



THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

January 25, 2011

Dear Pastors, Administrators and Parish Life Coordinators,

The Office of Youth Ministry will again sponsor our annual Diocesan Youth Conference at the Gateway Center in Collinsville on March 5-6, 2011. The Theme of the event is "Saints...B1!" I believe this to be a timely theme when there seems to be so much confusion in our world and in our Church. The challenges that our economy presents along with alternative views concerning faith and morals, we struggle to find answers that will help us meet those challenges. The good news is that God has already provided the answer to the question, "what am I to do?"

Our Catholic faith has a rich history of people rising to the occasion to show others what it means to be a Christ follower in both ordinary and extraordinary times. The saints have left us a legacy of cooperating with God's grace. The answer to the question to how we are to respond to today's challenges is to be a Saint for Christ. This year's conference will engage participants in the meaning of being a saint and provide practical ways that will help us to become a Saint.

At this event, each participant receives a Conference program booklet which contains the schedule of events plus information about presenters, workshops and program details.

We would like you to consider joining us in this effort by placing an "affirmation ad" in our Conference program booklet. These ads provide an opportunity for a parish to send words of affirmation to their parish teens who participate in the weekend. We have attached information on the "affirmation ad" process along with the samples of parish ads from last year.

The Diocesan Youth Conference is the largest event sponsored by our Office annually. We have over 600 high school Catholic teens and their adult parish leaders in attendance last year. The Conference program focuses upon the eight components of comprehensive youth ministry as identified in Renewing the Vision, the document of the United States Bishops.

We hope that you, your Pastoral Council, or other parish organizations might consider submitting a parish-sponsored "affirmation ad" to encourage your youth in enhancing their Catholic faith through participation in this Diocesan-sponsored event. ***Deadline to submit ad information to our Office is February 4, 2011.***

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you cannot submit an ad, may we ask for your prayers for a successful and spirit-filled Conference?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary A. Jordan".

Director of Youth Ministry

Office of Youth Ministry

2620 Lebanon Avenue, Building 2 · Belleville, Illinois 62221-3299

Phone (618) 235-9601 · Fax (618) 257-2969

E-mail: oyminfo@diobelle.org

www.diobelleoym.catholicweb.com