



Dear DREs and Youth Ministers:

December 9, 2010

From the Religious Education Office

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Advent & Christmas

OPPORTUNITIES for
FAITH & GIVING

By Bryan Reising

We are now in the Advent season where our focus is preparing for three things: Christmas as we commemorate the Incarnation of God into humanity, our faith relationship with Christ our Savior as we welcome him into our hearts and our lives, and the End of Time where Christ will welcome all those who believed and followed Christ in their lives – even if that moment came at the very end of their lives.

The Incarnation

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.”

And how did he come to the world? He came like all of us, he was conceived within his mother’s womb, he grew during his mother’s pregnancy, and he was born as an infant. But unlike all of us, he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, he was without sin, and he came on a mission to save humankind from sin and its effects, and thus, for people to gain eternal life.

It is right that we celebrate Jesus’ birth, his entry into humanity, and his beginning of his human life leading to our hope for eternal life. During the Advent season, prepare your hearts as we commemorate the Incarnation. During the

Christmas season, reflect upon the readings for Christmas. God truly loved us as he entered our humanity at a crucial moment and place.

Our Faith Relationship with Christ

Advent and Christmas can be a special time to renew our faith relationship with Christ. Perhaps your parish will have a special day of reflection during Advent, or a special time of prayer – perhaps an Advent Holy Hour or Evening Vespers. It is during these times of prayer that we listen to God’s voice, that we communicate with Christ, and that we worship and adore Christ.

Our diocese will again have an

Advent Prayer Service

to be held at the

**Church of St. Aloysius in Olivia
December 12, 2010 at 4:00 pm**

Bring your infant child Jesus figurine from your family nativity crèche to be blessed by the bishop and bring baby clothes and blankets to give to our mission in Guatemala and local charities as well.

And speaking of giving, we also grow in faith with Christ by loving and caring for others. Who in your community needs help? Who can we advocate for? Perhaps we can give less at Christmas and give more to charitable organizations (see more information on this idea through Advent Conspiracy: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLYWdfE-53o>).

Some opportunities within our diocese? Giving to the DMA can be an outreach because a portion of the money does go to Catholic Charities who help many people in need throughout the year. You may send your money to this appeal through your parish or the Diocese of New Ulm. New Ulm has a new place for women who find themselves pregnant and desperate. This place offers free pregnancy tests, counseling, referrals, and they are currently raising funds for a new ultrasound machine. You may send your money to First Choice Pregnancy Services in New Ulm to support this outreach: First Choice Pregnancy Services, PO Box 742, New Ulm, MN 56073. There may be some outreach opportunities right in your own community as well. Not only giving money is important, but also volunteering your time and talent in these local endeavors can be important as well. And internationally, there is always need. I recommend Catholic Relief Services. Go to <http://crs.org/> to find out more information and how to give.

Christ's Welcome at the End of Time

And this is a time to remind ourselves to prepare our hearts and our lives for Christ's Coming at the End of Time. Again, prayer and social outreach are important here. But also our efforts with evangelization and catechesis is important. How can we help support Christ's mission and desire for more people to be welcomed into the Heavenly Kingdom? First, it is through our own formation. We need to continue to be formed in the faith and take advantage of opportunities for renewal, catechetical formation, and training for evangelization and catechesis. Second, we need to learn that it is very appropriate for Catholics to invite others: invite Catholics we miss back to the faith, invite those with no church home to the Catholic faith through the RCIA, and to invite all to a faith relationship with Christ. But the invitation alone is not effective unless we accompany the good people we are inviting. It is with these efforts that Christ's desire and mission will be accomplished.

So during this season of preparation and during the season of celebrating and sharing, make this Advent and Christmas special this year by your prayer and worship, by your time to reflect upon God's love, through your generous giving, and through your formation and inviting others to the faith.

***Merry Christmas
from the
Office of Religious Education
and Adult Faith Formation!***



An Age of Discovery Catechesis for Early Adolescence in the Middle School

Grades of 7th and 8th

by Bryan Reising

Early adolescence is a time for discovery of one's self amidst changes within the body, biological drive, expansion in thinking abilities, and new awareness of social roles. And regarding faith formation, it is a time where these young people are discovering how they fit in with God, the Church, values, and claiming a sense of belief and morals for themselves.

