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Preparing Youth For Our New Bishop

By John DeLaporte, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

It was early in the morning on the Tuesday following NCYC when my phone rang. On the line was a colleague from the Catholic Center. I thought to myself *hmmm...this can't be good! Why is this person calling me so early?* My co-worker said, "I'm not sure if you were planning to come in to the office today given your time off after NCYC, but I think you might want to make it in. They are announcing a new Bishop!"

Since that Tuesday much has occurred, and we are learning more about Bishop Elect Shawn McKnight each day. From a youth ministry perspective one thing is clear: Bishop Elect McKnight intends to make our young church a top priority. In his remarks at the [November 21st press conference](#) he stated, "I am especially keen to learn how we are evangelizing those in our community, especially the youth, and how we are promoting a culture of vocations among them." He went on to recognize the importance for a bishop of a diocese to "have a passion for evangelization, especially of our youth."

For our youth, this is a teachable moment. Let's use this month to prepare them for what lies ahead. Take some time to introduce them to Bishop Elect McKnight. Let them know his background, where he comes from, and what his priorities are. Teach them about the process one goes through to become a Bishop. Remind them of the role and responsibilities that a Bishop has as an Episcopal leader, and how his work will directly impact their lives at their parish and school.

Invite your youth to write letters or create cards to welcoming him to our diocese. Encourage them to share their own hopes and dreams for our diocese, Church and world. Organize a service project in the name of our new Bishop. Create a prayer service and invite youth to pray for him as he begins this new chapter in his life and we begin our own.

As 2018 begins, I look forward to working with Bishop Elect McKnight on our diocesan and parish efforts to bring Christ to our kids, and to bring kids to Christ. All this carries even more excitement as we prepare for the 2018 synod on "Young people, The Faith and Vocational Discernment." This year, there is no predicting what the Spirit has in store for the young Church and those who work with them! Please join me in praying for Bishop Elect McKnight. May God bless him and support him abundantly in what he has been called to do!



Bishop Elect Shawn McKnight and Fr. Geoffrey Brooke Jr. pictured in front of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City.



NCCYM

“Unlock”

December 6-8 2018

Tampa Convention Center

NFCYM

**NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR
CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY**

National Catholic Conference for Youth Ministry It's NCCYM for Adults!

The National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM) gathers and forms adults to inspire, strengthen, and nourish those who accompany young people as they encounter and follow Jesus Christ. The Conference draws thousands of youth ministry leaders and professionals from across the country, and is a wonderfully nourishing and formative experience for all. The theme this year will be “unlock.”



I will be attending to represent our diocese and bring back tons of great resources and connections to benefit the work you do. I HIGHLY encourage others to consider making this conference. My hope would be to get a small cohort of youth ministers from our diocese to attend together.

I invite you to prayerfully consider this great opportunity. Mark your calendar. Talk to your family, priest, parish about fundraising help. Scholarships are available. [Check out the preliminary conference page for basic details and information.](#)

“We have our own language...Christianese...We don’t say, “He is out of his mind.” No. We say, “That is our youth pastor!”
-Tim Hawkins

Upcoming Webinars

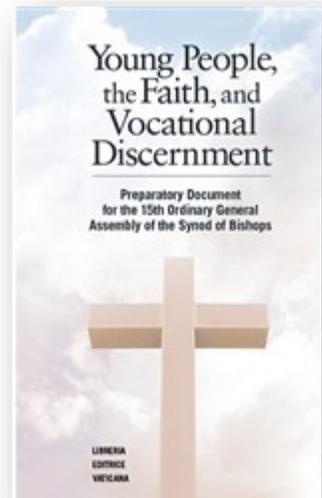
Webinars are a great way to get high quality formation in a convenient (and often free!) way. They typically last one hour and encourage interaction and discussion amongst participants. Here are webinar options coming up in November. I highly recommend you check them out!

- **Lent: Missionary Discipleship Through the Lens of Catholic Social Teaching - January 25, 2018 at 4:00 pm ET** - a focus on Rights and Responsibilities, Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable and the Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers. [REGISTER HERE](#)
- [Science as a Teenager's Path to God](#)
Presenter: Robert Feduccia Jr. January 9, 2018 at 2:00 pm EST REGISTER NOW

Summary of the Synod Process on Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment

In November, Cardinal DiNardo shared the following summary of the Synod process on “Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment.” This was presented to his brother bishops at their general assembly meeting based on the work and findings that had been conducted over the last few months. [This video was shared on the World Youth Day USA Facebook page.](#) Please take a few minutes to watch/listen to the video. It is about nine minutes long. There was some great information garnered from the work many of you did.

