

# 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:

September 16, 2010

## From the Religious Education Office

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## Let the Little Children Come

by Bryan Reising

“Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’” Matthew 19:14

When my children were still in the womb of my wife, I composed lullabies for each of them. For my youngest daughter, I composed, *Let the Children Come to Jesus* based on this verse from Matthew’s Gospel. Even now at 14, she knows this is her song, her gift from her daddy, a means to pass on the faith. We need to recognize that we need to pass on the faith from the earliest moments a child can hear. Many experts say that babies within the womb begin to hear by eight weeks.

### *The Early Years (Infancy to 2 Years)*

Parents can begin talking and singing to their unborn child at eight weeks, and it should grow from that point on – increasing their vocabulary and concepts of faith. In the early years of a child’s life, it is important to share stories of God’s love and how God will always take care of them. As a baby frequently “falls in love” with their mom and/or dad, the parent can share who God is and that God is the source of love. Reading stories are extremely important in this – and reading daily.

Praying as a family, even at an early age, is extremely important to help a child connect with the God who loves all children, all people. One of the things we did with our children at night was a Trinitarian prayer: “Father, thank you for... Jesus, I am sorry for... and Holy Spirit, please help...” Each member of the family would take a turn to thank, ask for forgiveness, and petition. Then we would end it with the traditional Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be. It

helps a child to know that they can be spontaneous with their prayer, but also learn the more traditional prayers as well. Prayer and all of Christian life are celebrated at the Eucharist. The family attending Mass together can be an opportunity for many teachable moments: the readings, the colors of vestments, the various seasons of the liturgical year, the various rituals, the giving of their treasure to the Church and the poor, and the prayers.

### *Pre-School Years (3 - 6 Years)*

In recent years there has been a movement regarding early childhood education. Studies have shown that young children who receive attention and affection are more apt to succeed in education and life. There are five developmental domains where educators (and parents) need to focus: *Social* – creating relationships and interaction, *Physical* – fine and large motor skills, *Intellectual* – making sense of the world around them, *Creative* – discovering talents like art and music to enhance learning, *Emotional* – self-awareness, self-confidence, and coping with feelings.

These five domains can be used in helping them to experience and understand God and faith as well: *Social* – understanding God as the Holy Trinity and looking to the family and parish as a community centered in Christ, *Physical* – things like holy water and candles can help the child to touch or see symbols of our faith, *Intellectual* – understanding God and prayer, *Creative* – using art or music to learn and to worship, *Emotional* – experiencing peace, sorrow, love, and joy in relation to the faith.

The following are resources to consider when working with children these ages:

### *Pre-School Series*

- *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*
- *Allelu! Growing and Celebrating with Jesus (4, 5)* - Our Sunday Visitor ©2010
- *Discovering God* - William H. Sadlier, Inc. ©2000
- *God Made Everything* - Loyola Press ©2008
- *I am Special (3, 4, and K)* - Our Sunday Visitor ©2007-2009
- *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies: What the Church Believes*



*and Teaches (Student Handbook) (3, 4)* - Pflaum Publishing Group ©2010

- *Questions for God* - VirTru Powers ©2007
- *Stories of God's Love (3,4, 5, and K)* - RCL Benziger ©2009, 2011

So if you are working with children these ages, you are helping with the Church's mission by letting the little children come to Jesus!

**Catechetical Sunday theme this year is:**

**Matrimony: Sacrament of Enduring Love**

by Bryan Reising

Each year, we honor and pray for our catechists on Catechetical Sunday. This year, Catechetical Sunday is September 19, 2010. Catechists include those who teach the faith at parish programs to young children, elementary school children, adolescents, young adults, adults, and senior adults. In addition, those who serve as catechists for the RCIA and sacramental preparation are included. Our Catholic school religion teachers are catechists as well as they pass on the faith to these young students. Parishes are encouraged to offer a blessing prayer during the liturgy as these catechists are commissioned for their ministry and perhaps the parish can have a social after the Mass in their honor.