Discovering God

At an age where questioning everything is just the beginning of the adolescent journey, young adolescents do ask relevant questions about God. They are trying to discover a God who loves them as they are. They long to be

accepted by their peers, but knowing that God does accept them unconditionally can be a turning point in them accepting themselves – their personality, their awkward feelings, their giftedness.

*Christ
IS Coming!*

Parents and catechists can be instrumental in helping these young teens understand that there is someone who loves them and wants to guide them every step of the way. Yes, they can let them know that they love and care for them and this is important for these teens to hear this, but there is someone else who loves them no matter what. That someone is God.

Discovering the Church and Its Teachings

Within the parish's catechetical formation, the young teen needs time to ask questions regarding the faith. There also needs to be ample time for prayer, community building – especially with their peers, learning the faith, and involvement with acts of charity. What can make the difference? Involved parents who do go to church every weekend, who are active in parish life, and who establish prayer and faith traditions in the home are the most influential mentors for their own sons and daughters. Catechists who are well trained and know how to work with this age group, which includes patient perseverance, can be instrumental. The right curriculum can make a difference as well. Most curriculums that are on the conformity listing do a great job at looking at the development of early adolescence and how they learn. Special note to the following: Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum Division, Sadlier, RCLBenziger, Loyola Press, and St. Mary's Press have some great options for faith formation, including extra options on their Web sites. Lifeteen's *The Edge* is a great process to reach out to and teach the faith to this age group.

Regarding curriculum, the following list are those approved by the USCCB:

<http://www.usccb.org/catechism/document/Currentlist.pdf>

Discovering the Faith and Morality as One's Own

The key to this age group is to help these young people to claim the faith and moral lessons and values as their own. How? By getting to know each student. What makes them tick? What are their interests and passions? Parents and catechists are encouraged to attend their sporting events, their dance and music recitals, their plays, and other events that highlight their gifts. Then knowing who they are and what their talents are, the parents and catechists can connect the dots on why faith is important in their life, why morality and values can really help them to make good choices. The key is: it has to be relevant to them.

Young adolescents in Middle School or Junior High are at a great age as they discover themselves in relationship to their God and their Church. Let us help them to claim this wonderful faith and claim the values and morals that the faith sheds light upon!



Upcoming Gather for January
for Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs or DREs)
& Youth Ministers

Our next Gather will be Monday, January 10, 2010, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Barn south of Renville and north of Delhi on County Road 6. Bryan Reising will be our presenter! His presentation? "Role Playing Our Ministry: Catechesis and Youth Ministry." Send in your ideas -- like working with a difficult parent, the new catechist, why can't we get more teens to our event, and Bryan will solicit volunteers to act out these situations and we will all discuss how we can improve that situation. RSVP to Cindy Blickem at 507-233-5325 or cblickem@dnu.org if you plan to attend.

Mohr Catechist Formation Fund

A Gift for You, Catechists, Youth Team Members, Teachers of the Religion

This scholarship fund is a great gift for your catechists, teachers, youth ministry team, and many of you! You can receive scholarships for Faith Formation Day and other catechist formation opportunities, opportunities outside the diocese like the NCCL Conference, online courses through the University of Dayton's VLCFF (Virtual Learning Community of Faith Formation), and even some college courses on faith formation. An application is on our website:

<http://www.dnu.org/word/documents/MohrScholarship-CatechistFormationFund-Application.pdf>. Please submit your applications soon!

VIRTUS Trainings

01/18/2011	7:00 PM	Renville - Holy Redeemer
02/21/2011	7:00 PM	New Ulm – NUACS – St. Anthony Elementary School
03/10/2011	7:00 PM	Benson - St. Francis
04/05/2011	7:00 PM	Green Valley - St. Clotilde (Marshall)

All Catechists are required to:

1. Have a background check before beginning to volunteer;
2. Sign Forms A & B of the diocesan sexual misconduct policy before beginning to volunteer;
3. Attend VIRTUS training within 90 days of beginning to volunteer;
4. Do the on-line training as assigned. This is to be done as soon as possible – communicate this with your catechists, volunteers, and youth ministry adult team.

The VIRTUS training is for adults ages 18 or older. If you have a question about VIRTUS, please contact Margy Manderfeld at **507-233-5305**. Please do not contact VIRTUS directly unless you need a password.

Remember: Lesson 2 for children and youth is to be done in January. If you have not done so yet, please send in your reports for Lesson 1 to Margy as soon as possible. Lesson 1 for children and youth should be complete and turned in. Thank you!



