

# Gatherings

D I O C E S E  
of NEW ULM

Office of Religious Education  
Office of Youth Ministry

# Reflections



Dear DREs and Youth Ministers:

October 9, 2008

## From the Religious Education Office:

**Bryan Reising**  
*Director of Religious Education &  
Adult Faith Formation*  
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### Faith Formation Days 2008 Focus on Catholic Social Teaching By Bryan Reising

**C**atholic Social Teaching: The best kept secret? For John Carr, the keynote speaker for Faith Formation Days, Most Rev. John M. LeVoir, the teachers, and principals of our Catholic schools, catechists, catechetical leaders, youth ministers, education board members, and others it is certainly no secret at all. According to John Carr, Catholic Social Teaching is to be shared in our actions and words.

**John Carr**, Executive Director of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, affirmed teachers, catechists, and youth ministers in their roles to promote, live, and teach Catholic Social Teaching. He reminded his audience that Catholic Social Teaching does not cater to any particular political party, but it challenges parties to look at the poor and the vulnerable, especially the unborn, as well as the other six tenets of Catholic Social Teaching. He said that these seven tenets, based on the first tenet, Life and Dignity of the Human Person, are the overarching themes drawn from many documents of the Church starting in our modern era with Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum* in 1891.

Each day began with the Eucharist presided by Most Rev. John M. LeVoir, our bishop. The Eucharist, being the source and summit of our faith, was a great way to begin Faith Formation Days and to connect this celebration to the social mission of the Church.

On Friday, September 26, the focus on that day was for Catholic schoolteachers. About 300 participants gathered at St. Mary's School in Sleepy Eye on Friday.

The keynote address was followed by several workshops presented by diocesan staff as well as Pixie Smith, a representative of RCLBenziger. Her workshop on "Keeping it Practical," focused on classroom techniques to keep children interested and engaged. Some of the workshops continued the theme of Catholic Social Teaching such as Faithful Citizenship. In this workshop, Chris Loetscher, director of social concerns and family life, shared this valuable document and its accompanied website as a great resource for those who vote as well as children and youth.

On Saturday, September 27, 80 catechists, catechetical leaders, and youth ministers gathered at St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Redwood Falls. John was able to tweak the presentation in order to meet the needs of his audience. Often he would share personal stories and even jokes to segue his presentations. He also addressed the issue of the financial crisis in our country and challenged the government to not forget about the bailout of the poor. Again, his keynote was followed by workshops. Including the two described above, the workshops were Formation of Education Committees by Karla Cross, The Heart of Youth Ministry by Sr. Margaret McHugh, Cultural Literacy for Faith Formation by Sr. Anna Marie Reha, Preparing Children's Liturgies by Ann Przybilla, Catholic Charities – Referrals and Guidance by Tom Keaveny and the Catholic Charities Counselors, and ART: A Process of Charity and Justice for High School Students and Adults by Bryan Reising.

In order for Catholic Social Teaching not to be a secret to any Catholic in our diocese, check out the website: [www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship](http://www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship). To hear John Carr's talk online, go to [www.dnu.org](http://www.dnu.org). It will be posted soon. These are ways we can prepare ourselves before we vote!

### **Seven Tenets of Catholic Social Teaching Life and Dignity of the Human Person**

Some of the Issues: The Unborn, Human Cloning, Embryonic Stem Cell Research, Racial Equality, the Death Penalty, Persons with Disabilities, the Immigrant, the Elderly, the Dying and Euthanasia, Torturing, Bullying, Unjust Wars.

### **Family, Community, and Participation**

Some of the Issues: Marriage between a Man and a Woman, Raising and Educating Children, Single Parents and Support for Them, Community Service Opportunities, Economic Opportunities, Subsidiarity, Involvement and Participation in Community Life and Political Life.

### **Rights and Responsibilities**

Some of the Issues: Right to Life, Family Life, Culture, Nutrition and Good Health, Healthcare, Shelter, Housing and Property, Education, Employment, Vote, Voice Opinions through the Press and Demonstrations, Religious Liberty, Trade, and Corresponding Responsibilities.

### **Option for the Poor and the Vulnerable**

Some of the Issues: Poverty within our communities, states, and country, Third World Debt and other Issues, Hunger, the Imprisoned, the Unborn, the Sick, the Homeless, Poverty and Children, Persons with Disabilities, the Immigrant, the Refugee, Those who are Exploited and Oppressed, Those of Different Races.