This year, the US Bishops chose the theme, “**Matrimony: Sacrament of Enduring Love.**” Since Matrimony is the theme, perhaps we can honor parents, both married and single, and their important role as head catechists within the family. These parents are collaborators in catechesis with those catechists who are commissioned to teach the faith at the parish and within Catholic schools. Catechetical Sunday is a great opportunity to reflect upon the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel.

For further information and free downloads of material for Catechetical Sunday, go to the following Web site: <http://www.usccb.org/catecheticalsunday/>. Also, NCCL (National Conference of Catechetical Leaders) has several resources for Catechetical Sunday including a pin, prayer cards, and a book with reflections for catechists based on the Sunday readings: <http://www.nccl.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=114532>.



**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>

**VIRTUS Trainings**

|            |         |   |
|------------|---------|---|
| 09/16/2010 | 7:00 PM | St. Peter - St. Peter                         |
| 09/18/2010 | 9:30 AM | Willmar - St. Mary                            |
| 9/18/2010  | 9:00 AM | Hutchinson – St. Anastasia                    |
| 09/20/2010 | 7:00 PM | Forest City - St. Gertrude (Litchfield)       |
| 09/21/2010 | 7:00 PM | Ortonville - St. John                         |
| 09/22/2010 | 6:30 PM | North Mankato - Holy Rosary                   |
| 09/28/2010 | 7:00 PM | Wilno - St. John Cantius                      |
| 10/16/2010 | 9:30 AM | Wabasso - St. Anne                            |
| 10/28/2010 | 7:00 PM | Minneota – St. Edward                         |
| 11/11/2010 | 7:00 PM | Silver Lake - Holy Family                     |
| 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 employees, catechists, & volunteers 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. All veteran catechists and volunteers need this update!

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.



**Faith Formation Day**  
**September 25**

**St. Catherine's, Redwood Falls**  
The Eucharist and the Third Edition of the Roman Missal will be the theme. Author Kathy Coffey will be our keynote speaker.

See the attached flier with details on workshops! Eight publishers will be on hand to exhibit books, music, and curriculum!

## University of Dayton's VLCCF

<http://vlc.udayton.edu>

*Cycle 7: Oct 24 - Nov 27*

(Registration: Opens Sep 1; Closes Oct 14)

- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Church History 2](#)
- [Conscience](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Ecclesiology: The Pilgrim Church](#)
- [Many Faces of Adults](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Liturgy](#)
- [Introduction to Media Literacy Education](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Letters of Paul](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Leadership](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Prayer](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Social Justice](#)
- [Mary in Scripture and Tradition](#)
- [Media, Faith, and Values](#)
- [National Directory for Catechesis](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Overview of the GDC & NDC \(Seminar\)](#)
- [Praying With Children](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Scripture: Introduction](#)
- [Scripture: New Testament](#)
- [Scripture: Old Testament](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)

### VLCCF Opportunity for Catechetical Leaders/DREs

We are offering a three week online seminar on *Designing a Catechetical Plan* in January through the University of Dayton. Please send Bryan your name and e-mail if you would like to participate. This is a closed seminar for catechetical leaders in our diocese. So far we have eight signed up. In addition, Bryan will be facilitating the course, *Introduction to Catechesis*, beginning October 24 through November 27. Sign up your catechists for this course. Remember, there are monies available through the Mohr Catechist Formation Fund for these opportunities!

### Upcoming Gather for October for Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs or DREs) and Youth Ministers

Our Gather in October will be Monday, October 18, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Barn south of Renville and north of Delhi on County Road 6. Joe Roueche of NET Ministries will be our presenter! Please RSVP to Cindy Blickem at 507-233-5325 or [cblickem@dnu.org](mailto:cblickem@dnu.org) if you plan to attend.

### NCEA ACRE and IFG

Since we have no grant moneys left, we will be not doing ACRE/IFG as a diocese, but we encourage you to consider

doing this as a parish or Area Faith Community. For further information and costs for these assessments, please go to <http://www.ncea.org/Assessment/index.asp>.