Pope Francis has dedicated the [15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops](#). . . to be focused on the theme of “Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment.” It will be held in Rome in October 2018. Pope Francis noted: “The theme, an expression of the pastoral care of the Church for the young, is consistent with the results of the recent Synod assemblies on the family and with the content of the post-Synodal apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. Its aim is to accompany the young on their existential journey to maturity so that, through a process of discernment, they discover their plan for life and realize it with joy, opening up to the encounter with God and with human beings, and actively participating in the edification of the Church and of society.”



Thousands answer their call to holiness at 2017 National Catholic Youth Conference

By Olivia Hennon, graduate of Immaculate Conception School and sophomore at Helias

The following firsthand account is from one of more than 400 young people and chaperones from the Jefferson City diocese who traveled to Indianapolis Nov. 16-18 for the 2017 National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). This reflection appears in the December 15th edition of the Catholic Missourian.



Walking into a stadium filled with 25,000 people all there to praise our Lord is an overwhelming and unforgettable experience. I felt God alive all around me before I even entered Lucas Oil Stadium for NCYC 2017. I felt Him when we were standing outside Thursday night as soon as we arrived in Indianapolis.

Before I left Jefferson City for NCYC, I didn't quite understand why I wanted to go so badly. I didn't know how God would be able to touch my life in just four days. When I arrived outside Lucas Oil Stadium, I knew this was right where I was supposed to be. I was surrounded by

thousands of young people my age. Some of them knew exactly why they were there, and some, like me, were just starting to figure it out.

The theme for the event was "Called." Hearing this theme, I didn't quite know what I was in for. I wondered how I would hear this calling that everyone was talking about. The day that stood out to me the most was Saturday, the theme for which was "Called to Serve." That was something I knew I could relate to and bring back to Jefferson City.

That day, my group from Immaculate Conception parish in Jefferson City took this theme and showed what it looked like to serve, as our Lord did so many times. We delivered to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis 60 "Little Boxes of Sunshine" that our group had assembled. Little Box of Sunshine is a 501(c)(3) charity that I started in 2016. Our mission is to brighten the days of children in hospitals by delivering care packages to them. To date, we have delivered more than 500 boxes to hospitals in three states.

As I reflected on my day Saturday, I realized that my calling is to be the hands and feet of Christ to my community. I want to show Christ's love to all those around me. On our bus ride home, I was talking to a few people from my group about the weekend. Everyone felt something different, which I found to be interesting and beautiful. In just four short days, our amazing God had managed to touch all of our lives in a different way.

[Read Original Article here](#)

JANUARY CONNECTIONS

Holidays to Connect Youth With This Month

- ◆ World Day for Peace, Jan 1
- ◆ Solemnity of Mary, Jan 1
- ◆ Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Jan 4
- ◆ National Migration Week, Jan 7-13
- ◆ Solemnity of the Epiphany, Jan 7
- ◆ Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Jan 8
- ◆ National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Jan 11
- ◆ Dr. Martin Luther King, JR Day Jan 16
- ◆ Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children Jan 22
- ◆ Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, Jan 25
- ◆ International Day of Commemoration for Victims of the Holocaust, Jan 27
- ◆ Catholic Schools Week Jan 28-Feb 3

Holy People to Profile this Month

- ◆ St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- ◆ Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr
- ◆ St. Paul
- ◆ St. John Bosco

A Month for Connecting Faith to Action!

If there was ever a month to highlight topics related to Catholic Social Teaching with youth January is it! Throughout the month we remember, recognize, and take action on a wide array of social issues facing our world including racism, poverty, human trafficking, refugees and migration, peace, abortion, and genocide. Take some time this month to focus on one or several of these important topics. Youth care about these issues. They want to belong to a Church that has something to say. Here are a few places to start.

