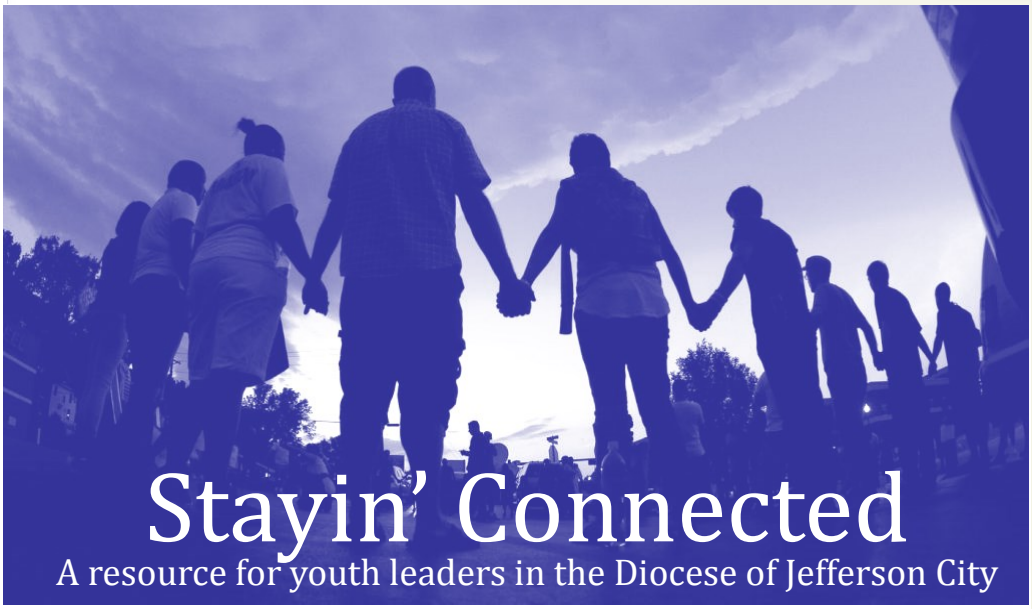
Office of Youth Ministry
Diocese of Jefferson City

DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY
OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY

April, 2018
Volume 3, Issue 6



Stayin' Connected

A resource for youth leaders in the Diocese of Jefferson City

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April: a Month to Connect Your With Colleagues in Christ

By John DeLaporte, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Lent has concluded. The Triduum has brought us back to the paschal mystery, and the Easter season reminds us that we are called to be resurrection people in our Church and world. Indeed, it is a season that compels us to reach out to our sisters and brothers in Christ and reconnect with our faith and our call to ministry. To this end, the Office of Youth Ministry is hosting several opportunities to connect with others in our shared ministry this month.

April Luncheon and Seminar on Youth Ministry for Clergy and Pastoral Administrators

On Friday, April 13 Priests, Deacons, and Pastoral Administrators from around the diocese will gather to hear a presentation by Mr. Rich Curran of Parish Success Group. The afternoon will focus on practical strategies and approaches to "move from maintenance to mission" and facilitate more effective evangelization and outreach to youth and families.

Annual Seminar for Youth Ministers, DRE's, Catechists

On Saturday, April 14 (Sacred Heart - Eldon) and Sunday the 15th (Holy Rosary - Monroe City) all are invited to attend the 2018 seminar focused on youth ministry in the rural parish. We will be joined by Mr. Doug Tooke, a national trainer and expert in rural youth ministry. Doug will offer strategies and approaches for leveraging the gifts of the small, rural parish to meet the unique challenges that these communities face. This workshop is being held in 2 locations to better serve those in the rural reaches in our diocese. Even if you don't consider your parish a "rural community" per se, many of the youth and families we serve live beyond city limits, and you will find plenty of items to benefit your ministry. And of course, there will be time for networking, sharing, food and fellowship!

Region 9 Annual Meeting

Finally, on April 15-17, I will be representing our diocese at the annual meeting for diocesan directors of youth ministry for our episcopal region. Directors from Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska will gather in Kansas City, KS for 3 days of networking, formation, prayer, and fellowship. This meeting is always a wonderful time to share all the work we are doing for our kids, as well as learn what others are doing to successfully meet the ministry challenges of our time and region.

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to attend these opportunities to connect and grow in ministry this month. There is still time to register. The deadline is the end of the week. Please keep all these gatherings in prayer, and I wish everyone Easter joy and blessings during this season of Resurrection!