## Early Childhood Resources from the Diocesan Media Library

### For Pre-School

- *Beginners Bible Series* videos by Sony Music
- *Jesus Grows Up* a video by Oblate Media and Communication
- *Jesus: What He Said and What He Did* a video by Oblate Media and Communication
- *Mass for Young Children* a video by Ikonographics
- *Prayers for Little Children* a DVD by Wild Canary
- *The Best of Little Children* a DVD by Wild Canary
- *The Eucharist for Little Children* a DVD by Wild Canary
- *The Ten Commandments* a DVD by Jansen Media
- *Veggie Tales* series videos by Big Idea Productions, Inc.

### For Those Working with Pre-School Children

- *Angels and the Making: Nourishing Our Children's Spiritual Life* a video by Odyssey
- *Catholic Parents-Does Anyone Really Care? Early Years: Daily Doses of the Mundane and the Miraculous* a video by CTNA
- *Children's Adoration* a video by Children of Hope
- *How to Pray As a Family* a video by Fisher Productions
- *Natural Ingredients: Development to the Preschool and School Age Child* a video by CTNA
- *New Life: A Parish Celebrates Infant Baptism* a video by Liturgy Training Publications
- *Teaching Children in the Church: Teaching Preschoolers and Kindergartners* a video by Group
- *Teaching Scripture to Children* a video by Chesapeake

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 Free 2-Month Trial

Right now, they are doing a membership drive for potential members of NCCL. NCCL is offering a 2-month free trial for September and October 2010. **See the attached to register for this free trial for parish catechetical leaders!** For further information, check out the website: <http://www.nccl.org/>

### Parish Catechesis Question

What type of programs do you offer for pre-school children and families with small children?

# DRES, PCLs and everyone Interested in Faith Formation.

## Calling all

**Take advantage of this limited time offer. A FREE two (2) month trial membership (September-October 2010) in NCCL.**

### Get the benefits of membership:

- An issue of *Catechetical Leader*, (NCCL's bi-monthly magazine) and an eight-page *Update* that is also available on-line for free reproduction.
- Electronic weekly newsletter (52 editions a year) of "CL Weekly," designed to provide a connection to catechetical ministers, be a source of hope and inspiration while addressing the news of the organization, updates on catechetical issues, information regarding matters confronting the church, reflections on matters of the previous week, spiritual insights and book recommendations.
- **And much more....**

**Sign up below.**

|   |               |   |
|---|---------------|---|
| <b>Name:</b>  |               |   |
| <b>Title/Position:</b>  |               |   |
| <b>Parish, Office, or School:</b>   |               |   |
| <b>Mailing Address:</b>   |               |   |
| <b>City:</b>  | <b>State:</b> | <b>Zip+4:</b>   |
| <b>(Arch)Diocese:</b>   |               | <b>E-mail:</b>  |
| <small>(Diocese is for location only. If you are a member of a diocesan staff, this is NOT the correct form. Please contact the National Office.)</small> |               |   |
| <b>Phone:</b>   |               | <b>Cell:</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Professional</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>General</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Associate</b>                            |               | <b>Special Dues Price: FREE</b><br><b>No obligation, if you wish to</b><br><b>continue, \$60 annual dues.</b> |
| <b>National Conference of Catechetical Leadership</b><br><small>125 Michigan Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20017</small>                                      |               |   |

### Criteria for Membership category:

**Professional:** Possess a graduate degree in catechesis, religious studies, or a related field;

*OR*, have received an appointment to a diocesan/eparchial catechetical position by an approved ecclesiastical authority.

*OR*, have successfully completed a diocesan/eparchial or university catechetical formation process based on the National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers, including the specific standards for Parish Catechetical Leaders or Youth Ministers. (This includes processes accredited by the USCCB Committee on Certification and Accreditation.)