University of Dayton's VLCFF

Cycle 1: Jan 23 - Feb 26

(Registration: Opens Oct 26; Closes Jan 19, 2011)

- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Christology - Information coming soon](#)
- [Church and Communication](#)
- [Communication and Community](#)
- [Conscience](#)
- [Designing and Implementing Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 7\)](#)
- [Digital Catechesis: Web Literacy](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Ecumenism](#)
- [Facilitating Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 4\)](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Foundations and Visions for Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 1\)](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Liturgy](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Introduction to Paul's Life and Letters](#)
- [Islam](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Community](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Education](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Mary - Information coming soon](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Virtues](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [On Bended Knee \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Overview of the GDC & NDC \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Poverty in the U.S. and Around the World](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Spirituality and Inclusive Faith Communities](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life](#)
- [Vocation, Spirituality, and Discipleship of Catechists](#)

Remember: We will have our first closed course though University of Dayton's VLCFF. The course is custom made for DREs. It is the 3-week seminar, *Designing a Catechetical Plan*. Please contact Bryan (breising@dnu.org) and give him your name and e-mail if you are interested by December 31, 2010. Also, please apply for the Mohr Catechist Fund for a scholarship for this seminar. The cost is \$30.



Resources for Middle School Students from the Diocesan Media Library

For Young People in Grades 7 and 8



- *'Twas the Flight Before Christmas*, a video by Tyndale House Publishing (1990)
- *A Case of Conscience: Dealing with Peer Pressure*, a video by Brown-ROA (1995)
- *A Day in the Life of Bonnie Consolo*, a video by Barr Films (1991)
- *A Family Retreat with Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen*, a DVD by Keep the Faith, Inc (2004)
- *A Humble Walk*, a DVD by Catholic Relief Services (2007)
- *Abraham*, a DVD by TNT Originals, Inc (2005)
- *Adventures from the Book of Virtue*, 9 videos by Porchlight Entertainment (1995)
- *After the Fall*, a video by Group Publishing, Inc (2004)
- *Ancient Secrets of the Bible Series*, videos by Odyssey (1997-1998)
- *Angel's Advent Lesson*, a video by Twenty-Third Publications (1995)
- *Angelina the Faithful*, a DVD by Angelina Productions (2004)
- *August Rush*, an inspiring DVD about a musically gifted child by August Rush Movie (2007)
- *Bernadette*, a DVD by Ignatius Press (1990)
- *Big Changes, Big Choices Series*, videos by Live Wire Media (1994)
- *Celebrating the Church Year for Children: Advent and Christmas*, videos by Paulist Press (1986)
- *Champions of Faith-Baseball Edition*, a DVD by Catholic Exchange (2007)
- *Christmas Experience in Bethlehem*, a video by CTNA (1990)
- *Cloak of Juan Diego/The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe*, a video by CTNA (1988)
- *Connecting With Christ by Chris Padgett*, a video by the Diocese of New Ulm (2002)
- *David/Solomon: Expanding the Kingdom*, a DVD by Ignatius Press (2006)
- *Esther*, a DVD by Lion Gateress (1998)
- *Fourth Wise Man*, a DVD by Paulist Productions (2006)
- *Friendship: The Good Times...The Bad Times*, a video by Sunburst Communications (1990)
- *Genesis*, a DVD by Trimark Home Video (2000)
- *It Is So Hard To Be Poor*, a DVD by Sharing and Caring (2009)
- *Jacob's Gift*, a DVD by Tommy Nelson, Inc (2001)
- *Jesus of Nazareth*, a DVD by Artisan Home Entertainment (2000)
- *Joseph: The Man Closest to Christ*, a DVD by Ignatius Press (2006)
- *Love is a Choice: Life of St. Gianna Molla*, a DVD by Salt and Light Television (2005)
- *Martian Child*, a DVD by New Line Production, Inc (2008)
- *Martin the Cobbler*, a DVD by Billy Budd Films (2000)