### **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**

Some of the Issues: the Value of Work, Safe Working Conditions, Co-workers in God's Creation, Child Labor, Sweat Shops, Slavery, Migrant Workers, Equal Pay, Living Wage and Benefits (Remuneration), Unions, Collaborating between Workers and Management for the Common Good, Fair Trade.

### **Solidarity**

Some of the Issues: War and Peace, Walking Side by Side with the Oppressed, Advocacy, Immigration Reform, Subsidiarity, Sustainability, Development.

### **Care for God's Creation**

Some of the Issues: Clean Air (Standards for Emissions from Vehicles and Pollution Control from Factories), Global Warming, Clean and Potable Water, Waste Management, Recycling, Composting, Responsible Production from Mining, Farming, Logging, Drilling for Oil, and other Natural Resources.

### **Safe Environment**

- Please keep in mind that all catechists, aides, and volunteers are to fill out a background check. Your parish safe environment person has the forms.
- New catechists and volunteers will need the initial Virtus training. See below for the fall schedule.
- During the month of October, schedule your "Touching Safety" for all your grades. When completed, send in your information to Margy Manderfeld (mmanderfeld@dnu.org). With each grade, send in how many took the two classes, how many opted out, and how many were absent. **Use the form attached.**

### **VIRTUS Trainings**

October 8, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. New Ulm – St. Mary  
October 13, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Sleepy Eye – St. Mary  
October 25, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. Litchfield  
November 4, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. New Ulm Cathedral (at NUACS)  
December 3, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Winsted  
December 9, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Bird Island  
January 12, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Redwood Falls

### **Upcoming Gatherers**

Our fall Gatherers at the Youth Center near Renville are as follows:

- Monday, October 20 10:00-3:00 - "*The Word of God and the Life and Mission of the Church*" \*\* below
  - Saturday, November 22 10:00-3:00
- Please RSVP to Cindy Blickem at [cblickem@dnu.org](mailto:cblickem@dnu.org) or 507-233-5325 to let us know you are coming for lunch count. Thank you.

### **\*\* Scriptural Focus for the Meeting During the "Year of St. Paul" "Gathers" meeting on October 20, 2008**

#### **Center for Youth Ministry 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. \*\***

Scripture will be the focus of this month's meeting with DREs and Youth Ministers on Monday, October 20, 2008. With the many of our Bishops meeting in Rome for the Synod on Scripture, it seemed only fitting that we should be united on the same theme! The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and anyone involved in faith formation or youth ministry is welcome!

Sr. Margaret McHugh, DSMP, will present a form of group *lectio divina* that she frequently leads with teens. She'll also address the connections between praying with Scripture and making good decisions. Both Bryan Reising and Sr. Margaret will bring a variety of recommended Scripture resources to the meeting.

The Scripture Synod opened Sunday, October 5, with a Mass with Pope Benedict XVI presiding at a Mass in the basilica of St. Paul-Outside-the-Walls. The opening Mass of every previous Synod has been held at St. Peter's basilica; this year's location has been changed in deference to the Pauline Year. The Synod is expecting to meet from October 5-26, 2008 and discuss ways to promote the prayerful reading, understanding, and proclamation of Sacred Scripture. The Synod will have a "pastoral and missionary character" and look for ways to use the Word of God to spur Christian Evangelization. Discussion will include methods for the Church to combat widespread "Biblical illiteracy" among Catholics and confront the challenge presented by fundamental groups who promote misleading interpretation of the Scriptures.

### **Parish Catechesis Question**

- ❖ Share some success stories regarding adolescent catechesis. This includes retreats, curriculum, social outreach experiences, and so on.

## From the Youth Ministry Office:

**Sr. Margaret McHugh, DSMP**

*Director of Youth Ministry &*

*Vocation Awareness*

[mmchugh@dnv.org](mailto:mmchugh@dnv.org)

### October is the Month of the Rosary



#### Forever Linked to Rosary History

It was October 16, 2002 and I was in a hurry. It was a Wednesday in Rome and as expected, the streets were clogged with busloads of pilgrims heading for the Pope's weekly audience. My classes had been cancelled for the morning and I was hoping to get a few errands done. I was at the bus stop strategizing as to how I could *avoid St. Peter's* and still accomplish my plans for the morning. Riding the bus, I saw it was just as congested as anticipated; even worse, the buses were detoured around the street I'd planned to take. I tried a few other avenues, but there was no way around it. My path was blocked and the only way open to me was to go towards St. Peter's and walk through the Square.