**General:** Exercise catechetical leadership at national, diocese/eparchial, or parish, or academic level;

*OR*, author of catechetical materials; *OR*, bear catechetical responsibilities in the publishing community

**Associate:** All others

## From the Youth Ministry Office:

**Margaret McHugh**

Director of Youth Ministry & Vocation Awareness

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

(507)233-5327



### Impact of Cell Phones on Teens

Some recent studies done by cell phone companies and marketing research have unearthed some important data regarding the impact of cell phones on teens. Nearly half (47%) of US teens say that their social life would end or be worsened without their cell phone, and nearly six in ten (57%) credit their mobile device with improving their life, according to a national survey from CTIA and Harris Interactive.

Four out of five teens (17 million) carry a wireless device (a 40% increase since 2004). A marketing study entitled, *Teenagers: A Generation Unplugged*, probed how the growing teen wireless segment is using wireless products and how they want to use them in the future. Their findings:

- A majority (57%) of teens view their cell phone as key to their social life.
- Second only to clothing, teens say that a person's cell phone tells the most about their social status or popularity, outranking jewelry, watches, and shoes.
- More than half (52%) agree that the cell phone has become a new form of entertainment.
- One third of teens play games on their phone.
- 80% say their cell phone provides a sense of security while on the go, confirming that their cell phone has become their mobile safety net when needing a ride (79%), getting important information (51%), or just helping out someone in trouble (35%).
- Teens carry their phones to have access to friends, family, and current events.
- Though only one in five (18%) teens care to pinpoint the location of their family and friends via their cell phone, 36% hate the idea of a cell

phone feature that allows others to know their exact location.

### Texting Replaces Talking

The study also confirmed that texting is replacing talking among teens. Teens admitted spending nearly an equal amount of time talking as they do texting each month. The feature is so important to them that if texting were no longer an option 47% of teens say their social life would end or be worsened--that's especially so among females (54% vs. 40%).

Teens say texting has advantages over talking because it offers more options, including, multi-tasking, speed, the option to avoid verbal communication, and because it is fun-in that order--according to the study.

"Teens have created a new form of communication. We call it texting, but in essence it is a reflection on how teens want to communicate to match their lifestyles. It is all about multi-tasking, speed, privacy, and control," said Joseph Porus, VP and chief architect, Technology Group, Harris Interactive.

### Texting

The Pew Center's *Teens and Mobile Phones* report concludes with these words: "Text messaging has become the primary way that teens reach their friends."

47% of teens can text with their eyes closed.

Deacon Greg Kandra writes in his blog, *The Deacon's Bench*,

"A third of U.S. teenagers with cell phones send more than 100 texts a day as texting has exploded to become the most popular means of communications for young people, according to new research. The Study by Pew Internet and American Life Project, which offers a glimpse into teen culture and communication, found that texting has risen dramatically even since 2008. Text messaging has become so much a part of teenagers lives that 87 % of those who text said they sleep with, or next to, their phone."

### Sleepless in Textland

According to a Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU) survey, "nearly one out of four teens in a relationship communicated with their partner via cell phone hourly between midnight and 5:00 a.m.

Both the San Diego *Mercury News* and *Chicago Tribune* recently carried articles on the "wired and tired" generation or the "sleepless in textland" phenomenon.

“Teens are not just texting, instant messaging, and surfing Facebook all day; they are sleeping with their cell phones or laptops, too. Between their crazy schedules and upside-down circadian rhythms, teens have always been somewhat sleep deprived. Now technology is making it worse.”

A study in the journal *Pediatrics* last year showed that teens keep up their activities late into the night. In a study of teens in Belgium in 2007, 40% of the 16-year olds surveyed reported that they were awoken at least once a month by text message, which correlated with higher levels of day-time sleepiness.

## Sexting

According to *Wikipedia*, the first known published mention of the term, “sexting” was in a 2005 article in the *Sunday Telegraph Magazine*. It has since been described as taking place worldwide. It has been reported in the U.K., Australia, New Zealand, the U.S., and Canada.

