Save Money?**

Recruit a new parish, and take \$100 off your bill! See the [coupon](#) below for details.

**What's New in 2011?**

Please take note of **new additions** to this year's **schedule**. There will be two opportunities for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - a Holy Hour on Friday night and a breakout session on Saturday. On Sunday morning, young people will engage in Wrap Up Discussions to help them take the Convention experience home.

**Save the Date - Convention Chaperone Meetings**

- [Thursday, January 20: 7-9 PM; Catholic Center - 795 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203](#)
- [Saturday, January 22: 11 AM to 1 PM; Holy Apostles Parish, SS. Peter & Paul site - 508 Cherry Street, Jamestown, NY 14701](#)

for information about how you can still experience parts of the conference. (My favorite keynote was Carole Eipers' talk on Saturday morning - "Saints' Marching Orders: Procession, Protest, Parade" - it's worth watching!)

It continues to be my privilege to march with and serve all of our saints here in the Diocese of Buffalo, who give so generously for our young church. Please know that you are remembered with much gratitude in my prayers during this Advent and Christmas season.

Peace & blessings,  
Kathy Goller

## UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS

**DECEMBER**  
27-29 - WinterCamp at  
Camp Turner

**JANUARY**  
20 - Convention  
Chaperone Meeting in  
Buffalo

22 - Convention  
Chaperone Meeting in  
Jamestown

**FEBRUARY**  
18-20 - Diocesan  
Youth Convention

**MARCH**  
28 - Youth Retreats  
Workshop

All adult and junior advisor chaperones must attend one of the following Chaperone Meetings:

### Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth



Diocesan trainers are now available to bring the **Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth** presentations to your parish!

- Consider **hosting a parent session** in the coming months . . . perhaps as part of a sacramental preparation gathering, or as a way to help families prepare for Lent.
- Want to engage your parish or school staff in more planning about how to better engage parents in the life of your community? Invite a diocesan consultant to come and help you explore ways to do that.

Contact **Kathy Goller** for more details.

### 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 [www.CampTurner.com](http://www.CampTurner.com) or call 716-354-4555 for details and registration information!

### Safe Environment Updates - Avoid Suspension, Check Compliance



**Suspending Virtus Accounts at Year End:** Virtus accounts that have no training bulletins in the past 12 months, or who are 2 or more modules behind on their re-certification training will be marked as "Suspended for Non-Compliance" on **December 31**. Training bulletins and annual re-certification are an integral part of the training mandate for everyone who has had Safe Environment training. Individuals who have their Virtus account suspended are considered as persons who have been allowed to continue to work or volunteer in clear violation of diocesan mandates. Please keep reviewing your volunteers' compliance with the Safe Environment mandates. 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. 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.

### Advent/Christmas Resources



**Free resource** available targeting Christmas visitors. The Office of Parish Life has a great and easy-to-implement strategy to welcome those who join you for Christmas Mass - **pew cards**! Offer this strategy to your parish to welcome families, young adults and young people as one never knows who will be touched.

Check out this insightful blog by Christine Sine named Godspace that provides **resources linking Advent and Justice**.

### Save the Date - Youth Retreats: Forming Faith, Transforming Lives



Join youth ministry coordinators, high school campus ministers, catechetical leaders, confirmation coordinators and other ministry leaders from our diocese for this day of developing

our skills in youth retreat ministry! **Monday, March 28, 2011** at Ss. Columba-Brigid Parish in Buffalo. Leaders will:

- Understand the role of youth retreats in the lives of young disciples and within a comprehensive ministry with youth
- Explore practical ideas for developing retreats and utilizing resources
- Develop a plan for including retreats in your parish or school ministry, including confirmation preparation

**[Download brochure and registration form](#)**



Effectiveness comes less from "doing things right" and more from "doing the right things." There are clear pathways to parish vitality. Parishes that focus on the right questions will thrive, and not just survive in coming years. That is at the heart of the **[Pathways to Parish Vitality project](#)**. To obtain the necessary information and take action, you only need to get parish representatives to the **free event at Christ the King Seminary on March 16-17, 2011**.