And so it was with unwilling feet that I stepped into the Square and realized that the papal audience had been held outdoors. It was well in progress as I quickly scooted around the fringes of the crowd, still eager to be about my own business. I don't know what finally stopped me, but exactly halfway across the Piazza, through the open space between the colonnades, I halted in my tracks. Pope John Paul II was announcing a special event and signing a document right in front of St. Peter's.

Focusing my attention on the small white figure of the Pope and listening more intently now, I could hear him telling us about a new set of mysteries of the Rosary and the start of a special year, the "Year of the Rosary." This captured my full attention: *new mysteries of the Rosary?! As I tuned my ears to listen better, I heard the words, "Luminous Mysteries" and my fascination grew.*

Pope John Paul II was making headlines right in front of me and my only concern had been how to avoid the Vatican that morning! I felt honored and blessed to witness history in the making. For one

pristine moment, I was a part of something much larger than myself. Catholics all over the world, from this day forward, would be reflecting on the public life of Jesus and the mysteries of the Rosary would forever be counted as twenty, no longer fifteen.

I would later learn that the Pope had made history with another less obvious choice. He had asked that the image of Our Lady of the Rosary kept in the Sanctuary of Our Lady in Pompeii be brought to St. Peter's just for that occasion. It was before this picture of Our Lady that Pope John Paul II signed his apostolic letter, "*The Rosary of the Virgin Mary*" during his Wednesday Audience October 16, 2002. It was a pure gift of God that I was there to witness that moment!

#### The Rosary as a Link to Hope

The image of Our Lady and the Sanctuary dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary in Pompeii are forever linked to a man named Blessed Bartolo Longo. The church he and his wife built in Pompeii is a tribute to the hope he experienced through the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary. Very few biographies witness to the power of hope like this man's life does!

Bartolo Longo was born in Latiano, Italy in 1841 and went to Naples to finish his studies as a lawyer. During his studies, he lost all interest in his faith and began to dabble in the occult. At one point, he gave his life to Satan and began to hear voices and apparitions of the evil spirit. At last, he became so tormented that his friends thought he would lose his mind or his health--or both. Fortunately for him, he met a priest, Fr. Alberto Radente, who talked to him so gently and persuasively that he made the decision to live for God alone and left the satanic sect.

Bartolo Longo was baptized and began a new life. However, he was still attacked with doubts about his salvation and guilt over his former way of life. It was in Pompeii, on a business trip, that he became so depressed he considered suicide. It was just at that moment that he remembered Fr. Alberto telling him, "If you seek salvation, promulgate the Rosary." He fell to his knees and began to pray, promising that he would not leave Pompeii until he had spread devotion to the Rosary. It was through this prayer that he discovered lasting hope, stability and peace. The Rosary and the life of Blessed Bartolo Longo continue to be a sign of hope for us today.



*Sr. Margaret McHugh, DSMP*

**Why should you care about  
what happened on  
October 7 in 1571?!**

**Because it's one of ten dates  
Every Catholic should know.**

*-Ten Dates Every Catholic Should Know*  
by Diane Moczar, Sophia Institute Press, 2006

It's the date of the greatest naval sea battle in history and the most important to the time for the safety of Europe. The Turks had been massing an enormous fleet for an invasion of Italy. The preparations began to be reported on many months in advance. It was the year 1571 when that fleet was gathered near a port in Greece, not far from the Gulf of Lepanto. The Muslim fleet outnumbered the Christians and they were expected to win and take over Italy.

The Holy Father, Pope Pius V, begged Christians throughout Europe to join him in praying the rosary on October 7 so that the Christians would be victorious. Because of this amazing and miraculous victory, each year we celebrate, "Our Lady of the Rosary" on the anniversary of the Battle of Lepanto.

**Essay Contest for Young Catholics  
October is Mission Month**

This year, 2008, the Church in the United States marks the 100th anniversary of our "mission independence." In 1908, it was decided that we no longer needed financial help for our pastoral and evangelizing needs.

In light of this anniversary, the Propagation of the Faith is launching an essay contest for young Catholics (grades 9-12). The contest's theme: *Got Good News?* Teens are asked to tell the story of a missionary they know or have learned about--a priest, Religious Brother or Sister, or layperson who shares with others the "Good News of Jesus." Entries must be postmarked by Friday, December 5. Winners will be announced in February 2009. More detail will be posted on the [www.dnu.word.youth.html](http://www.dnu.word.youth.html) website shortly.

**World Mission Rosary**

This would be a great month to learn more about the "World Mission Rosary." To find out more, visit: [www.worldmissionrosary.org](http://www.worldmissionrosary.org) or pray the Mission Rosary on-line at [www.hcakids.org](http://www.hcakids.org).