- *Mary, Mother of Jesus*, a video by Metropolitan Productions (1996)
- *Mother Teresa*, a DVD by Twentieth Century Fox (2006)
- *Saint Anthony: The Miracle Worker of Padua*, a DVD by Ignatius Press (2003)
- *Saint Francis*, a DVD by Ignatius Press (2006)
- *Saint Rita*, a DVD by Ignatius Press (2007)
- *Saint Teresa of Avila*, a DVD by Ignatius Press (2008)
- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, a DVD by Miramax (2009)
- *The First Christmas*, a DVD by The Christophers (1998)
- *The Secret of the Horse*, a DVD by Family Theatre Productions (2006)
- *Thérèse*, a DVD by Luke Films (2006)
- *What Catholics Believe Series*, DVDs by Dara Productions (2010)

For Those Working with Young Adolescents

- *Becoming a Successful Catechist Series*, a video by National Catholic Catechists Society (1992)
- *Conversations on Catechesis Series*, a video by CTNA (1991-1993)
- *Developing Minds Series*, videos by WGBH in Boston (2002-2003)
- *Echoes of Faith: Methods for Grades 7 and 8, and other topics*, videos by RCLBenziger and NCCL
- *Empowering the Catechist Series*, videos by Twenty-Third Publications (1995)
- *Youth and Morality*, a video by the Diocese of New Ulm (2003)

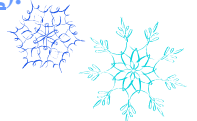
These and many other resources (DVDs, videos, and audio) can be used by member parishes, schools, and individuals. Check out the Media library catalogue at <http://dnu.kdsi.net/search/search.php>

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Membership

The cost of an individual membership to NCCL is only \$60.00. This is only \$5.00 a month. Receive CL (Catechetical Leader) Magazine, CL Weekly from Lee Nagel every Monday, discounts on resources, and information on the national conference and regional workshops! For further information, check out the website: www.nccl.org

Parish Catechesis Question

Which curriculum do you use for Grades 7 and 8? What are the advantages to this curriculum? What extra activities have you done for this age group that is successful? This feedback is very important as you look at your curriculum for all grades and then you can have a chance to compare this with others when you visit the diocese and for our Curriculum Day in the spring (April 11, 2011). E-mail Bryan with your answers (breising@dnu.org).



From the Youth Ministry Office:

Margaret McHugh

Director of Youth Ministry & Vocation Awareness

mmchugh@dnu.org

507-233-5327

The Connection between Lourdes and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception



St. Bernadette witnessing
the apparition of the
Virgin Mary.
- Stained Glass by Bonneval

Last month I had the awesome opportunity of traveling to Lourdes, France, with my mom. The two of us had been waiting since August until she was well enough to travel. One day in early November she called to say, "The doctor says I can travel. When can we go?" With the help of a capable travel agent and lot of prayer power, we were able to pull it off and left within a week!

All for the incredibly low, low price of less than three thousand (airfare and hotel) for the two of us...

It was our first time in France and first time visiting Lourdes. I'm not sure if *I took my mom* or if *she took me* there... She paid my way but my presence made it possible for her to travel. I do know that it was a very blessed mother-daughter time and one we will always remember.

Lourdes France is one of the most famous Marian apparition sites in history.

Thousands of people visit every year in search of miracles, prayer, healing, etc.

Its history as a recognized Marian site started in 1858 when Bernadette Soubouris, a fourteen year old girl at the time, witnessed eighteen Marian apparitions at the Massabielle grotto between February 11th and July 16, 1858. The events that occurred during this time changed Bernadette's life. After her death she was canonized a saint. The witness of her life and her account of the apparitions paved the way for the Church to declare Lourdes as an authentic Marian apparition site.

Since we had this "total immersion experience" (literally!) of four days in Lourdes, both of us were blessed with a deeper understanding and appreciation of what took place there in 1858. It is about this connection between Lourdes and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception through the experience of St. Bernadette that I wish to write. Let's begin with the concept of the Immaculate Conception:

The Immaculate Conception:

A title of Mary and the Catholic belief that Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, without original sin and its effects. She was "full of grace" and in complete union with God.

This title of Mary and Catholic dogma was officially pronounced on December 8, 1854 by Pope Pius IX. It had been the belief of the first Christians from the very beginning of the Church and had been taught and recognized as a true fact throughout centuries of Christianity. However, like many other widely accepted beliefs, the dogma of the Immaculate Conception had never been formally declared and stated in such a conclusive way by a pope until that date.

This official declaration of dogma by Pope Pius IX was a big stir in the Church throughout the world and very much the talk and discussion of bishops, priests, and the more highly educated Catholics of that time. This was true especially since Pope Pius IX had formally consulted every bishop throughout the world before making this declaration.

