

# Gatherings

Dear DREs and Youth Ministers:

# Reflections

October 8, 2009

## From the Religious Education Office

*Bryan Reising*

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## Respect Life Month

### Every Child Brings Us God's Smile

*by Bryan Reising*



Tommy, 10, and his family just moved in the area. Being new, his parents wondered if Tommy would be accepted by the new community. In the last place they lived, it took several years for Tommy to make friends. You see, Tommy was born with Down Syndrome, and he was teased a lot because of his disabilities. Then a few

of his schoolmates really got to know Tommy, and saw how wonderful he truly is, how encouraging he is, and how he brings a smile when he enters a room.

This new community was actually more accepting of Tommy because students there learned about a foundational Catholic teaching of how all humans - born and unborn, persons with disabilities, persons of different races and cultures, young and old, rich and poor - are all God's children. Tommy and his family were happy to see that the Catholic parish really made an effort to teach this, as they truly felt welcomed in this community.

The Church teaches that the foundation of Catholic Social Teaching is the life and dignity of human life - all human life. During this month of October, we are given an opportunity to teach this on so many levels: to our children, youth, and adults. Look at your curriculum to see how you can focus on the life and dignity of the human person. Perhaps include activities that center around this teaching. Look at issues like the unborn, human dignity of persons with disabilities, marriage between a man and a woman

and family life, infertility and contraception, assisted suicide vs. the dignity of suffering and dying, and looking at building a culture of life. In fact, the US Bishops have some wonderful resources regarding these very issues with their 2009 Respect Life Program materials (see <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/2009/index.shtml>).

Even though Respect Life Sunday was October 4, 2009, it is not too late to teach about life and dignity. You have the whole month of October, and really, there are opportunities throughout the year. We want more parishes to be prepared if someone like Tommy comes to our parishes.

Right now, how would your parish community treat a person like Tommy? Are you prepared or is your parish prepared if someone of a different race or culture or a person with a disability signed up for faith formation?

Let us all create a culture where all God's children are welcomed and included. And let us recognize that every child and every person brings all of us God's smile!

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## VIRTUS Trainings

- Monday, October 12, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Redwood Falls
- Saturday, October 24, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. Glencoe
- Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Sleepy Eye
- Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Arlington
- Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. Olivia
- Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Morgan
- Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Marshall

Remember to have new catechists and new volunteers trained, receive a background check, and sign the diocesan policy. **Your veteran catechists and volunteers are required to log on to the VIRTUS website for annual continuing online VIRTUS training in the Fall of each year.**

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## Touching Safety - VIRTUS Website - Educator Tab

Remember Lessons Five and Six are to be offered for all your students during the month of October 2009. You will need to turn in your reports, absent forms, and opt out forms as soon as you complete the Touching Safety lessons. Please avoid the phone calls and e-mails from the diocese by turning them in by November 30, 2009. Thank you!

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## University of Dayton's VLCCF

Cycle 7: Oct 18 - Nov 21

(Registration: Opens Sep 1; Closes Oct 14)

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- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Church and Communication](#)
- [Church History 2](#)
- [Conscience](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Ecclesiology: The Pilgrim Church](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Liturgy](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Letters of Paul](#)
- [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](#)
- [Sacrament of Marriage: A Holy Calling](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Scripture: Introduction](#)
- [Scripture: Old Testament](#)
- [Scripture: New Testament](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)

For further information, contact Bryan Reising at 507-233-5324 and check out VLCCF's website:

<http://vlc.udayton.edu/>.

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### Upcoming Gather for November

- for Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs or DREs) and Youth Ministers

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We begin with a social, a prayer, then enrichment with a guest speaker, lunch, meeting/networking, and closing prayer. If you have conflicts like work or other commitments, let me know. We can perhaps work on a conference call during the evening sometime or even a visit.

Our next Gather will be **Monday, November 2, 2009** from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Center for Youth Ministry in Renville. Our Sunday Visitor will sponsor and our guest speaker will be Kathy Regan from Iowa. Kathy has many years experience with adolescent catechesis and teaching about Catholic Social Teaching. Her topic is "Creating Justice...What Does It Take?"

Please RSVP to Cindy Blickem if you can attend, 507-233-5325 or [cblickem@dnu.org](mailto:cblickem@dnu.org).

Our Gather in December will be **Monday, December 7, 2009** from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Center of Youth Ministry.

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## Proclaiming Christ 2009 - October 2009

The Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association (PNCEA) is hosting a national online conference on evangelization. Partial scholarships are available from PNCEA. This conference has something for everyone without the costs of travel, lodging, or food. For further information and registration, go to [www.proclaimingchrist2009.org](http://www.proclaimingchrist2009.org).