World Mission Rosary posters and a great deal of other mission resources are also available through the Holy Childhood Association at the same website listed above.

**October is Respect Life Month  
A LITANY OF THE PERSON**



image of God  
born of God's breath  
vessel of divine Love  
after His likeness  
dwelling of God  
capacity for the Infinite  
eternally known  
chosen of God  
home of Infinite Majesty  
abiding in the Son  
called from eternity  
life in the Lord  
temple of the Holy Spirit  
branch of Christ  
receptacle of the Most High  
satisfied by Living Water  
heir of the kingdom  
the glory of God  
abode of the Trinity.  
God sings this litany  
eternally in His Word.  
This is who you are.

*-Adapted from a litany of the  
Abbey of Gethsemani, Trappist KY 40051*

**"Just Another Bad Day?"  
Teen Depression Awareness  
And Suicide Prevention**

Our Lady of Grace Church in Edina is sponsoring Ann Kemp from S.A.V.E. for a powerful presentation on adolescent depression. Untreated depression is the #1 cause of suicide. How can we as a community be alert to the signs of suicide risk?

No RSVP and no charge.

**Our Lady of Grace Church**

5071 Eden Avenue, Edina, MN

(southwest quadrant of Hwy 100 and Eden Ave/50<sup>th</sup> St. exit)

**Tuesday, October 21, 2008 7-8:30 p.m.**

**World Youth Day 2011  
August 15-21 \* Madrid, Spain**

We're making arrangements with Eric Dulka at New Ulm Travel for WYD 2011. It's not too early to let us know you're interested!

**NCYC 2009**

**National Catholic Youth Conference**

**November 19-21, 2009**

**Kansas City, Missouri**

We'll probably leave by bus on Tuesday, November 17 and return late on Sunday night, November 22, 2009. We're working out the details right now and will be sharing more information soon.

**Senior High Youth Rally  
"Fitness for Witness"  
October 26, 2008 1-7 p.m.  
Benson High School**

This year our keynote speaker is the "live-wire" musician **John Flynn**. He'll be sharing both music and testimony. He'll have you dancing with wild abandon one moment and lifting your voice in prayer the next! **Sr. Mary Bethany** of the Nashville Dominicans will share the hilarious and touching story of how she became Catholic. **Jenica Thornby**, a former NET member, will witness about her experience at Columbine High School. **NET Team # 3** will spend the day with us as well as our own amazing and talented **DYC!** Our new **Bishop John LeVoir** is the main celebrant for Sunday Mass. As usual, we're offering a Subway supper and closing with a dance. To register, call Cindy (507-233-5325) or Sr. Margaret (507-233-5327) in the Youth Ministry Office.

**NET TEAM in the Diocese this Fall**

NET Ministries has informed us they will arrive on Thursday evening, October 16, in our diocese and will depart Tuesday, November 4, after lunch. This year we are honored with the presence of NET Team # 3. We'll be keeping them very busy for almost three weeks. As promised, they will be one of the attractions for the Senior High Youth Rally October 26 in Benson.

**"Theology of the Body" Retreat  
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
1801 LaCrosse Ave, St. Paul**

**Saturday October 18: 8 am - 2 pm**

Blessed Sacrament Parish and Totus Tuus offering a day retreat for teens (age 13 and up) with Fr. Antoine Thomas and Ms. Amy Morrison. Music is by Phil Arellano. "Theology of the Body" is based on a series of audiences by Pope John Paul II. It answers fundamental questions about human dignity and meaning of life and love. Cost is \$15 for worksheets, lunch, and seminar. To register call Terry at 651-748-1744 or visit [www.totustuuscoyo.com](http://www.totustuuscoyo.com).



**Mark your calendars and plan to attend  
the Jr. High Festival  
April 26, 2009 at  
St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye!**

**Riverbend TEC**

112 W Van Dusen St., Springfield, MN 56087  
507-723-4141 [riverbendtec@newulmtel.net](mailto:riverbendtec@newulmtel.net)  
[www.riverbendtec.org](http://www.riverbendtec.org)

The next TEC retreat is November 22-24 in New Ulm. **TEC Weekend** – Riverbend TEC (Together Encountering Christ) is a three-day Catholic retreat experience which usually begins Saturday at 9:30 am and ends on Monday at 4:30 pm. Anyone who is **16 years old, a junior in high school or older**, is eligible to make a TEC weekend. The fee for the weekend is \$60. You are asked to send a \$15 non-refundable deposit with your application.