Human Trafficking, Child Slavery, Migration

- [US Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking Educational Resources](#)
- [Children for Sale Documentary: CNN Freedom Project](#)
- [Youth and Young Adult Education Resources: Office of Human Dignity/Migration Solidarity](#)

Anti-Racism, Poverty and Peacemaking

- [Anti-Racism Readings and Resources for Catholic Youth Ministers](#)
- [Poverty Education Resources for grades 6-12. CCHD](#)
- [Two Feet of Love in Action Program](#)
- [Lesson Plans on Holocaust Education for Middle-High School Students](#)

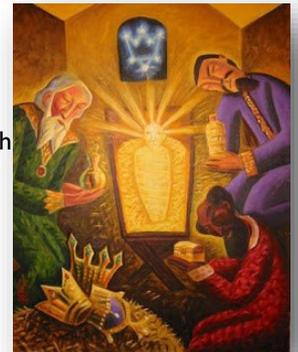
Abortion/Pro-life

- [Pro Life Activities and Resources for Students: Priests for Life](#)
- [Stand True: Pro-life Outreach for Youth](#)

Feast of the Epiphany January 7

Amidst all the energy and excitement that surrounds Christmas and the new year, one often overlooked feast is that of the Epiphany. Yet, this important feast is full of opportunities to teach and pray with our youth beyond Christmas. Here are a few lesson plans and activities you can use or adapt to help youth and parents celebrate the appearance of our Lord in the flesh of Jesus this month.

- [List of crafts for younger kids and families](#)
- [Middle School Lesson on Epiphany](#)
- [HUGE list of prayers and activities for youth and families](#)



Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Catholics and the Civil Rights Movement

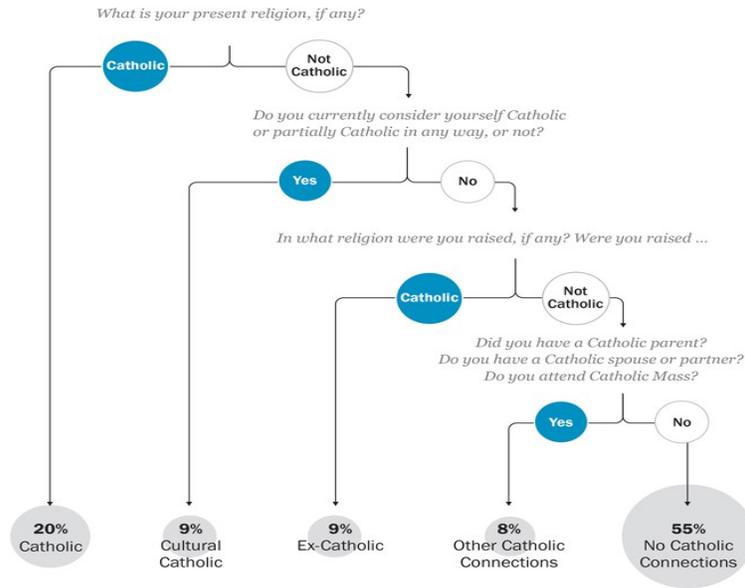
This month many of our youth will be learning about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and his legacy. But how many of our youth know about the Church's role in the Civil Rights movement? How many of us know? This MLK Day, teach your youth about the Church's historic and current role in fighting racial inequality.



- [Articles on the Church's role in the Civil Rights Movement](#)
- [Teaching respect to young children - activity](#)
- [A prayer for Peacemakers - downloadable prayer card](#)

CATECHESIS CONNECTIONS

Nearly Half of U.S. Adults Have Close Connection to Catholicism



Source: Pew Research Center Survey of U.S. Catholics and Family Life, May 5–June 7, 2015. See questionnaire for exact question wording and question order. RELIG, QJ1, QH3, QJ9, QH6, QJ5
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

4 Mistakes We've Made With Catechesis

By Msgr Charles Pope, National Catholic Register

One of the great struggles in the Church today is effectively catechizing God's people. In a world so full of error, distortion, and half-truths, this has never been more necessary. I was asked recently to present my thoughts on this topic at a conference. I did so from the perspective not only of a pastor but also of one who grew up at the end of the era of the "old Church" and through the cultural revolution of late 1960s. Today's post is the first part of my presentation at the conference; I'll be posting the remainder over the next several days. (See ["Here's How to Help Fix the 4 Big Mistakes We've Made With Catechesis"](#).)

Many approaches and experiments in catechesis have been tried over the past several decades and, frankly, all have ultimately failed. Though we need to try something new, that something new is really something old. We must go back to basics and tell the old stories again, within the family environment rather than just at the parish level.

In this first part of this article I'd like to reflect on four failed models of the past. I do not refer to specific programs, but more to some of the educational philosophes that underlie our practices then and now.