Now, consider that this dogma was declared in 1854, four years before Bernadette even came into contact with Mary at the Grotto in Lourdes.

Enter Bernadette... Bernadette? Who was she?

Born in 1844, Bernadette was completely illiterate at age fourteen. She could not understand enough French to receive the most basic catechesis for her First Communion nor was she able to memorize the answers to the questions from the Catechism.

By our financial standards, Bernadette's family was the most miserable in the village of Lourdes. Her father's mill had foreclosed because of a failed harvest and he had the bad luck of having been falsely accused of theft afterwards! All of these hardships resulted in her father's inability to provide for his family even as a hired day laborer and handy-man. Even with every family member working various odd jobs, they still could not earn enough to eat.

Despite their destitution, there was a lot of love in that family. Even with the seriousness of day to day survival, they could still enjoy a good laugh and found humor in so many situations and events. Their faith and family love was a strong bond of connection, much like the Rosary they prayed together every night.

Bernadette spoke only the local dialect and stood at a diminutive 4'7", which was quite small even for an impoverished and malnourished girl of her time. She was seriously ill on a regular basis. With her health weakened from a childhood bout with cholera, Bernadette suffered from fragile health all of her life.

And Bernadette, as a person, despite her circumstances, was honest to a fault. Everyone who knew her said that she never embroidered or embellished stories, but always stated the simple facts just as she saw them happen.



Then, the apparitions... The Virgin Mary first appeared to Bernadette simply by smiling and making the Sign of the Cross with her. Bernadette prayed the rosary during the first apparition. The Virgin Mary didn't actually speak one word to Bernadette until the second apparition. And when Mary spoke, she spoke the only language that Bernadette knew....her own local dialect! Bernadette also described her as being about her own age and height...

Good news spreads fast! When word of the apparitions to Bernadette at the Grotto got out, hundreds of onlookers began to gather at the spot. This caused Bernadette to be scrutinized and questioned on a daily basis. She was questioned with more seriousness and greater severity by the parish priest, Fr. Dominique Peyramale. Since Bernadette came to him bearing, "the lady's request" for a chapel and processions at the site," he felt it only right that he should know WHO was making this request of him. The priest instructed her to ask "the lady of the apparition" to identify herself.

Bernadette then asked the lady her name *twice on two different days* with no success. Finally, on March 25, Bernadette persisted and she identified herself saying, **"I am the Immaculate Conception."** This was such an indecipherable phrase for Bernadette that she repeated it to herself over and over (in order not to forget) all the way from the Grotto to the parish rectory. When Bernadette told this to Fr. Peyramale, he was completely shaken and dumbfounded because it was impossible for the illiterate Bernadette to know about the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception which was made an official dogma of the Catholic Church in 1854.

This revelation is the most important factor in the history of Lourdes as a Marian apparition site because *Mary had confirmed her identity as the Immaculate Conception* which led to the recognition by the Vatican as Lourdes being an official miracle.

Bernadette... "this unique visionary possessed an astonishingly simple nature... And Mary clearly enjoyed the young Bernadette. She smiled with her. She laughed with her. She cried with her. She took Bernadette into her precious confidence. Though Church and civil authorities harassed the girl with trick questions regarding the apparitions, never once did she falter or change her story. She told the truth and stood her ground."

(*Remembering Bernadette* by Dan Paulos)

*February 11
is the
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes*

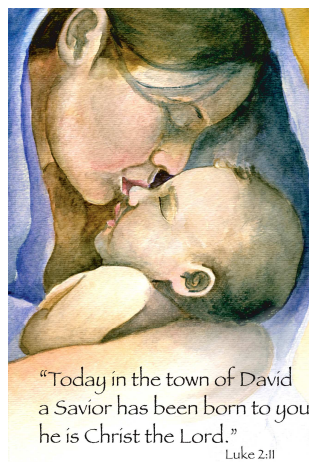
If you would like to learn more or are looking for resources to share with you youth, I have a copy of:

DVD

- *Saint Bernadette of Lourdes*
The newest movie on DVD (2009) produced on the life of the young saint and done with an entire cast of children. See the trailer at:
<http://youtube.com/watch?v=1Pzo9cHVxr8>

Children's Books:

- Bernadette: Her Beautiful and True Story
An illustrated 94 pages children's book
- Bernadette: the Child Who Saw
a 14 page illustrated children's book



*My prayers and
best wishes for a
wonderful
Christmas
and New Year*

*from the Office of Youth
Ministry
Margaret McHugh*

NCYC Update

The National Catholic Youth Conference is an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones. The [schedule](#) includes keynote addresses, prayer, workshops, liturgy, opportunities to participate in reconciliation and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recreational activities, concerts, exhibits, and an interactive thematic park.