Pre-Synodal Meeting: We Talk Together

This past month Pope Francis and other leaders met with a diverse group of 300 youth and young adults from 5 continents for a pre-synodal meeting leading up to the 2018 synod on young people, faith and vocational discernment. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the opportunity for young people to produce a document which expresses their view on the state of things, their ideas, their feelings and their recommendations, to be presented to the Synodal Fathers who will meet in October 2018 to treat the topic. At the same time, the Church wants, as much as possible, to involve young people the world over. By means of the social network, those who do not physically take part in the Pre-Synodal Meeting, can interact with those who will meet in Rome. Everyone is invited to join together in the discussion and to make their voices heard, so that the fruits of the Pre-Synodal Meeting will best express the ideas of young people throughout the world.

Keep up on all the latest news on the Synod by clicking here!

"We need young prophets...But this can only happen if young people make the old men dream."

-Pope Francis - Opening remarks to Young People at the Pre-Syndoal Meeting

Upcoming Webinars

Webinars are a great way to get high quality formation in a convenient (and often free!) way. They typically last one hour and encourage interaction and discussion amongst participants. Here are webinar options coming up this month. I highly recommend you check them out!

- The Start of Something Big – Preparing Youth for Confirmation. Monday, April 9, 2018 at 2:00 PM EDT. Presenter: Tom East
- Being a Youth Minister in Today's Church. April 16, 2018 at 2:00 PM EDT Presenter: Dr. Charlotte McCorquodale

Click here to view past webinars on a wide array of relevant topics in youth ministry.

Youth to Bishops: Yes to guidance, no to clericalism, questions on secularism

ROME - At first blush, it might have seemed the Vatican was attempting the impossible this week: Bringing a wildly diverse group of 300 young people from all over the world to Rome, throwing them together, and expecting them to blend those contrasting experiences, outlooks and values into one harmonious set of inputs for an upcoming summit of Catholic bishops.

Even before the meeting started, the possible concerns those young people might voice about the Vatican's various effort at outreach seemed almost endless: Limited sample size, one-sidedness, superficiality, censorship, Eurocentrism, and on and on. Further, a Q&A with Pope Francis on Monday might have suggested a lack of focus, with the pope weighing in on everything from tattoos to prostitution.

Judging by day one of the March 19-24 gathering, however, not only did the Church succeed in bringing together a good cross-section of the fractured reality of young people today, but already relevant and recurring topics have begun to emerge - such as the real need felt by youth for guidance, the need for more effective engagement with secularism, and the toxic nature of clericalism.

The exercise is intended to help shape discussion during an October Synod of Bishops on youth and vocation discernment, called by Francis and to be held in the Vatican. Without shying away from addressing the real issues young people face in a secular age, which make youth skeptical toward religious institutions, the 20-somethings all voiced the need for the Church's guidance and mentorship in the murky waters of the modern world.

Read full summary here

Multi-Parish Lock-in Up North!

19 high school students from St. Bonaventure Church, Marceline, Immaculate Conception, Brookfield and St. Mary of the Angels, Wien participated in a lock-in at Fr. McCartan School in Marceline. The night started out with Mass at Immaculate Conception in Brookfield and was filled with fun, food and fellowship. For many of the youth and adult chaperones this was their first experience with a lock-in. Thanks to Donna Bell, Barbara Garvey and others for sharing this wonderful example of multi-parish youth ministry in action!

April - Confirmation Celebrations

April marks the height of the confirmation season as many parishes wrap up their programs and prepare to celebrate the sacrament this month. Join me in congratulating the many confirmation coordinators, catechists, and confirmandi on months of faithful and dedicated work. Blessings and joy on your efforts to bring these young people to the sacrament.

Please pray for:

- Our Lady of the Lake - Lake Ozark
- St. Anthony - Camdenton
- Holy Family - Hannibal
- Sacred Heart - Columbia
- St. Thomas More - Columbia
- St. Lawrence - St. Elizabeth
- St. Anthony - St. Anthony
- Our Lady of the Snows - Mary's Home
- St. Joseph - Salisbury
- St. Mary of the Angels - Wein
- St. Joseph - Westphalia
- St. Anthony - Folk
- Immaculate Conception - Loose Creek
- St. Louis of France - Bonnots Mill
- Sacred Heart - Sedalia
- St. Patrick - Sedalia
- Immaculate Conception - Brookfield
- Holy Rosary - Monroe City
- St. Stephen - Indian Creek
- Cathedral of St. Joseph - Jefferson City
- St. Andrew - Holts Summit
- St. Peter - Jefferson City