I. The professional class

At some point, especially in the immigrant years of Catholicism in this country, the task of catechesis shifted from the family and the culture experience of the home to a kind of "professional" class of teachers, largely priests and religious sisters.

[Read full article](#)

Catechizing Youth

By Tom East, Center for Ministry Development

At the recent USCCB Convocation for Catholic Leaders, I was asked to be a part of a panel that was addressing adolescent catechesis through the lens of missionary discipleship. We addressed two questions.

The first one was: "What are you passionate about within adolescent catechesis?"

This was my response:

My name is Tom East, I am the director of the Center for Ministry Development. I'm passionate about situating adolescent catechesis within the bigger framework of evangelization and the engagement of youth in growing as disciples. I am incredibly inspired by the preparation document for the upcoming Synod on Youth, Faith and Discernment which emphasizes seeing youth, listening to them, walking with them in their questions and helping to facilitate the dialogue between young people and our loving God. I am passionate about an accompaniment approach to catechesis that places the emphasis on a faith community journeying with its young members. It's about relationships and the way that Christ is revealed when we walk with young people. As youth and families are changing, many ministry leaders wonder "when will they get with the program?" They're never going to get with the program – we need to get with the relationship.

We were also asked: "What is missing in the Church's current response to catechizing youth?"

[Read Full Article](#)

Activity of the Month: Conversation Tag

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. [National Association for Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders](#)
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. [You Don't Know Jack - New Year's Resolution \(Humorous/catechetical\)](#)
2. [A New Year Focused on Jesus \(prayerful clip\)](#)
3. [TobyMac - Bring on the Holidays \(music video\)](#)

This is a great activity to liven up a group and introduce conversations around change, conversion, or the power of one person to make a difference.

1. Have everyone make a large circle standing shoulder to shoulder so that everyone is able to see one another.
2. Each person is going to make a unique pose that they can walk around with. For example, a peace sign or flexed biceps, or flapping bird wings, etc.
3. Next, you will "name" your pose - "peace" or "strong" or "bird" etc...
4. Each pose must be unique. Once people have their pose go around to make sure there are no duplicates. Have any duplicate poses modify themselves so they are different.
5. Once poses are established and named a round of "tag" ensues. Moving at a maximum speed of a fast walk, youth will go scramble around the room and attempt to tag as many people as possible.
6. When you tag someone you must shout the

name of your pose converting that person to your pose. If you get tagged you must adopt the tagger's pose and spread it to others.

7. The game concludes when only one pose survives!

For Discussion

- What did you notice about this activity?
- How might this activity relate to the idea of "change" or "conversion?"
- Notice how one person had the power to change an entire group. What might you need to change in yourself in order to be a positive influence on others?

Jesus came to change hearts and to change the world. As this new year begins try to acknowledge what you might need to change in yourself, as well as how you might change the lives of others around you.

Tech Connections

New Screen Game from ProjectYM

Even though Christmas is over hopefully the gift giving excitement remains! Here is a great new PowerPoint screen game from ProjectYM. The cost to download it is \$5, but the money will be well spent when the fun ensues! It is based on the chicken or the egg riddle... what came first? Each slide shows youth 2 pictures of different popular Christmas toys from different eras and asks them to choose what toy came first? X-Box 360 or PS3? Rubik's Cube or Hungry Hippos? Have youth work in teams or play individually. The team that earns the most points wins! You will need a computer with PowerPoint and a projector to play.



[Click here to check out the game and let the fun begin!](#)

On the LifeTeen Blog

If You Are Broken You Belong

"The Church is not a museum of saints, but a hospital for sinners."

This quote is one I return to a lot when I'm struggling to remember my place in the Church — when I'm falling back into old sins, when I'm finding myself unworthy of God's grace, when I feel like I don't belong in a holy place around holy people. It's the quote that I had in mind as I stood in line for Confession, knowing I'd have to confess that one sin I'd told my confessor so many times before. I was totally ashamed and frustrated by my weakness.



[Read Blog Here](#)

YOUTH MINISTRY RESOURCES

Resources for Social and Moral Formation

[NCCL: Missionary Disciples: A Discipleship that Reaches Out](#)

“Explore the call of the catechist to be a missionary disciple. For the seasons of Advent, Lent, and Easter, NCCL, NFCYM, NCEA, and CRS will accompany catechists in unpacking Catholic Social Teaching and its direct link to the Baptismal call of missionary discipleship. Each session will be offered *prior to the liturgical season listed* to equip participants with tools and resources for the upcoming weeks to be used for personal and communal reflection.