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### Media Resources from the Diocesan Media Library

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#### For Elementary Grades

- **Through Grandpa's Eyes** by Barr Films Production
- **Philip and the Wild Colt** by Learning Corporation of America

#### For Middle School Grades

- **Molokai: The Story of Fr. Damien** by ERA Films/CVBA Damien – Jos Stelling Films (for the whole family)
- **Living Proof** by Pope Paul VI Institute (Middle School and up)
- **Power Surge: Racism** by Wm. H. Sadlier, Inc. (Middle School and up)
- **A Day in the Life of Bonnie Consolo** by Barr Films (Middle School and up)
- **Beautiful Still: Terri's Song** by Memorare Ministries (Middle School and up)

#### For High School Grades and Adults

- **Pro-Life** by Human Life International
- **The Faces of Our Future** by CTNA
- **Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors** by Pathways Awareness Foundation
- **Contraception** by One More Soul

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>.

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### National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Membership

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Right now, they are doing a membership drive for potential members of NCCL. There are many benefits for parish catechetical leaders! The cost of an individual membership to NCCL is only \$60.00. This is only \$5.00 a month. For further information, check out the website:

<http://www.nccl.org/>

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### Parish Catechesis Question

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How welcoming is your parish community? Do you include persons with disabilities in your faith formation? What resources do you use for them?

## From the Youth Ministry Office:

*Sr. Margaret McHugh, DSMP*

*Director of Youth Ministry & Vocation Awareness*

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

### Reaching for the Rosary in October

It is so natural to return to the prayers one learned as a child during times of difficulty and transition. Over the past few months, I have been reaching for my rosary very often and finding a great deal of comfort and support.

*Rosary Stars*, a new DVD, which features well known Catholic athletes and actors praying the Rosary along with moving testimonies, has just been ordered for the Media Center Library. Check in with Joan Weichering in about ten days to see if you can borrow it for your young people (507-233-5330).

I've been doing a great deal of reading on the Rosary. Of the ten books or so I have on the Rosary, I'd like to make one huge recommendation... If you only read one book on the Rosary in your entire life, let it be, *The Rosary: A Path into Prayer* by Liz Kelly. The book was published in Chicago by Loyola Press in 2004. I have several copies in my office to lend to anyone who is interested. This is a very user friendly, youth friendly resource with lots of testimonies from young people who actually pray the Rosary.

The author, Liz Kelly, is a twenty-something writer who has published both fiction and nonfiction and a jazz singer who has released two CDs. She received her MFA in creative writing from the University of Alaska and currently works for Harvard University. She lives in Watertown, Massachusetts.

Just to give you a taste of it, I've included the following excerpt:

#### Pier Giorgio's Secret Life

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901-1925) was young, handsome, popular, well educated, and wealthy. He was also remarkably devoted to the Rosary.

Beloved especially among young people and among university students in particular, Blessed Pier Giorgio was an extraordinary young person who had the fervent prayer life of a mystic. As the son of a socially prominent Italian businessman and politician, Pier Giorgio was a member of the Turinese elite. He was as rigorous and ardent about his athletic life as he was about his prayer life: hiking, horseback riding, mountain climbing, skiing, and bicycling were some of his favorite activities. He often attended the theater and was fond of

art, literature, and music. Behind the scenes, however lived a different Pier Giorgio.

His secret life as an extraordinarily generous and humble servant to the poor began to be revealed after his death from polio at age twenty-four. Pier Giorgio most likely contracted the disease when he was visiting the sick. When his funeral was held, the streets of Turin were filled with mourners, many of them, the poor, sick, lonely, and aged that Pier Giorgio had helped throughout his short life. He sacrificed much to help Turin's downtrodden, such as when he took all the money his father had given him at his graduation and gave it to the poor. Even on his deathbed, he offered instruction to his friends and family about how to care for the poor who had come to depend on him. Much to the surprise of even his own family, Pier Giorgio had impacted the lives of thousands of the faceless poor of Turin.

Pier Giorgio's inner life was rich as well. He often spent the night before the tabernacle, kneeling before the Eucharist in profound prayer. He belonged to a nocturnal Eucharistic adoration group and was one of the most devoted members. One of his favorite prayers was the Rosary. He even cultivated plants whose seeds he would use to make the rosaries for his friends. His rosary was always with him, either encircling his hand as he walked to and from church or hiked up mountains, or in his pocket, to be retrieved at any moment. In the final years of his life, Pier Giorgio prayed the full fifteen mysteries daily and was a steadfast promoter of the Rosary, something that did not always draw favorable attention. While he was entirely silent about his help to the poor, he was sometimes criticized for being an exhibitionist with regard to his Rosary devotion. But those who criticized him were often won over in time.

Pier Giorgio's love for the Rosary and the Eucharist was accompanied by a great simplicity of faith in action. He would offer the coat off his back to someone without one; he fed the hungry and housed the homeless. He led a positive, simple, faithful life and this was the measure of his sanctity.

Except from *The Rosary: A Path into Prayer* by Liz Kelly (Loyola Press, 2004. Reprinted with permission of Loyola Press. To order copies call 1-800-621-1008 or go to [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com). Link to the book's Web page: <http://www.loyolapress.com/the-rosary-path-into-prayer-by-liz-kelly.htm>.