Those who attend will learn:

- How to revitalize the parish without adding more work to pastor and staff
- How to move Catholics from being merely involved to fully engaged
- How inactive Catholics are being engaged in other churches
- How the lack of clear purpose undermines our outreach to young Catholics

See the **[complete project description](#)**, including sample parish projects for how any parish - urban, rural or suburban, can grow. This initiative is being funded by the Foundation for the Diocese of Buffalo.

### **Webinars Hosted by the National Association of Catholic Youth Ministers**



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.

You can choose to participate in each 90-minute webinar live, or view it in its entirety at your convenience. Upcoming topics include:

- Taming the Chastity Monster: Inviting Teens to Freedom (Brian Butler) - Jan. 20
- Youth Ministry Confronts Global Poverty (Ted Miles & Jill Ruah) - Feb. 17
- "Mmmm...Whatcha Say?" Helping Youth Understand the New Roman Missal (Greg Thompson) - March 10
- Integrating Youth into the Parish: The Challenge and the Promise (Bob McCarty) - April 7
- Does Evangelization Work Today? (Frank Mercandante) - May 19

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

### **March for Life - Monday, January 24, 2011**

Guarding and Protecting Life at All Stages



Join the Buffalo Diocese and hundreds of thousands of Catholics and others in solidarity for a pilgrimage of public witness, penance, and prayer for all those victimized by the 1973 Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, and for the conversion of

those who misguidedly perpetuate it. Catholics and all people of good will shall gather together to pray and publicly intercede on behalf of the unborn, their parents, families, our communities, nation and our leaders, that this prayerful presence may open hearts, minds and souls to the fullness of the Gospel of Life in our lives and laws, healing the wounds of abortion.

We look forward once again to a unified and powerful protest against the Roe v. Wade decision!

[More details . . .](#)

### Burning Bush Ministry for Young Adults



**Burning Bush Ministry** is a new young adult ministry initiative at St. Leo the Great & St. Benedict Parishes in Amherst, NY. The parishes are hosting an Advent/Christmas Dinner Dance on Saturday, December 18. (Tickets can be purchased at the door.) Dinner and dancing will help to make a memorable evening. For more information

visit here: [Burning Bush Ministry](#)

### [re] - Young Adult Ministry at St. Gregory the Great, Williamsville



[re] A new ministry emerging from St. Gregory the Great Parish in Williamsville is hosting their first gathering on **Thursday, January 13, from 7:30 - 11 pm**. The night will comprise of praise & worship followed by a presentation by Life Teen's Kevin Hickey and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

[re] From the Latin "again", [re] is a ministry for young adults, ages 18-

35, designed to [re]new and st[re]ngthen our faith.

For more information, [download flyer](#) and stay tuned to [St. Gregory the Great's parish website](#).

*Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the [re]newal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:2.*

### World Youth Day Essay Contest



Want to go to Spain next August?

[www.Catholic.net](http://www.Catholic.net)

is sponsoring an essay contest in which the winner will be awarded a trip to Madrid for World Youth Day next August. The competition is open to any youth between the ages of 16 and 28, of any nationality. Participants are asked to write an essay answering the question: "How have you found God?" Under this topic, several possible themes are suggested: the brevity of life, the love

of God, happiness, the love of Christ, mission, inner change, or the sacraments. The best essays will be published in a book. The deadline for submission is Dec. 31 so don't delay! For more information, please go to: [WYD Essay Contest](#)

### 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 **Spotlight Event** event where you can learn more about [Young Neighbors in Action](#) and [Just5Days](#).

To learn more about **Just5Days**, and our high school service-learning program, **Young Neighbors in Action**, please consider signing up for a **Spotlight Event**. **Spotlight Events** are on-line meetings where we share our vision for summer service trips and highlight the unique features of our programs. 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!