On August 14, 2011, the AP ran a story on a new phenomenon: **sextortion**, an activity where teens who “text nude photos of themselves or show off their bodies on the Internet are being contacted by pornographers who threaten to expose their behavior to friends and family unless they pose for more explicit porn, creating a vicious cycle of exploitation.”

### **Sextortion is essentially on-line sexual blackmail.**

Bruce Baker says, “Teenagers take nude photos of themselves, in what appears to be fun and games or a consenting harmless act... However, the nightmare ensues as the photos, that are literally impossible to remove off the Internet, become a tool of exploitation or extortion.”

Federal cases are popping up all over the country where a young teen sends a nude photo to a boyfriend or girlfriend meant “for your eyes only.” However, after a “mad day” or a break up takes place, the sender is pressured into sending more explicit photos, or risk total exposure.

<http://news.gather.com/viewArticle.action?articleId=281474978448754>

The latest research shows that 75% of teens have a cell phone and the vast majority text every day. And over 30% of these online teens have experienced some form of harassment, from cyberbullying to sexting.

Earlier last month, the U.S. Department of Justice put out a report warning about on-line “enticement” and “grooming” of children via text messages and e-mails. The Web site for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children gives this definition:

[http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/NewsEventServlet?LanguageCountry=en\\_US&PageId=4130](http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/NewsEventServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=4130)

**“Sexting is a term coined by the media that generally refers to youth writing sexually explicit messages, taking sexually explicit photos of themselves or others in their peer group and transmitting those photos and /or messages to their peers.”**

**“Sexting generally does not include situations in which young people send sexually explicit images of themselves to adults.”**

“What we have learned thus far is that there are four roles to every sexting case: the person seen in the photo, the person who took the photo, the distributor(s) of the photo, and the recipient(s) of the photo. In some cases, one person may assume more than one of these roles.”

According to *Sex and Tech*, a report from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, 39% of teens and 59% of young adults have sent or posted sexually suggestive e-mails or text messages. The report also said that 20% of teens and 33% of young adults have sent or posted nude or semi-nude images of themselves.

Another study by Pew Research Center’s Internet and American Life Project found that teens who are “more intense users of cell phones are more likely to receive texts with suggestive images.”

## Normalization of Pornography

I believe that underneath “sexting” and “sextortion” lies a much more serious reality. As a culture, we have completely *normalized pornography!*

Impressionable young girls see their media role models behaving in such a way that creates a lot of hype and buzz among their male peers, and suddenly sending nude photos of oneself becomes acceptable behavior in their efforts to vie for male attention. Joe Kelly, president of the Web site, *Dads and Daughters*, told Kevin Giles of the *Star Tribune* that “young people, especially children, are starting to think it’s normal to show flesh in social settings, particularly through technology.”

The fact that sending nude photos is an obvious form of pornography does not even phase today’s teens. The Web

site <http://www.protectkids.com> reports that the age group that views Internet porn most frequently is between 12 and 17. In New Zealand, a study of teens found that “only 13 percent of 12-to-13-year olds were bothered or upset by online nudity or pornography. Unfortunately, pornography has become such a pervasive and normal part of life that teens do not even blink an eye at participating in such behavior.” ([http://www.cpyu.org?Page\\_p.aspx?id=366143](http://www.cpyu.org?Page_p.aspx?id=366143).)

In a very sad and twisted way, “Sexting conveys something else: value.” Amanda Lehnart, author of the Pew Center’s *Teens and Sexting* report says, “Teens explained to us that sexually suggestive images have become a form of *relationship currency*.” A sext provides a convenient token, a unit of exchange that stand for a relationship, just as coins and banknotes are traded in the marketplace.

### Just Girls or Boys too?

Reportedly, the majority of revealing images are being sent from females to males, but guys are also doing this. The *Sex and Tech* study shows that most girls are doing this either in response to pressure from their boyfriend or to please him. 51% of teen girls say pressure from a guy is a reason girls send sexy messages or images; only 18% of teen boys cited pressure from girls as a reason.

