

## **Millennial Milestones Conference Call Summary The College Experience – March 2, 2010**

Facilitators: Greg Coogan & Mary Beth Coates

Participants: Marilyn Wozneak (Sacred Heart Lakewood), Connie Rudes (St. Pius, Getzville); Staff of Immaculate Conception (Ransomville); Sueann Saltarelli (St. Francis, Tonawanda), Kathy Nicastro (OL Lourdes, Bemus Point); Carol Kozlowski (Blessed Mary Angela, Dunkirk); and (at night) Fr. Dick Csizmar (Holy Family, Albion).

- 1.) Where are you at? What do you need?
  - Immaculate Conception, Ransomville is only 3miles from NCCC – which also has residence halls. They are aware of some students coming there for mass and want to plan an effective outreach.
  - St. Francis, Tonawanda has made strides in other areas of the young adult range, but currently doesn't serve the unique needs of college students.
  - OL Lourdes is working on post-confirmation, but is interested in this area too.
  - Parish still discerning options: Blessed Mary Angela, St. Pius, and Sacred Heart.
  - Holy Family, Albion will be working on adult confirmation, and is interested in this area.
- 2.) Participants were reminded to use the Parish YA Assessment as a tool for discerning project focus. When parishes feel that they are doing 'nothing' for any of the milestones, they must be challenged to set their own priority and it is ok to not do 'everything.'
- 3.) The "Post-Confirmation" phase was clarified to be defined, in general, as the later high school years immediately following high school confirmation and not the entire life span that follows one's confirmation.
- 4.) All were reminded that their project needs to have measurable outcomes with clearly stated goals.
- 5.) Ideas for connecting with college-aged young adults are:
  - Service opportunities that are short-term, during breaks and involve rural or urban settings. An immersion experience can also be popular. Suggestions for service can be found on the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Web site. Also, several people will be sharing some service experiences available in their areas for others to connect with.
  - Care Packages – sent from parish to a student were also discussed as a great way to support a student that is away and involve the parish as well in the assembly and mailing of the packages.
  - It is important for parish leaders to establish a positive working relationship with a colleges' student affairs (or similar) office.

These divisions will welcome churches on campus to meet with students or distribute info, as long as the church is seen as legitimate and not a threat in anyway to students. Always get permission to be on campus before handing things out.

- Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA) offers ideas for parish outreach. Their website is [www.ccmanet.org](http://www.ccmanet.org)