**Small Reunion** (1-4 pm) – Those who made the TEC weekend gather usually two Sundays after the TEC weekend. There is usually Mass as part of this gathering.

**Steubenville North Conferences 2009**

I saved the best for last! Are you looking for a conference or retreat to set your youth on fire and form a "Core Group" of youth for your parish? The Steubenville North Conference can help you do just that! This past summer youth from St. Anastasia in Hutchinson, St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye, St. Peter's in St. Peter, and Our Lady of the Lakes in Spicer attended **Steubenville North** on the University of St. Thomas campus. I have never seen or experienced a more powerful and life changing event for youth!

Registration for next year's summer conference begin November 17, 2008 and fills up quickly. Dates and places are listed below. For more information contact 952-224-0333 or [www.partnershipforyouth.org](http://www.partnershipforyouth.org).

**July 17-19, 2009 Mayo Civic Center, Rochester MN**  
**July 31-August 2, 2009 University of St. Thomas**

**Mark Your Rel Ed / Youth Ministry Calendars for 2008-09**

Mon, Oct 20	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Sun, Oct 26	Senior High Rally	1:00-7:00	Benson High School
Sat, Nov 22	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Jan 5	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Feb 2	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Sun, Mar 15	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	2:00-5:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, April 20	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers – Curriculum Day	10:00-3:00	Catholic Pastoral Center, New Ulm
Sun, April 26	Junior High Festival	1:00-7:00	St. Mary's High School, Sleepy Eye
Mon, May 18	DRE/YM Spring Fling	Noon-4:00	Victorian Inn, Hutchinson
TBA	Young Men's Discipleship Camp	Thu 9:30 am-Fri 5:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
TBA	Young Women's Discipleship Camp	Thu 9:30 am-Fri 5:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry

**Jesse Manibusan Concert**  
**November 21, 2008 7:00 p.m.**

**St. Andrew Catholic Church, Fairfax**

Jesse Manibusan will be performing a concert at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Fairfax, MN, at 7:00 p.m., on Friday, November 21, 2008. The event is sponsored by Area Faith Community of Fairfax, Franklin, Gibbon, and Winthrop as a benefit fundraiser for youth/chaperone trips to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, in November 2009, World Youth Day, and Guatemala Mission trips.

**Manibusan** is an internationally recognized dynamic and charismatic presenter, singer, composer, comedian, clinician, musician, and storyteller. His concerts are an inspiration for people of all faiths. Jesse has been a regular performer and presenter at National Catholic Youth Conferences in the US, as well as World Youth Days in Denver, Toronto, and Cologne, Germany. He has performed many times in Canada, and several European countries, and has made numerous visits to the Holy Land. Jesse's ministry has also taken him to state prisons and detention facilities, and he has been involved with the Catholic Worker communities. Jesse is a partner with Mercy Corps International. One of the highlights of his career, however, has been "opening" for Pope John Paul II at the opening ceremonies of World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto, Canada. He also sang at the Papal Mass, and one of his songs was used during the liturgy. Jesse has won three Unity Awards from the United Catholic Music and Video Awards, including "Artist of the Year." Jesse Manibusan holds a Master of Arts in Multicultural Ministries from the Franciscan School of Theology, Berkeley, California. He was born at Castle AFB, Atwater, California. Jesse's family and ancestors are from Guam – his father is a retired Master Sergeant in the US Air Force, his grandfather served in the Guam Militia in WWII. He is married to his life-time sweetheart, Jodi, and they have three children and live in Grapevine, Texas.

**Concert tickets** are on sale through the St. Andrew's Parish office – call 507-426-7739, e-mail [ffgw@redred.com](mailto:ffgw@redred.com). Advance ticket sales through November 19:

- Adults/Students (13+): \$12.00 advance, \$15.00 at the door
- Children (12 and under): \$8.00 advance, \$10 at the door.

There is limited seating at the church, so contact the church for advance tickets, or call to see if seats are still available. There will be a lunch stand, religious goods, Christian T-Shirts, and music for sale.

**Questions** – may also contact Berny Berger, concert coordinator, at [jbberger@redred.com](mailto:jbberger@redred.com).

**Priesthood Sunday**  
**October 26**

Sunday, October 26, 2008, has been designated as "Priesthood Sunday," a day for Catholics to honor the contributions of their parish priests. Catholics all over America are called to celebrate the gifts of priesthood in service to our parish communities. This event gives us an opportunity to affirm the priesthood in our Church and to express our support for the honorable and dedicated priests who baptize, marry, and care for their flocks in both good and bad times.