Holidays to Connect Youth With This Month

- Easter Sunday! - April 1
- Student Athlete Day - April 6
- World Health Day - April 7
- Divine Mercy Sunday - April 8
- Annunciation of the Lord - April 9
- Taxes Due! - April 18
- Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day - April 22
- Earth Day - April 22
- Holocaust Remembrance Day - April 24
- World Malaria Day - April 25
- Take Our Sons/Daughters to Work Day - April 27

Holy People to Profile this Month

- St. John Baptist de la Salle
- St. Mark
- St. Catherine of Siena

Student Athlete Day: April 6

Often times in youth ministry we find ourselves in competition with athletic competitions! Whether trying to schedule a church event around a myriad of differing athletic calendars, or simply trying to get kids (and parents!) to place as much emphasis on God as they do sports. On April 6 we have an opportunity to "play on the same team" and use our faith to celebrate our student athletes. Take some time in early April to use sports as an opportunity for prayer and partnership. Here are a few ideas:

- Offer a blessing at Mass over all youth involved in athletics
- Share prayers with your student athletes, coaches, or parents from Play like a Champion's prayer book.
- Highlight a famous athlete who is also a strong Catholic
  - Simone Biles and Katie Ledecky - Olympic gold medal gymnast, swimmer, and faithful Catholics
  - Chris Horn - Former NFL player for the KC Chiefs
  - Mike Piazza - Former MLB player
  - Usain Bolt - Olympic gold medal runner

April: National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. According to the US Department of Health and Human Welfare's website, "NCAP month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect and promotes the social and emotional well-being of children and families. During the month of April and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to increase awareness and provide education and support to families through resources and strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect." As ministers to youth we are in a unique position to educate and support our families and communities on navigating this important topic. Here are 2 great sites with lots of great resources to help you and the youth and families you serve.

- Resources from the USCCB
- National Child Abuse Prevention Month - US HHS
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network

St. John Baptist de la Salle: April 7

For all of us who teach youth (either in school, youth programs, or PSR) take some time this month to pray to St. John Baptist de la Salle - patron of teachers. De la Salle founded the order of the Christian Brothers and dedicated his life to teaching the poor in the wake of the French Revolution. St. John Baptist de la Salle would pioneer a revolution in Catholic education that would eventually serve as a model to our public education system here in the United States. Share this valued saint with your youth, or simply gather together with others on your ministry team to pray for St. John's intercession. Here are a few places to get started:

- Short bio of St. John Baptist de la Salle
- Short video clip of his life
- La Salle's prayer of the teacher

Catholic Youth and the Bible: Moving from Biblical Literacy to Biblical Spirituality. By Brian Singer-Towns

As a college student back in the mid-seventies, I was invited to be part of an ecumenical student Bible study. Born and raised Catholic, I don't think I had cracked open a Bible more than two or three times as a teenager. However, I attended Mass regularly and during high school was even a lector in my small country parish. In this Bible study, my Protestant friends had to show me how to look up chapter and verse, which books were in the Old Testament and which were in the New Testament, and how to use the cross references at the bottom of the Bible's pages. In many respects you could say I was functionally biblically illiterate.

I had little knowledge or experience of using the Bible itself. Even more telling, though, was my lack of biblical spirituality. Despite my hearing the lectionary readings week after week, the values I held were the values of the popular culture; they were materialistic, self-absorbed, and shallow. My involvement in the Bible study group and my own personal reading of the Scriptures were key elements leading to my conversion to a Gospel-centered way of life. But it took involvement with a group outside the Catholic church to foster this growth.

We have ample evidence that biblical literacy among Catholic youth today isn't much different from my experience of twenty-five years ago. Most Catholic teens cannot name the four Gospels. The explosion of interest in the Scriptures by adult Catholics since the Second Vatican Council has by and large not really reached Catholic youth. For example, in a recent Gallup study, only 20 percent of Catholic youth, compared to 60 percent of Christian youth from other denominations, claimed to have ever read the Bible on their own.

Read Full Article Here

The ABC's of Teaching Your Kids to Read the Bible

By Brian Singer-Towns

As Catholic parents, part of your "job description" is to equip your children with the essential knowledge and skills required for their lifelong journey of faith. When it comes to the Bible, you want to begin teaching the knowledge and skills that will help them ultimately become biblically literate adults. So let's start by describing biblically literate adults.