Close behind pressure from boyfriends is pressure from other friends. 23% of teen girls and 24% of teen boys say they were pressured by friends to send or post sexual content. Another popular reason given for sexting was to send the material to someone they wanted to date or hook up with.

### Digital Trophies

Boys who receive pictures or videos may choose to share them with their friends as a way to brag. Sharing exaggerated stories in the locker room is no longer enough. Visuals must accompany these stories in order to validate them. One teen said, “It’s like a digital trophy, proving that you did something or you got someone to show you something personal of theirs and you can parade it around and make sure everyone knows.”

Digital photos can also be saved and used to slander someone after a relationship goes sour. Students in Wisconsin were charged with a defamation of character misdemeanor after distributing nude photos of a female classmate last year.

### Challenge to Adults

The good news is that 80% of our teens are not “sexting!” The bad news is that at least 20% are. While

federal cases are popping up all over the country in response to this fairly recent *teen* phenomenon, the first Supreme Court case was just settled in June 2010 in response to case involving an *adult* Ontario, CA, police sergeant sexting at work on his employer issued device. For more information, visit <http://dcoregon.com/news/2010/07/01/supreme-court-rules-on-texting-sexing-at-work/>. “Before the U.S. Supreme Court wrapped up its latest term in June, it unanimously held that an employer’s search of a worker’s text message was reasonable and did not violate the employee’s rights.”

So, what can parents and youth ministers do? Young Internet and digital-media users need to know about the four characteristics of online digital media (from social-media research Danah Boyd at *Alternet*):

- **Searchability:** Anyone, friend or foe, can find it.
- **Persistence:** Anyone can find it basically forever--tomorrow or thirty years from now.
- **Replicability:** Once they find it, they can share it--in e-mails, IMs, profiles, on file-sharing networks, etc.
- **Invisible audience:** You don’t know who you’re sharing it with; even if your page is private, you don’t know what “friends” will do with it.

It’s important that adults *and* youth know that in our digital media age, we actually have *less* privacy than ever before! A good Web site to visit is <http://www.connectsafely.org/>. Adults need to set the tone and give good example for youth to follow.

Parental awareness of this behavior can lead to valuable discussions about the proper view of sexuality and the dignity of the human person. Our bodies are given to us by God and as such are sacred. When we view pornographic images, we are not giving proper dignity, worth, and respect to those seen in the images. Any kind of sexual behavior outside of the God-established realm of marriage is sinful. Stress that viewing nude photos and videos, as well as taking them of one’s self or others, is also a distortion of God’s plan of love. Viewing pornography as a teen, *or at any age*, establishes an unhealthy, sinful, and addictive habit.

Keep in mind that the impulsive nature of teens can lead to snapping photos without too much thought. Please encourage your teens to think about their actions and the unintended consequences they can have. Make them aware that possessing explicit photos of minors can lead to criminal charges. Stress how easy it is for photos to spread into the wrong hands. Not only can peers or classmates see the images, but also future employers and college admission counselors as well.

**World Youth Day 2011:  
August 16-21 in Madrid**

We are working with Bursch Travel in Hutchinson for our diocesan pilgrimage. Please contact Margaret McHugh if you are interested. We'll be sending out a separate mailing with the itinerary and cost.

