

Wolcott, Heather Anne

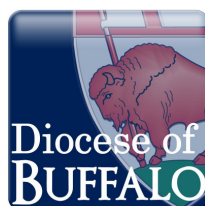
From: Diocese of Buffalo-Youth & Young Adult Ministry [mcoates@buffalodiocese.ccsend.com] on behalf of Diocese of Buffalo-Youth & Young Adult Ministry [youth@buffalodiocese.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 4:36 PM
To: Wolcott, Heather Anne
Subject: A Message from Diocese of Buffalo-Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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**Department of
Youth &
Young Adult
Ministry**

April 2011



**Youth & Young Adult
Ministry Connections**
 Department of Youth & Young
 Adult Ministry

April

29th
 Diocesan Youth Board
 Applications Due

29th
 Bowling for Hope Forms
 Due

May

17th
 Colleagues in Ministry:
 7:30pm; St Pius X,
 Getzville

26th
 Colleagues in Ministry;
 7pm; St. Mary of
 Lourdes,
 (Mayville/Bemus Point)

25th
 Strong Catholic
 Families...Strong
 Catholic Youth Coffee
 Hour

June

6th
 Millennial Milestones
 Showcase



Dear Heather,

Alleluia! He is risen! May this Easter season bring new life in abundance to you and your ministry!

There are certainly signs of new life in our department this spring! As we turn our thoughts to planning for next year, we do so with an eye for doing things differently. Perhaps it's time to let go of some things that have typically been on our calendar, and maybe this will allow for some new things to spring forth!

We don't have all the decisions and plans made yet - because we'd like to be sure to include your input. We welcome all to this work - both past supporters/participants and non-participants can provide valuable insight. As we have more details about committees that are forming, we will communicate that. (So far, we know that we'll be forming a task group to review and make recommendations about the awards that our department presents.) If you want to be part of the process in any way (providing input, serving on a short-term committee, etc.), please [contact me](#).

While change is never easy, we embark upon this journey with a renewed commitment to be of service to you - parish and campus leaders in our diocese. We place our faith and hope in the Risen Christ who reminds us that new life is always available to us through Him.

Peace to you this Easter season!

[Kathy Goller](#)

17th
DYRT Application Due

25th-July 1st
Christian Leadership
Institute



July

25th & 26th
Retreat Training



Diocesan Youth Board - Last Chance

Hey Young Church, this is your last chance to apply for the Diocesan Youth Board. By empowering teenagers to be advocates for the young Church, the Diocesan Youth Board seeks to draw young people into responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Church. The Diocesan Youth Board works to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person in the Diocese. Qualifications:

- Each young person should be a person of faith, with a dedication to their peers and their Church.
- Enthusiasm for youth ministry!
- The Diocesan Youth Board requires a commitment of time and energy, along with a desire to grow and learn throughout the year.
- The abilities to communicate clearly and work cooperatively in a group are necessary for the success of the Board.
- Attendance at the Christian Leadership Institute, Youth Board Meetings and Overnights.

Applications are due April 29, 2011 to the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

[Click here for application.](#)



Extreme Makeover: Convention Edition

THANK YOU to all who completed the Convention surveys - the group leaders who completed the evaluation forms, and the leaders who don't typically attend. You all offered valuable feedback! We're listening...and while we heard a lot of positive feedback, there were also some comments that led us to initiate the "Extreme Makeover: Convention Edition!"



Next February will bring the 60th Annual Diocesan Youth Convention . . . maybe after 59 years, it's time for some remodeling and updating! Are you (and your young people) interested in participating in the makeover? We'll come to you to get your input! When do you already have your teens gathered? Or when *can* you gather them for some conversation about the Convention? [Contact Kathy Goller](#) and let her know when you'd like one of our staff to come and visit with your group as part of the Extreme Convention Makeover project! To get you (and your group) started in thinking about this, consider this question:

Given what you know about teenagers today, about the church (and parishes) today, and about society today...if the Convention didn't exist, and we wanted to start from scratch in creating it, what would we include?

Time to get your toolbox and hardhat!



Strong Catholic Families...Strong Catholic COFFEE??

Yes, come for a cup o' joe and learn what other parishes in our diocese are doing to engage parents more in their role as primary faith formators and faith role models for their

children! Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, May 25 (9:30-11:30 AM)** and plan to join us for a [Coffee Hour](#) to explore parental engagement and how the [Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth initiative](#) might be a valuable resource for your parish. Come for great conversation, networking, and inspiration or help in planning for 2011-2012! [RSVP](#) by Friday, May 20. No cost - coffee's on us!



Safe Environment Compliance Form DUE

Announcing the official beginning to "**Compliance Report Collection Season!**" All parish catechetical and youth ministry leaders are responsible for verifying that all staff and volunteers in their programs are in compliance with Diocesan Safe Environment policies. (*For clarification about what "compliance" means, please see [Bishop Kmiec's letter from April 20, 2011.](#)*) The diocese is audited by the USCCB each year, and in order to complete our preparations for this audit, we need a form and report from you.

- **Form is due BY JUNE 1, 2011.**
- **The form and process to**



complete the form will be the same as last year.