- These people are comfortable in reading and using the Bible.
- They know how the books of the Bible are arranged and how to quickly and easily locate a specific book or passage.
- They have a solid understanding of the biblical story of salvation history.
- They are familiar with key people and events of salvation history and can tell how God's saving power worked through those people and events.

These biblically literate adults understand that any book or passage from the Scriptures must be understood in its proper context. When reading the Bible, they consider things like the literary genre, the culture of the time, the original author's intended message, how this message fits into the bigger picture of salvation history, and how the passage is understood in the Church's Tradition.

Read Full Essay Here

Top 10 Most Helpful Links for Youth Ministry

1. Office of Youth Ministry Diocese of Jeff City
2. USCCB Youth and Young Adults
3. Center for Ministry Development
4. National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry
5. CRS Education
6. Life Teen
7. Project YM
8. Fe y Vida
9. Busted Halo
10. Discipleship Focused Youth Ministry

For a comprehensive list of helpful resources and links
Click Here!

Top 3 YouTube Clips to use in youth group!

1. Drawn to You - Audrey Assad (prayerful contemporary song)
2. He is Here (powerful-prayerful Easter illustration)
3. Bishop Robert Barron - Catechesis on the Resurrection

Activity of the Month: Who's Looking at You

This activity is a great partnering activity which you might use to break the ice and pair kids together in a more randomized way.

1. Have youth get into a circle (10-12 kids depending on the size of your group) and "huddle up." This means that they are in a tight circle with their arms around their shoulders.
2. Instruct youth to look down at someone's shoes in the circle.
3. On the count of 3 instruct them to move their eyes quickly from that person's shoes to their face. If that same person is looking back at you...congratulations! You are partners. High-5 that person and step out of the circle.
4. Those who didn't connect, huddle up again and play another round.
5. Continue until everyone has had a chance to connect.

Tech Connections: Canva

The Catholic word for marketing is "evangelization." Teens today are highly image-driven, and will often base their decision on whether to attend a gathering or event based upon the advertisement they receive. Do your flyers catch their attention? Does your old Microsoft Word poster tacked to the bulletin board grab their eye? Is it professional, contemporary, and inviting? Canva is a wonderful resource to create a wide array of promotional materials that are catchy, professional and well-designed. With a free subscription you can create a wide variety of posters, flyers, pamphlets, graphics, logos, and social media designs to promote your retreats, youth nights, or events. The site offers a variety of templates to choose from. You customize with colors, pictures, and text. It is pretty user friendly, and a great tool to give your events an edge amidst all the competing interests vying for our kids' attention.

Click here to start.

On the LifeTeen Blog

"Build a Better World" by Stephanie Espinoza, LifeTeen

When news breaks out (pretty much every day, it seems) that another group of children was shot and killed at school, another hard-working father was deported, another person of color was treated as less-than-human, another prisoner was executed under the death penalty, another ethnic group was attacked by a prominent politician, another baby was aborted, another Christian was executed in a foreign country, another woman was sexually assaulted… I feel both helpless and overwhelmed with a desire for change.

Many moons ago, Sam Cooke sang about his hope that "a change is gon' come." However, it seems like the world has only gotten worse since he shared those words. I don't think anybody wants to live in a place that has become exponentially more brutal, where our lives are bombarded by horror, injustice, discrimination, abuse, violence, terror, etc. It is especially difficult when it doesn't seem like it is coming to an end. We pray, we cry out with those in pain, and we beg the Lord for His mercy, but I still feel like we need to do more. Read full article.

Resources for Social and Moral Formation

NFCYM Resources on Violence

In light of the recent school shootings that continue to occur, as well as the political response of teenagers across the country, the NFCYM has assembled an impressive array of resources to help those who minister to Catholic youth approach this sign of our times from a Catholic perspective. The NFCYM states that, "In this moment in time, we understand that conversations are happening in your Catholic communities and would like to offer the below resources as a means to assist in the conversations, reflections, and prayers for the victims of violence in our society."

I highly encourage you to take some time this month to raise the issue with your youth. It is certainly something that they are hearing about and curious about. We can demonstrate for them that our faith has a relevant response. Whether you choose to focus on the gun violence issue or other related topics such as suicide, processing grief, or depression you are bound to find some helpful resources housed here.

