

Memo

To: Pastors, Administrators and Parish Life Coordinators
From: Colette A. Kennett/Director of Youth Ministry
Date: January 2010
Re: Office of Youth Ministry Update

As we begin this New Year, there is much excitement within the Office of Youth Ministry. We wanted to make you aware of some wonderful opportunities available to the youth within your parish as you plan for the months ahead. Please feel free to share this information with other interested members of the parish. For additional details on these events, visit our Office of Youth Ministry website at: www.diobelleoym.catholicweb.com.

Diocesan Youth Conference

March 13-14, 2010 is the weekend for our annual Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC). This two-day event will again take place at the Gateway Center in Collinsville IL. The Theme is "Based in Faith" and reminds us that our faith provides the foundation and guide in helping us respond to our Baptismal Call. So we are planning a weekend that offers "Spiritual Spring Training" to your parish youth and their adult leaders. Featured presenter will be Jesse Manibusan, a faith-filled Catholic who shares the Gospel Message through story and song. The program includes workshops, prayer, liturgy, community building, service opportunities and a Saturday Evening Awards Banquet. This annual Conference draws over 600 high school teens and their adult leaders from throughout Southern Illinois. Your parish may bring an unlimited number of high school youth. We hope that you will be with us this March!

First Diocesan Junior High Rally

While your high school teens are preparing for DYC, we hope that you will encourage your junior high youth to join us for our very first Diocesan Junior High Rally. This one-day event will take place on April 25th at the Holiday Inn located in Mt. Vernon IL. The Theme is "Catch the Spirit" and the focus of the day is to strengthen Catholic identity among our Diocesan junior high youth. "Oddwalk Ministries" will be the featured presenters plus the event will include a teen faith witness panel, prayer, liturgy and more. Now is the time to organize your parish youth and adults to join us for this historical Rally!

International World Youth Day Events – Madrid, Spain

Next August, our Office will sponsor a pilgrimage journey to the International World Youth Day events in Madrid, Spain. The dates are August 10-22, 2011. This event is an opportunity for youth and young adults to join the Holy Father for an international celebration of faith! The package cost is \$3,650.00 which includes participation in "Days in the Diocese" allowing pilgrims to spend time with Catholic families in the local Dioceses surrounding Madrid. Deadline for first deposit of \$400.00 per person has been extended to February 15, 2010. This event provides an unforgettable experience of the universal Catholic Church within a dynamic spiritual setting.