- [Download the form and the instructions.](#)

Remember, if you have been maintaining your list (Master Report) of volunteers all year, completing this form will be easy! If you need help with this process, catechetical leaders should contact [Mary Beth Coates](#) and youth ministry leaders should contact [Kathy Goller](#).

Need an incentive to submit your form by June 1st? All leaders who submit their forms by June 1st will be entered in a drawing for fabulous prizes (gift cards - that way we're sure it's the right size!)

So don't delay - complete your form in May!



Millennial Milestones Showcase

Need to jump start or figure out next steps in ministry with young adults in your parish? Come to discover ideas and tools to do just that at the **Emerging Best Practices Showcase** for the Millennial Milestones project. The Showcase will highlight ways to connect you with young adult Catholics in your parish.

Showcase details: **Monday, June 6, 2011** at **The Catholic Center**, 795 Main Street, Buffalo from **5:30 - 9:30 pm**. The evening will include a variety of parish displays and presentations designed to share strategies. **No cost to attend**. This project is funded by the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo. **All are welcome - INCLUDING YOUNG ADULTS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY!** Click here for details www.dobyouth.org or call 716-847-5505.



Catholic Charities 2011

It's not too late to get your results in for Bowling-For-Hope. Please send in your details to [Greg Coogan](#) by **April 29**.

Did you know that a \$25 donation supplies a meal for 8 families?

Through a donation of only \$25 to Catholic Charities, their four food pantries located in central, south and east Buffalo and in Lackawanna, are able to supply a meal to 8 families of four.



Camp Turner Now Accepting 16 year old Campers for Two Weeks

This two week program is excellent preparation for those who aspire to staff positions, but it is open to anyone up for an adventure. The program includes

- Team building and trip planning.
- 3 day Wilderness Backpacking Trip, lead by NY State Licensed Guides with veteran CT staff, through the Allegheny National Forest.
- Training in camping skills, leave-no-trace camping, map reading, backpacking safety and more.
- Leadership training, social justice workshops, service learning projects, retreat experience.

Field Trips, Awards clubs, *staff-for-a-day*.
 Horseback riding trips, campfires and other fun things.
Early bird 16 year olds - take \$100 off if signed up by April
 30th

This program will open to 15 year old campers after May 15 if not already full.



This fall, many Catholic high school graduates will become freshmen on campuses where their faith will be tested. Catholic campus ministries offer strong support but, because of privacy laws and competing activities, struggle to connect with freshman students. The U.S. Council of Serra developed the College Connection Program to help make this connection.

The Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry collects the names of high school graduates in your parish along with the intended colleges and their location. Then, that information is forwarded to the campus ministries who greet the students upon arrival. This information is communicated to the campus ministries only and, otherwise, will remain confidential.

If you would like to make this connection for your parish seniors, they may enroll in several ways:

Enroll on-line: www.dobyouth.org
 Fill out a College Connection Postcard from your parish youth minister. (Postcards are available through the department or downloadable from the website)
 Email their name, email address and their college to
gcoogan@buffalodiocese.org
 Call: The Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, 716-847-8789



Calling **all young adults** between 18 and 35 to join in our a night of faith-sharing offered by Mike Hayes, worship led by [re]play, adoration, and a social gathering, on Thursday, April 28th from 7:30-9:30, with a social hour to follow, at Queen of Heaven Parish in West

Seneca. A g[re]at night of faith and fellowship with the young adults from Buffalo!

And stay up to date with everything going on for the young adult population in the Buffalo a[re]a and other upcoming events by joining the [re] group on Facebook!

Find us on Facebook 

[For more details, click here.](#)



Catholic Underground: Buffalo, NY

Catholic Underground: Buffalo, NY is a new initiative for 20 & 30 somethings. The first local gathering will be on Friday, May 6, 2011 at 7:30 - 10 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 144 Broad Street, Tonawanda 14150. The evening begins with Eucharistic adoration, evening prayer and ends with a social hour with live music, food and drink.

For more information contact Anthony Shilen at ashilen@sjci.com

[Click here for the flyer.](#)



Congrats to Catholic Scouts!

Congratulations to the 72 Catholic Girl and Boy Scouts who received religious emblems at the annual Catholic Committee on Scouting Religious Recognition Award Ceremony on April 16! These young people have deepened their knowledge and practice of our Catholic faith as they have worked on these religious emblems, and we commend their dedication. We also thank the adults (parents, family members, scout leaders, parish leaders) who have supported and guided these scouts in their work. Blessings and congratulations to all!

Scouting is youth ministry, and the [religious recognition programs](#) are a wonderful method of catechesis (covering topics such as the sacraments, Mary's role in our faith, the Holy Spirit's movement in our lives, and Christian vocation). Parish leaders who wish to learn more about how to integrate these programs into a comprehensive plan for catechesis and youth ministry should contact [Kathy Goller](#).



Camp Turner Annual Alumni Staff Reunion



Friday evening, July 1
through 6 PM Sunday,
July 3.