Click here for the list of resources

"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

-Luke 6:27-28

Website of the Month

Grotto Network - Notre Dame University

Traditionally in youth ministry we identify 4 primary "settings" in which we minister to youth: the youth, family, parish, and the civic settings. Today, we might add a 5th setting wherein we minister to the needs of young people….the online setting! Indeed, the more our youth live online the more we are called to seek ways to minister to them in this new environment for evangelization.

Enter the Grotto Network. According to their website. 'We are a digital refuge. A space to recharge. Whether you're feeling lost, on top of the world, or stuck in your own head, you're not alone here. Grotto is an anchor, a place of security and peace, from which you can go back to life renewed. We're at your side on this journey of life. We're a community, all of whom are figuring out different walks of life together and seeking something more. We have found hope in the Church, and we're passionate about sharing its beauty with the world. We're inspired by lives lived boldly, and we're here to share them with you. As a light for the world, your presence makes the light stronger."

Grotto is a ministry of Notre Dame University, and their primary audience is college young adults. But truthfully, the content is highly relatable to teens today. Grotto contains a wealth of articles, video clips, and social media resources to share with youth and young adults. The aesthetic of the site and content is contemporary, relevant and strongly Catholic.

So if you are looking for some great resources to minister more effectively within the "online setting" look no further than Grotto.

OYM Mission

The Office of Youth Ministry strives to empower young people and those who minister to them to live as disciples of Jesus in the Church and world.

OYM Philosophy

Our approach is comprehensive, understanding that youth ministry works best when the entire parish is involved. Using the principles outlined in *Renewing the Vision*, the Office of Youth Ministry collaborates with parish leaders to draw youth into a deeper relationship with Jesus, and fuller participation in the life, mission, and ministry of the Church. By supporting parishes in the ministry of welcoming, engaging, and forming youth, and by providing effective resources to adult Youth Leaders, we hope to create communities where needs are met, people are supported, families are strengthened, and Christ is served.

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facebook

We ALWAYS want to hear from you! *Stayin Connected* is here for your benefit!

- Share a success story
- Write an article
- Recommend resources
- Spotlight your program
- Promote your event