The 2011 NCYC will take place November 17-19 in Indianapolis, Indiana, with the theme Called to

Glory. To find out more info you could check out their Web site: <http://ncyc.nfcym.org/index.htm>

The actual dates of the diocesan trip NCYC trip to Indianapolis will be November 15 (depart) to November 20 (return). The registration fee is \$235 (payable to the Diocese of New Ulm). The cost of hotel and bus transportation with the diocese still in process... There will be a \$100 per person non-refundable deposit due February 4, 2011. A form requesting names and deposits will be sent with the January issue of *Gatherings and Reflections* and as more details unfold we will keep you informed.

World Youth Day

We can accommodate twenty-five pilgrims at a cost per person of \$3,110.00. Below is the proposed itinerary. Please let Margaret McHugh know if you have anyone interested – 507-233-5327, mmchugh@dnu.org.

PNR: 6NAICO - SEATS HOLDING: 25

AIRLINE	NO.	DATE	DEPART	ARRIVE
Air France	667	14-Aug-11	Chicago 5:10 PM	Paris 8:20 AM
Air France	1300	15-Aug-11	Paris 9:35 AM	Madrid 11:40 AM
Air France	7773	25-Aug-11	Pau 7:20 AM	Paris 8:50 AM
Air France	664	25-Aug-11	Paris 10:30 AM	Chicago 12:35 PM

Day 1: Sunday, August 14, 2011, USA / MADRID

Tour members are welcomed at an international airport for our departing flight to Madrid via widebody aircraft arriving the next morning. Meals served on board.

Day 2: Monday 8/15, MADRID

Upon our arrival in Madrid, we proceed to our hotel to check in for dinner and overnight.

Day 3: Tuesday 8/16, MADRID (World Youth Day)

Early this morning we are transported our housing for the duration of our World Youth Day activities. *Our accommodations, meals, transportation, entrance fees from this point are included with our World Youth Day registration.* We attend 7 AM Mass and visit the registration area to check in.

Day 4: Wednesday 8/17, MADRID (World Youth Day)

Accommodations, meals, transportation, entrance fees are pre-arranged.

Day 5: Thursday 8/18, MADRID (World Youth Day)

Accommodations, meals, transportation, entrance fees are pre-arranged.

Day 6: Friday 8/19, MADRID (World Youth Day)

Accommodations, meals, transportation, entrance fees are pre-arranged.

Day 7: Saturday 8/20, MADRID (World Youth Day)

Accommodations, meals, transportation, entrance fees are pre-arranged.

Day 8: Sunday 8/21, MADRID (World Youth Day) / AVILA / MADRID

Today's World Youth Day activities will conclude by Noon. Then, we will be board our motor coach and make the journey northwest through the picturesque countryside to the 12th century walled city of Avila, home of St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross. St. Teresa was the founder of the Discalced Carmelites and was the first woman to be declared a Doctor of the Church. She is regarded by many as one of the Church's greatest mystics. We will visit the Monastery of the Incarnation and the convent of St. Teresa, where the saint experienced a remarkable vision of an angel. In her autobiography, St. Teresa spoke of the angel who thrust an arrow into her heart, leaving it "on fire with a great love of God." After her death, when her body was examined, she was found to have had a perforation of the heart. We will enjoy the sites and then return to Madrid to check in at our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 9: Monday 8/22, MADRID / TRAIN TO PAMPLONA / JAVIER / LOURDES

This morning, we proceed to the train station to travel by rail to the fortress city of Pamplona. Upon our arrival, we enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city, including views of the Palace of Navarra, Town Hall, the Church of San Saturnino and a visit to the Cathedral of Pamplona. Next, we make our way to the region of Navarra near the village of Sanguesa, to visit the family castle and birthplace of St. Francis Xavier (Javier). As a close personal friend of St. Ignatius and one of the original seven members of the Society of Jesus, St.

