

Young Adult Ministry *From the Field*

Here are some ideas of strategies for outreach to young adults. Feel free to borrow and adapt these ideas, or contact the parish leader for networking purposes. Please share your latest and greatest ideas with us to be featured in "From the Field."

Life in the Spirit Seminar for Youth & Young Adults

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Niagara Falls

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The season of Lent provides young people and college-aged young adults the opportunity to share their faith. A team of youth and young adults prepare talks and create an atmosphere of welcome. The seminar provides an opportunity for prayer, praise and worship music, witness talks and small groups that discuss questions centered on the theme. The seminar meets five Sunday evenings and the topics include: God's Love, What's Wrong, Living the Kingdom, Knowing God and the Holy Spirit.

At the fifth gathering teams pray with the participants. All of the evenings end with refreshments and socializing. Youth and young adult leaders, who have been graduates of the Christian Leadership Institute, use their skills as the small group facilitators.

F3—Family, Faith, Fun

A ministry for families with children ages 0-5

St. Joseph University Parish, Buffalo

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The first event was a Mass and pot luck dinner geared specifically for families with young children. Elements of the Mass included children's Liturgy of the Word, family-friendly liturgical music and a 4 pm start on a Saturday (this time was outside of the regular parish schedule). Families met this event with much success. The celebrant was undistracted amidst the constant hum of over 20 families. A Mardi Gras themed pot luck dinner followed Mass. Everyone gathered in the parish's school cafeteria and was met with artwork that helped to create a welcoming atmosphere. The after school program provided toys for play time following dinner. This opportunity may be held occasionally so as not to separate families from the entire community.

Those interested in planning for the Summer and Fall attended a session on a Monday evening. Next events include a Mom's Bible Study/Discussion Group and a Day Out at the Science Museum on a Saturday morning.

Lenten Packets to College Students

St. Francis of Assisi, Tonawanda

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Outreach to the parish's college students continues to be a priority. Students were sent a Lenten prayer booklet along with a note of encouragement that included the cell phone numbers of both the pastor and coordinator of religious education. They encouraged the students to send them a text message with prayer requests and greetings. Students have begun contacting them to acknowledge the packets and thank them for the parish's care and outreach.