**Diocesan Youth Council 2010-11**

| DYC Member         | Region   | Gr   | Parish                   | Parents                  |
|--------------------|----------|------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Stephen Leeb       | 1        | 12th | St. Peter, St. Peter     | Michael & Karen Leeb     |
| Monica Illikman    | 1        | 10th | New Ulm, St. Mary        | John & Sharon Illikman   |
| Elizabeth Anderson | 2        | 11th | Morgan, St. Michael      | Duane & Kris Anderson    |
| Anne Goedtke       | 2        | 12th | Springfield, St. Raphael | David & Kathleen Goedtke |
| Shawn Polman       | 3        | 11th | Cottonwood, St. Mary     | Ronald & Jean Polman     |
| Tonio Rabaey       | 3        | 12th | Minneota, St. Edward     | Fred & Margrit Rabaey    |
| Johanna Johnson    | 4        | 11th | Murdock, Sacred Heart    | Stacy & Warren Johnson   |
| Leah Miller        | 4        | 12th | Murdock, Sacred Heart    | Neil & Nancy Miller      |
| Andrea Tauber      | 5        | 11th | Olivia, St. Aloysius     | Jeff & Corinne Tauber    |
| Jonathan Onnen     | 5        | 11th | Kandiyohi, St. Patrick   | Steve & Sharon Onnen     |
| Ian Coates         | 6        | 11th | Glencoe, St. Pius X      | Randee & Veronica Coates |
| Sara Hughes        | 6        | 11th | Darwin, St. John         | James & Donna Hughes     |
| Grace Maiers       | At Large | 11th | Stewart, St. Boniface    | Terence & Karen Maiers   |
| Shelley Roiger     | At Large | 12th | Springfield, St. Raphael | Greg & Linda Roiger      |

**NCYC 2011 Indianapolis**

So far, I've heard from Morgan, Franklin, Fairfax, Gibbon, Canby, St. Leo, Cottonwood, Milroy, Marshall, Murdock, Clara City, and Darwin...all expressing interest in participating in NCYC 2011.

Our projected number of participants *at this very moment* is around 200. Please contact me within the month if you are interested in participating in the event as I will be making on-site preparations for the diocesan group in Indianapolis next month.

**NET Team # 3 Will Visit Diocese**

Team # 3 consists of eleven young adults, including a team member from Australia! The NET Team will be in our diocese from October 21 to November 4. There are still two open dates, Friday, October 22, and Tuesday, October 26, if you are interested in a NET Retreat. Contact Cindy Blickem at [cblickem@dnu.org](mailto:cblickem@dnu.org) or 507-233-5325.

This year, four young people from our diocese are serving on NET (National Evangelization Team): Sarah Finnegan from Winsted, Kiki Wallyn from Hutchinson, Kim Juncewski from Darwin (2<sup>nd</sup> year), and Leah DeLanghe from Marshall.

**Mark Your Calendars for 2010-2011**

| Date         | Event                             | Time                            | Location                       |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sat, Sept 25 | Faith Formation Day               | 8:00 early bird Mass; 9:00-2:30 | St. Catherine's, Redwood Falls |
| Mon, Oct 18  | DRE/YM Gathering                  | 10:00 am-3:00 pm                | Center for Youth Ministry      |
| Sun, Oct 24  | Senior High Rally Gr 9-12         | 1-7:00 pm                       | Willmar Public High School     |
| Mon, Nov 15  | DRE/YM Gathering                  | 10:00 am-3:00 pm                | Center for Youth Ministry      |
| Mon, Dec 6   | DRE/YM Gathering                  | 10:00 am-3:00 pm                | Center for Youth Ministry      |
| Mon, Jan 10  | DRE/YM Gathering                  | 10:00 am-3:00 pm                | 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                            |

**National Catholic Youth Conference - November 17-19, 2011 - Indianapolis, IN**

*All youth in grades 9-12 in 2011 will be able to attend with their adult leaders - 21 years of age or over*

At this point in time we would like to know how many people plan to attend from your parish. These are only estimates but please try to be as realistic as possible. We will probably leave on Tuesday, November 15, returning late Sunday night, November 20. Cost is still to be determined.

# of Youth in Grades 9-12 in 2011 that I estimate will attend: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Adult leaders that I estimate will attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Name, Town \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ We plan on going on the diocesan buses. \_\_\_\_\_ We plan on staying in the diocesan block of hotel rooms.

\_\_\_\_\_ We plan on lining up our own transportation to Indianapolis. \_\_\_\_\_ We are lining up our own housing arrangements.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Margaret or Cindy Blickem ([cblickem@dnu.org](mailto:cblickem@dnu.org)) Catholic Pastoral Center, 1400 6th St. N, New Ulm, MN 56073