This amazing curriculum integrates adult leader formation, video clips, digital web content, and high quality lesson plans to

educate youth about the call to be missionary disciples in a suffering world.

The webinars are wonderfully done and highly informative for catechists connecting our Catholic social tradition to the liturgical season. Each of the 7 themes of Catholic Social Teaching are broken down for youth with a video clip, a lesson plan and discussion guide.

[So take advantage of this wonderful collaborative package](#) and help your youth hear the call to missionary discipleship throughout the liturgical year.



**NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
for
CATECHETICAL
LEADERSHIP**

“The Church is a love story not an institution!”

- Pope Francis

[Website of the Month](#)

[Called to Accompany](#)

An exciting new initiative has recently been released to help provide quality training and resources in parish youth ministry to parishes and volunteers. The Called to Accompany Series is a collaborative effort by the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Our Sunday Visitor, and the Catholic Foundation.

“The Called to Accompany series invites youth ministry volunteers to learn and explore the many aspects that make a parish youth ministry successful. Through videos and group discussion, volunteers are encouraged to respond to Pope Francis' call to accompany the youth towards a deep and fulfilling relationship with Christ and His church.”

The series is broken down into 4 pillars: 1. The Vision of Youth Ministry,

2. Evangelization and Youth, 3. Adolescent Development and Pastoral Care, and 4. Ministry Amongst Diverse Populations. Each pillar includes several short, high-quality informational videos featuring national experts in Catholic youth ministry. In addition, a lesson plan and discussion guide are provided as well.

These free materials are wonderful resources to use with volunteers on your youth team or for your own professional development. I will no doubt be using them in my upcoming workshops on similar topics, and highly encourage you to check them out for your own.

[Click here to visit the series here!](#)



**CALLED TO
ACCOMPANY**

ADULT FORMATION

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.

Contact Us

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[Connect with OYM on Facebook!](#)

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](#)



Lead and Follow
WORKSHOPS IN CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

Effective Ministry in the Youth Setting

Sat. December 2, 9am - 2pm
Schwartz Catholic Center, Jefferson City

Sat. February 3, 9am - 2pm
St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbia

Sat. February 17, 9am - 2pm
St. Mary's Parish, Shelbina

Lead and Follow is a workshop series providing youth ministry leaders the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to be successful in parish youth ministry.

Effective Ministry in the Youth Setting will explore practical strategies for ministry in the youth setting. Topics will cover catechetical planning, designing prayer experience, service learning, and communication strategies for teens.

For Information and Registration
www.diojeffcity.org/leadfollow

Sponsored by the Office of Youth Ministry

[Click for full workshop information and registration!](#)

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!

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.



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.

[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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2018 YOUTH EVENTS

Event	Who	When	Where	Cost
<u>Reignite</u>	High School Youth	January 6-7 2018	Tolton HS, Columbia	\$10
<u>Teens Encounter Christ</u>	Juniors and older	January 13-15	Im. Conception, Jeffer- son City	\$40
<u>March for Life</u>	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
<u>Teens Encounter Christ</u>	Juniors and older	Feb 17-19	Church o/t Risen Savior Rhineland	\$40
Vocation Reflection Days	Confirmandi, Parents and Sponsors	Feb 25, Mar 4, March 11	Cathedral Jefferson City	Free
<u>Encounter Weekend</u>	Junior Boys and older	April 14-16	Conception Abbey	Free
6th Grade Vocations Day	All 6th Graders	May 2, 2018	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
<u>Teens Encounter Christ</u>	Juniors and older	June 23-28	St. Pius X Moberly	\$40
<u>Camp Maccabee I</u>	High School Boys	June 24-29	St. Robert, MO	\$150
CHRISTpower	Sophomore recently grad.	July 8-14	Helias Catholic High School	\$125
<u>Camp Siena</u>	High School Girls	July 22-26	St Patrick Laurie, MO	\$150
<u>Camp Maccabee II</u>	High School Boys	July 22-27	St. Robert, MO	\$150
Young Disciples in Ac- tion Mission Trip	Rising Juniors and Seniors	July 24-Aug 1	El Paso, TX	TBD
<u>Camp Maccabee III</u>	High School Boys	July 29-Aug 3	St. Robert, MO	\$150
2018 Youth Rally	High School Youth	Sept 8	Helias Catholic High School	TBD