Join us at one of the **Spotlight 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.

January 18: 10:00-11:00 am (CST)

February 17: 1:00-2:00 pm (CST)



### Mission of Hope

**Catholic Charities of Western New York** helps to provide hope in our name for thousands of people in the communities of WNY.

Did you know that \$25.00 supplies a meal for 8 families? Through a donation of only \$25, our four food pantries located in central, south, and east Buffalo and in Lackawanna, are able to supply a meal to 8 families of four.

Want to learn more about the real lives that are impacted by Catholic Charities? Want to help raise the awareness of youth and young adults about Catholic Charities' Mission of Hope? Visit [Success Stories!](#)

### Bishop McNulty Award Dinner Dance - Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who supported the 38th Annual Bishop McNulty Award Dinner dance last month at the Hearthstone Manor. Forty-two young people and adults were honored and more than \$1,000 was raised for the Diocesan Youth Convention Scholarship Fund. The Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry thanks those who attended and those who donated their time, talent, and treasure.

### Digital Discipleship



It's been a year since **Digital Discipleship** - the diocesan guidelines on technology use with young people - have been published. Have you read them? In a culture where communication is nearly instantaneous through advances in technology, parish leaders and volunteers in faith formation, youth ministry, schools, and all ministries with young people need to be cognizant of both the value and limits of this technology. Using email,

social networking sites, and websites are just a few media available to us to advance the Good News - however, we must also be aware of the limits and boundaries before us.

**Digital Discipleship** is a document written in collaboration with Lifelong Faith Formation, Youth and Youth Adult Ministry, Safe Environment, and Catholic Schools. Please read it thoroughly and pass it on to all catechists, teachers, youth ministers, etc. This is meant to be a tool to assist us all in establishing appropriate boundaries and modeling appropriate communication with young people.

### National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministers: Marching with the Saints



Maybe you aren't one of the lucky leaders from Buffalo who were able to attend the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry in New Orleans. . . That doesn't mean you can't still share in the experience and benefit from the learning! NCCYM is the premier training, formation and enrichment experience for youth ministry leaders in the United States . . . and

**My Catholic Voice** wants to be sure that EVERYONE can benefit from the conference. **The General Sessions are available for download!** Download and watch one or more . . . and then share the inspirational keynote presentations with your pastor, youth ministry team and other volunteers.

### The mystery and miracle of the Incarnation . . .

*The whole concept of God taking human shape had never made much sense to me. That was because, I realized one wonderful day, it was so simple. For people with bodies, important things like love have to be embodied. That's all. God had to be embodied, or else people with bodies would never in a trillion years understand about love.*

Jane Vonnegut Yarmolinsky, Angels Without Wings

### Contact Info

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Find us on Facebook 

## Group Leader Comes Free!

### Special Offer for Parishes New (or New Again!) to the Convention!

If your parish has NEVER been to the Convention, or has not attended in the past 3 years, we're rolling out the Welcome Mat! **Bring a group of at least four youth to the Convention, and the group leader registration fee is complimentary!**\*

\*Assumes group leader shares hotel room with one other adult. Group must be accompanied by at least two adults. Value of \$177!

Offer Expires: January 31, 2011

## \$100 OFF YOUR BILL!

### Special Offer for our Returning Parishes!

Looking to save money on your Convention registration fees? **Recruit another parish\* to attend that has never attended or hasn't been in 3 years or more, and take \$100 off your total bill!\*\***

\*Need suggestions or contact information for parishes to call? Contact **Kathy Goller**.

\*\*\$100 discount applies for each new parish recruited. Email the name of each parish you recruit to [youth@buffalodiocese.org](mailto:youth@buffalodiocese.org) and when that parish registers, we will enter a \$100 credit to your account.

Offer Expires: January 31, 2011

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