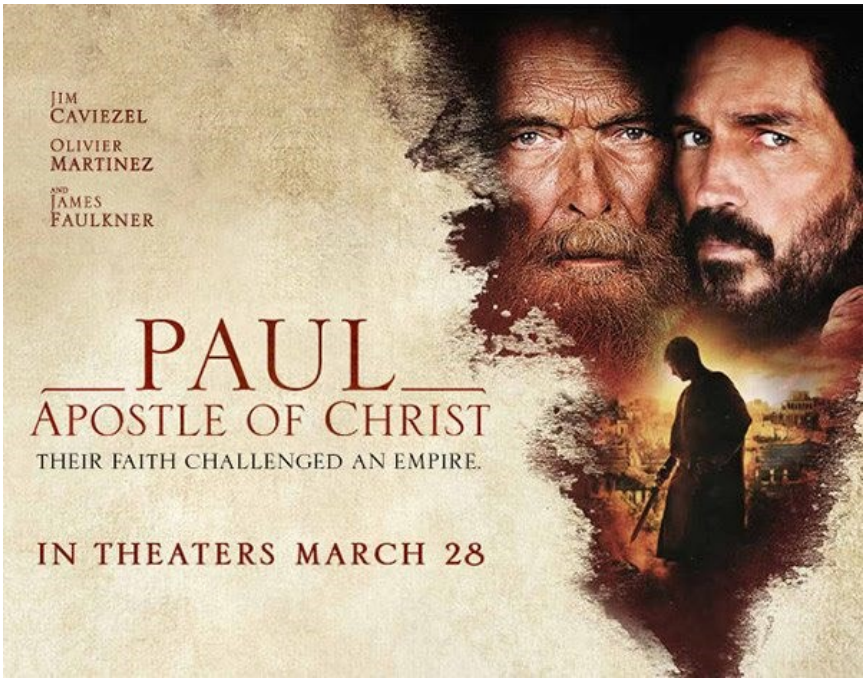
Click here for upcoming trainings

VIRTUS® Excellence Builds Trust

CALENDAR OF ADULT FORMATION

Event	Who	When	Where	Cost
Pastoral Juvenil Gathering	Hispanic Youth Ministers	January	St. Patrick Sedalia	Free
Lead and Follow Workshop	Youth Ministers Catechists	Feb 3	Newman Center Columbia	Free
Lead and Follow Workshop	Youth Ministers Catechists	Feb 17	St. Mary Shelbina	Free
Annual Seminar	Youth Ministers Catechists	April 14 April 15	Eldon Monroe City	$10
Pastoral Juvenil Gathering	Hispanic Youth Ministers	May	TBD	Free
Pastoral Juvenil Gathering	Hispanic Youth Ministers	Sept	TBD	Free
Annual Retreat	Youth Ministers Catechists	October 27	Covt. Point Holts Summit	TBD
Lead and Follow Workshop	Youth Ministers Catechists	Nov-Dec	TBD	TBD
NCCYM	Youth Ministers Catechists	Dec 6-8	Tampa, FL	Travel, Registration, Hotel, etc!

Click Here to Learn More and Register Online



Click here for tickets, show times, locations in our diocese

Click here for a great discussion guide from LifeTeen

2018 ANNUAL SEMINAR

YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE RURAL PARISH

1 SEMINAR 2 LOCATIONS YOU CHOSE!

SATURDAY, APRIL 14 FROM 9AM-3PM

SACRED HEART CHURCH, ELDON

SUNDAY, APRIL 15 FROM 9AM-3PM

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH, MONROE CITY

Ministry to youth and families in a small rural parish poses an unique set of challenges. Scarce resources, limited personnel, shrinking communities, and long travel distances are just a few of the obstacles that youth ministry leaders face. But the rural parish also offers ample gifts and opportunities that can be leveraged to meet these challenges and effectively evangelize youth today. This seminar will explore strategies to unlock the potential within the rural parish and build a strong, vibrant youth program.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE

$10 PER PERSON

INCLUDES MATERIALS, LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS.
OPEN TO ALL YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERS, DRE'S, CATECHISTS.
PAY IN ADVANCE OR AT THE DOOR.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

JOHN DELAPORTE

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Doug Tooke is the Director of Partnership Outreach with ODB films and an adjunct staff member with LifeTeen International. With a BA in Philosophy and Theology and a MA in Pastoral Ministry he has over 20 years of professional ministry experience with a strong focus on rural youth ministry outreach. Doug has traveled to over 100 Dioceses in the past 15 years teaching, keynoting, and training youth ministers. He has spoken at World Youth Day, NCYC, NCCYM, Los Angeles RE Congress and continues to serve as a leader in the field. Doug is a recipient of the National Catholic Youth Ministry Award from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

2018 Youth Events

Visit www.oymdiojeffcity.org for information and registration on all our events!

Event	Who	When	Where	Cost
Reignite	High School Youth	January 6-7 2018	Tolton HS, Columbia	$10
Teens Encounter Christ	Juniors and older	January 13-15	Im. Conception, Jefferson City	$40
March for Life	Junior High and High School	January 17-20	Washington D.C.	$150
NET Ministries Parish Retreats	Junior High and High School	Feb 10-27	Participating parishes	Varies
Teens Encounter Christ	Juniors and older	FEB TEC CANCELLED		
Vocation Reflection Days	Confirmandi, Parents and Sponsors	Feb 25, Mar 4, March 11	Cathedral Jefferson City	Free
Encounter Weekend	Junior Boys and older	April 14-16	Conception Abbey	Free
6th Grade Vocations Day	All 6th Graders	May 2	Cathedral of St. Joseph	$5
Totus Tuus	All ages	June 2-July 20	Participating Parishes	$1500/parish
Nun Run - Convent Hop	Open to all	TBD	St. Louis Area	$TBD
Teens Encounter Christ	Juniors and older	June 23-28	St. Pius X Moberly	$40
Camp Maccabee I	High School Boys	June 24-29	St. Robert, MO	$150
CHRISTpower	Sophomore recently grad.	July 8-14	Helias Catholic High School	$125
Camp Siena	High School Girls	July 22-26	St Patrick Laurie, MO	$150
Camp Maccabee II	High School Boys	July 22-27	St. Robert, MO	$150
Young Disciples in Action Mission Trip	Rising Juniors and Seniors	July 24-Aug 1	El Paso, TX	TBD
Camp Maccabee III	High School Boys	July 29-Aug 3	St. Robert, MO	$150
2018 Youth Rally	High School Youth	Sept 8	Helias Catholic High School	TBD