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#### A Gift for October:

*The first five people who contact me will be able to receive a set of Rosary CDs free of charge. This five CD collection includes the Luminous Mysteries and is published by HeartBeat Records. These are great for long drives and prayer behind the wheel. Call me at 507-233-5327 or e-mail [mmchugh@dnu.org](mailto:mmchugh@dnu.org) if you're interested!*

## Year of the Priest Special Offer from Fireside Publishing

During The Year of the Priest, Fireside Publishing is giving away a trip to Rome for a priest from the United States. Any priest who submits his name on a three by five index card with their name, address, phone, and signature to Fireside Catholic Publishing before March 31, 2010 is eligible. Official rules can be found at [firesidecatholic.com](http://firesidecatholic.com). (Phone # 800-676-3264). They would especially like it, if this submission was accompanied by a purchase of one of their products, but it is not necessary.

### NET Team

NET Ministries will arrive in our diocese on October 17 and depart on the 31st. They will be available for 11 retreat days October 18-30. If you have not scheduled them for a retreat in your area, you can still see them at the Senior High Rally October 25 at the Church of St. Peter.

### Senior High Rally October 25 Noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Peter

- ❖ Please note the change of time. We will be starting at noon to avoid congestion in the parking lot and hope to prevent a bottleneck at the entrance to the Church.
- ❖ FR. BURKE MASTERS, from the Diocese of Joliet, a former professional baseball player will talk about the "Game of Life" and share his journey "From the Diamond to the Roman Collar."
- ❖ AUDREY ASSAD, a Christian singer/songwriter who recently become Catholic, will share her song and story with a message of hope for all.

### Junior High Festival - April 25, 2010

Leonardo di Fillipis, a professional actor, will be sharing pieces from the life of St. John Vianney and doing some acting/lectoring workshops.

## NCYC 2009 in Kansas City November 19-21

We have completed and mailed in the registration forms and hotel rooming lists. The Diocese of New Ulm is sending about 325 people down to Kansas City for NCYC 2009! Bishop LeVoir will be joining us for the Region 8 Mass at 5:00 p.m. in the Grand Ball Room A & B. Archbishop Nienstedt will be the main celebrant for the Mass and Bishop LeVoir will be giving the homily. A Subway supper will be served for our entire diocesan group immediately after Mass in that same space.

This year, I will be working with Dawn and Art Rohlik from Wanda and Samantha Grewe and Kate Schreiner both from Gibbon to coordinate the on-site details for the Diocese of New Ulm.

**We're preparing an NCYC update. In the meantime, PLEASE make sure you have all your chaperones in good shape with Safe Environment paperwork and VIRTUS training. Any adult chaperone that has not had a background check, read and signed the Diocesan Policy on Sexual Abuse, and attended a VIRTUS training will not be able to leave for Kansas City.**

### Riverbend TEC Schedule for 2009-2010

**Riverbend TEC, 112 W Van Dusen St.  
Springfield, MN 56087 507-723-4141**

<http://www.riverbendtec.org/>

Attached below is the schedule of the TEC weekends, the planning meeting (usually 2 weeks before the TEC on Sunday from 1-5 pm) and the small reunion (usually 2 weeks after the TEC on Sunday from 1-4 pm).

TEC	Date of TEC Weekend	Place	Planning Meeting	Small Reunion
<b>2009</b>				
226	Oct 24-26	Bird Island	Oct 11, 1-5	Nov 8, 1-4
227	Jan 16-18	New Ulm	Jan 3, 1-5	Jan 31, 1-4
<b>2010</b>				
228	Feb 13-15	Winsted	Jan 31, 1-5	Feb 28, 1-4
229	Mar 20-22	New Ulm	Mar 14, 1-5	<b>Apr 11, 1-4 (3 wks)</b>
230	Jun 26-28	Bird Island	Jun 13, 1-5	Jul 11, 1-4
231	Jul 31-Aug 2	Winsted	Jul 18, 1-5	Aug 15, 1-4

### NEXT YEAR'S DATES - Rel Ed / Youth Ministry Calendar for 2009-10

2009		*note change in date	
Sun, Oct 25	Sr High Rally	<b>Noon-6:00</b>	St Peter
Mon, Nov 2	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Nov 17-22	NCYC		Kansas City
Mon, Dec 7	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
<b>2010</b>			
Mon, Jan 4	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Feb 1	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Mon, Mar 8	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers	10:00-3:00	Center for Youth Ministry
Apr 6-8	NCEA Convention		Minneapolis
Mon, Apr 12	Gather for DREs & Youth Ministers – Curriculum Day	10:00-3:00	Catholic Pastoral Center, New Ulm
<b>Sun, Apr 25 *</b>	Jr High Festival	11:00-5:00	TBA
Mon, May 24	DRE/YM Spring Fling	Noon-4:00	TBA
Thurs-Fri Jun 17-18	Young Women's Discipleship Camp	Thu 9:30 am-Fri 5:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry
Thurs-Fri Jun 24-25	Young Men's Discipleship Camp	Thu 9:30 am-Fri 5:00 pm	Center for Youth Ministry