Francis performed many miracles, was granted the gift of tongues, foretold the future, healed countless people, and baptized over 10,000 people in just one month's time. St. Francis Xavier is regarded as one of the most zealous missionaries of all times. From there, we cross the spectacular Pyrenees Mountains and continue on to Lourdes, France, where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette in 1858. We check in at our hotel for dinner and overnight. Time permitting, we have the opportunity to participate in the candlelight procession with pilgrims from all over the world.

Day 10: Tuesday, August 23, 2011, LOURDES

Between February 11, 1858 and July 16, 1858, Our Lady appeared 18 times to a 14-year-old girl named Bernadette Soubirous. The young saint described Our Lady as a "girl in white, the same height as myself, who greeted me with a nod of her head. This girl was beautiful beyond description. She had a blue sash around her white dress and yellow roses on her shoes. A long rosary hung from her arm, and she seemed to invite me to pray with her." Our Lady gave to Bernadette secret messages for herself and other messages for the world to hear. She described herself as the "Immaculate Conception," revealed a miraculous spring, and asked that a chapel be built as a site for pilgrimage. During our stay in Lourdes, we celebrate Mass at the Grotto of Massabielle. We visit the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, the Boly Mill where St. Bernadette was born, and the "Cachot," an abandoned prison where Bernadette's family lived in poverty. We have an opportunity to bathe in the miraculous waters at the Grotto, attend the Blessing of the Sick, and spend time in personal prayer. This evening we pray the rosary as we take part in the Candlelight Procession. Dinner and overnight.

Day 11: Wednesday 8/24, LOURDES

Today is free to explore the city on your own. Suggestions include:

- Revisit any of the sites to which you feel the most drawn.
- Visit the Chateau (Fort) which crowns the hillside overlooking the town. Be sure to have your camera as there are spectacular panoramic views of Lourdes and the River Gave which splits the city.
- Sightsee along the River Gave, stroll shop-to-shop choosing your mementos to pack up and take home.
- Spend time in prayer at the Grotto or pray the Stations of the Cross on the hillside by the Basilica.
- Visit the cemetery where the Soubirous family is buried.
- Take the funicular (cable car) up the side of the mountain.

This evening, join friends for a sampling of French cuisine at the restaurant of your choice as dinner is on your own. Again you have the opportunity to participate in the Candlelight Procession if you choose. Overnight in Lourdes.

Day 12: Thursday, August 25, 2011, LOURDES / USA

This morning, we begin our journey back to the United States. We arrive home inspired by the events of World Youth Day and more firm in our resolution to live out our faith and love for our Christian roots.

Mark Your Calendars for 2011

Mon, Jan 10 10:00 am-3:00 pm	DRE/YM Gathering Bryan Reising - "Role Playing Our Ministry: Catechesis and Youth Ministry." Send in your ideas- like working with a difficult parent, the new catechist, why can't we get more teens to our event, and Bryan will solicit volunteers to act out these situations and we will all discuss how we can improve that situation.		Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Feb 7	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am-3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Mar 7	DRE/YM Gathering	10:00 am-3:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Apr 11	DRE/YM Gathering (Curriculum Day)	10:00 am-3:00 pm	Pastoral Center, New Ulm
Sun, Apr 10	Junior High Festival	11:00 am-5:00 pm	Hutchinson?
Mon, May 16	DRE/YM Spring Fling	Noon-4:00	TBA

Check out the dates for the Summer Camps!

Sun, June 12- Thurs June 16	Girls Discipleship Camp	Sun 4:00 pm til Thurs 11:00 am	Flandrau Group Camp (New Ulm)
Sun, July 10- Thurs July 14	Boys Discipleship Camp	Sun 4:00 pm til Thurs 11:00 am	Flandrau Group Camp (New Ulm)

DRE Youth Minister Directory for 2010-11

In today's mailing there is a copy of the DRE Youth Ministry Directory for the Diocese of New Ulm. Even before you see this, we have some corrections to make...

Glencoe, St. Pius X – Region 6

- * Mr. Mark Simons, DRE (Not YM Contact)
- ^ Fr. Tony Stubeda (Add Yth Min)

Silver Lake, Holy Family – Region 6

- *^ Ms. Lori Penas
DRE PK-12/YM/AFF/SCC/Evang Coord
Delete Josh Krych & Lisa Hauer