Former Staff are invited to come together, share photos and stories, help set up camp and greet the 2011 staff. The weekend is an "Open House" for former staff. Come and go as you please. If you would like to partake in the free lodging or meals, RSVP by email is required. We will pass a hat for those eating and staying to contribute toward the cause. Service projects all day Saturday and through about 2 PM on Sunday. Commissioning Mass will be Sunday July 3rd at 4:30 PM.

For more information, email campturner@gmail.com



A Fundraising Idea with a BANG

Ideas come from all areas of life! This idea was borrowed from Euphoria Salon & Spa at the Walden Galleria Mall.

Need a fundraising idea that will POP out to others? Here's one that could be done instead of or in addition to a theme basket raffle. Seek out donations from local merchants and parishioners. Blow up enough balloons to match the number of prizes you have and put a



number on a small piece of paper inside each balloon. Sell "balloon pops" for \$20 each, with the purchasers winning the prize that was in the balloon they chose. (Make sure at least one prize is an extra-special grand prize of significant value.) Happy fundraising!



Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction or companionship is a strategy that may be helpful to young adults within your faith community. The ministry of spiritual direction has a long standing tradition. It helps to strengthen the Body of Christ and individuals who are seeking a deeper relationship with God. Young adults are often looking for healthy Christian relationships that facilitate good life choices. Some things to consider regarding spiritual direction are:



Spiritual direction focuses on religious experience. It is concerned with a person's actual experience of a relationship with God.

Spiritual direction is about a relationship. The religious experience is not isolated, nor does it consist of extraordinary

events. It is what happens in an ongoing relationship between the person and God. Most often this is a relationship that is experienced in prayer.

Spiritual direction is a relationship that is going somewhere. God is leading the person to deeper faith and more generous service. The spiritual director asks not just "what is happening?" but "what is moving forward?"

The real spiritual director is God. God touches the human heart directly. The human spiritual director does not "direct" in the sense of giving advice and solving problems. Rather, the director helps a person respond to God's invitation to a deeper relationship.

There are a number of parishes who have pastoral staff that offer spiritual direction. If you or young adults in your community are interested in learning more about spiritual direction or would like a list of available directors in the Diocese of Buffalo, please contact [Greg Coogan](#) or 716-847-8789.



Buffalo Bisons Baseball



It's April and that means that the Buffalo Bisons are beginning their baseball games at Coca-Cola Field in Buffalo! If your parish group is interested in attending a game for a discounted rate, please contact Robert Kates at rkates@bisons.com or (716) 846-2032. This is a great opportunity for fundraising and fellowship!



Mother's Day Pro-Life Prayer Witness

What: 3 hours of peaceful prayer in front of the abortion clinic as a Mother's Day witness. This will be a positive witness celebrating the wonderful gifts of life and of motherhood.

When: Saturday May 7th 1pm-4pm (Day before Mother's Day)

Where: 2500 Main St, Buffalo, NY

Who: Anyone who is willing to give of their time, most especially mothers and young children

Why: As a much-needed reminder that pregnant women are not just future mothers. They are already mothers of beautiful unborn children.

What to bring: Children of any age. We will have child-friendly signs for them to hold with messages such as "Thank you Mommy for giving me life!"



We encourage you to stand with us as we pray and witness to young mothers and passers-by alike, that the child in the womb is indeed precious.

You are welcome to come for all or

part of the time. Please RSVP to 632-0812 (Grace Daigler).



Theology of the Body Scholarship Essay Contest for Teens

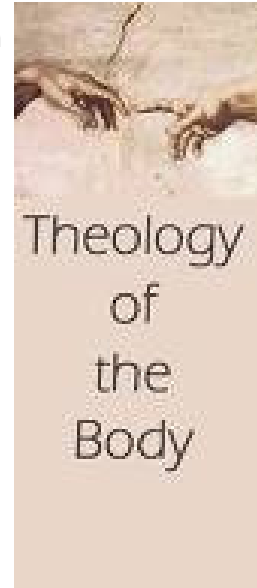
Theology of the Body for Teens has made its way all over the country, giving teens an authentic sense of self.

Ascension Press is sponsoring an essay contest for high school teens. **One young man and one young woman will each win the Grand Prize of \$1500, plus a \$500 Gift Card to Ascension Press for their parishes or schools.**

High school students are invited to submit essays detailing how the Theology of the Body has impacted the way they see themselves as young men or young women in today's culture. There will be a Young Men's Category and a Young Women's Category, with Grand Prize, 2nd place, and 3rd place winners announced for both categories. Ascension Press will also be donating gift cards to the winners' schools or parishes/churches.

All students enrolled in high school for the 2010-2011 school year are eligible. **Essays must be submitted to program@ascensionpress.com by May 23rd, 2011.**

To download the entry form, and to learn more about participating, rules, and eligibility, visit TOBforTeens.com



Contact Info

Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

795 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203

phone: 716-847-8789

fax: 716-847-8797

www.dobyouth.org

youth@buffalodiocese.org

Find us on Facebook 

"The only difference between a rut and a grave is their dimensions." ~Ellen Glasgow

"Growth is the only evidence of life." ~John Henry Newman, Apologia pro vita sua, 1864

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[Forward email](#)



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