

November 4, 2008, Feast of St. Charles Borromeo

Greetings to Members of Two Communities

Welcome to the November, 2008 edition of "Youth Ministry News." I'd like to keep all the people involved in youth ministry at these two parishes aware of what is going on and what is coming up. My hope is that a newsletter would:

- Celebrate what is going on in Youth Ministry in these two communities;
- Increase awareness of and involvement in Youth Ministry activities;
- Build a sense of interconnectedness within the parishes and between the two communities; and,
- Inspire.

I am emailing this edition to a few people that are "stake-holders" in Youth Ministry as a trial run and a means of communication. Can you email me back by November 15th and share with me your reactions and suggestions?

Thank you for caring about our young people,

Stephen M. Tumolo,
Director of Youth Ministry,
Christ the King and Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Communities

Youth Ministry News

Christ the King and Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Communities

Building on Strengths

Youth Ministry is everything a community does in response to the needs of youth. Part of the role, then of a Youth Minister is to recognize and build on what already exists. There are many strengths at both Christ the King and St. Rose of Lima. One is that each community has a thriving parish school and Religious Education program. Two questions I am asking are: "What are the strengths in our existing school and RE program?" and "How can we build on these strengths in responding further to the needs of our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade young people?" What do YOU think? Respond to your newsletter editor at: smtumolo@earthlink.net.

Last Month at St. Rose of Lima

The Senior High Youth Group was very active last month. The group had a Pro-Life weekend to start the month, which included praying in front of the Cherry Hill Women's Center, hosting a Car Wash and donating the proceeds to a Women's Life Resource Center, and viewing

the movie Bella. We had a meeting focusing on the occult and another meeting in early November in which Father Tom answered questions about heaven and hell and more. Steve Lamprou was instrumental in coordinating all these events. Natalie and Dianne Deal brought the parish's donations to St. Paul's in Camden. Dianne continues to show up for Jr. High Youth Group meetings, awaiting the revival of this crew.

Bob Hamilton led us in our presence at the Ministry Fair. Kim Gagliardi has joined us on the Youth Ministry Team. She, along with Natalie and Joanna and Greg Gardener have been leading a revived Youth Choir at the Sunday 6:30pm mass on the 4th Sunday of the Month. They make beautiful music.

The Phillies won and Channel 10 was there to help the school celebrate. There were also four strange-looking figures bouncing around the school and RE classes before Halloween. These were: a Ninja, a Guardian Angel, a Headless Phillies Fan, and a red-caped, donut carrying Fast Food Man. They looked remarkably similar to Father Pham, Msgr. John, Father Al, and Steve T.

On November 2nd, 86 Ninth Graders were confirmed on the Feast of All Souls Day. We are making a special effort to invite them to the November 16th Senior High Youth Group Meeting and to live the commitment they expressed through service, prayer, and involvement in our youth and adult community.

Upcoming at Saint Rose

Sunday, November 9th, after all the morning masses: A Hoagie Sale.

Sunday, November 16, Guest Speaker Matthew Pinto will talk on "Why Be Catholic?"

Sunday, November 23rd, serving breakfast and delivering clothing to St. Paul's in Camden, 7:45 – 10:30am

Sunday, November 23rd, YOUTH Mass, 6:30 pm

Saturday, November 29th, 5th Annual Rake and Run, 11am – 4pm

Sunday, November 30th, ?Work off your Turkey Volleyball Challenge?, 7:30pm

Last Month at Christ the King

I have had several rich conversations with people who are stake-holders in Youth Ministry at Christ the King. I met with Father Joe, Deacon Nick, Sister Dianna, and Elaine Celenza. I spoke with two youth, Manon Mcguigan and Kevin Tritt and one parent, Lisa Keeley-Caine. Through each conversation I got a better picture of the history of Youth Ministry at Christ the King and the hunger for more. I also met the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade RE teachers and students. They struck me as a committed crew of catechists and learners.

Not that long ago, this parish had a thriving Youth Ministry, with 25 to 40 9th through 12th graders participating and perhaps 50 to 70 6th through 8th graders participating in a weekly youth group meeting. I am hearing that the hungers that brought these youth here are still present. I am hearing that they are hungry for God, for community, for a safe space to share their lives and for creative opportunities to go out in to the world. One sign of that is Antoinette, a young adult that Sister Dianna has been mentoring and another teenager from the parish have expressed a call to religious life.

Upcoming at Christ the King

Thursday, November 13th, Staff and Parishioners will participate in a "Building on Your Strengths" workshop, 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Thursday, November 13, Youth and adult leaders will go to St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia to serve dinner, 3:30 -7:00pm.

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27, 9am Mass with Toiletries being collected.

"Enter the Narrow Door"

Last month, at one of the daily masses, I heard the reading, "Strive to enter the narrow door." (Luke 13:24) The homilist urged us to find our own unique way of embodying God's love and this passage had new meaning for me. None of us can enter the kingdom by being anyone other than ourselves. God created us and allowed Life to shape us in a unique and highly personal ways. The "Narrow Door" is the one door to Life that is cut out exactly in our own, personal shape. We need not be anyone other than our true selves to enter the Kingdom.

This is a message that is especially important for our teens. Teens see and hear so many messages telling them that who they are isn't good enough, isn't thin enough, or pretty enough, or tough enough, or smart enough, or cool enough. What lies. These messages are not of God.

Enter the Narrow Door means entering the realm of God's Unconditional, Personal Love for each of us, as we are.

Comments or reactions to this newsletter?

Email me at smtumolo@earthlink.net

Know someone who you think would like to read this newsletter? Pass it on.