

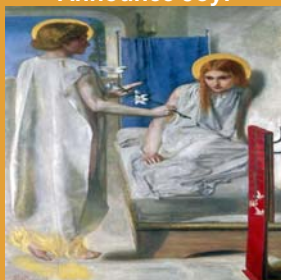
# Office of Lifelong Faith Formation Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministries

March 2012

## In This Issue

Celebrate Graduates  
Youth Congress  
Youth in Crisis?  
Continuing the Journey  
Great Adventure

## Announce Joy!



Joyfully announcing the Good News? We celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation on Monday, March 26. God's message changes everything!

How are we announcing the joy of the Lord?

God brings joy! How does your ministry bring joy to youth & young adults?

## Catholic Girl Scouting



Congratulations to the Girl Scouts of America for celebrating 100 years as an organization! Did you know that there are over 500,000 Catholic Girl Scouts in the US?

Scouting is Youth Ministry!

[For more information click here.](#)

## Prayer for the Annunciation

Almighty Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,



## Celebrate Graduates (middle, high school & college, too)

How does your parish recognize the graduation milestone? Are you able to help those graduating and their families see this time as holy? Here are some strategies that may help you:

- 1) Consider a blessing during Mass and incorporating high school (and possibly all) graduates into your general intercessions. (A blessing may be found in the Book of Blessings in The Order of Blessing of Students and Teachers.)
- 2) Gather contact information including cell phone numbers for occasional communication from the parish to the graduate. Consider taking prayer requests from students who are at home or away who are sometimes at a very stressful time of their lives.
- 3) Consider connecting college students with Catholic Campus Ministry or near-by parishes in their college towns. This can be an important way that we can help young adults unite with the faith community. If you would like to make this connection for your graduating seniors in your parish or associated with your ministry, they may enroll in several ways:
  - \* Connect with the College Connection for Catholics sponsored by the Serra Club USA and NET Ministries, [click here to visit their site.](#)
- 4) Watch a YouTube video about campus ministry at the University of Toledo <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRp8LxvOQps>
- 5) Check out Busted Halo's Freshman Survival Guide - a new book published by the Busted Halo editors <http://thefreshmansurvivalguide.com/> (Possibly offer this as gift to graduating seniors too!)
- 6) [Click here](#) for a one page guide from Busted Halo's Freshman Survival Guide.

These few strategies may help you and your parishes continue connecting with graduates. These things can be done to make graduation a meaningful and spiritual event for students, families, and teachers.

### Graduation Blessing

God of Beginnings,  
We ask your blessing on all those graduating this year as they prepare to move on to a new beginning in their lives.

Help them to rejoice in the hard work that has brought them to this point, and keep them safe as they celebrate their accomplishments.

Loving God, guide these graduates on the journey ahead as they prepare to encounter new and exciting opportunities.

Bless these graduates with humility in times of success and strength in times of challenge.

Help them to remember all those in their lives that have supported and cared for them. May these graduates always know that they are truly loved and cherished.

Empower them to go forth and continue the work of your Son, Jesus Christ. We pray that they will truly be a light of justice and compassion to the world.

We give thanks for the gift that each one of these graduates is to our community, and we rejoice in knowing that they will be a blessing to all those they encounter on their life's journey.

It is in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, that we pray.  
Amen.

You have revealed the beauty of  
your power  
by exalting the lowly  
virgin of Nazareth  
and making her the  
mother of our Savior.

May the prayers of this woman  
bring Jesus to the waiting world  
and fill the void of incompleteness  
with the presence of her child,  
who lives and reigns with You and  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God forever and ever. Amen  
*Alternative Collect of the  
Annunciation*

Diocese of Camden's College Campus Ministries

Stockton College - Catholic Campus Ministry  
Lois Dark, [ldark@camdendiocese.org](mailto:ldark@camdendiocese.org)

Fr. Mike McCue OSFS, [McCue1959@gmail.com](mailto:McCue1959@gmail.com)  
Rowan University - Newman House - Catholic Campus Ministry  
Ann Polo, [apolo@camdendiocese.org](mailto:apolo@camdendiocese.org)

Rutgers at Camden - Catholic Campus Ministry



## Diocesan Youth Congress 2012

It's not too late! Consider sending youth representatives from your parish to this day-long event.

Sunday, April 1, 2012  
10:15 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Holy Family Parish, 226 Hurffville Road,  
Sewell, NJ 08080

Keynote address by Carrie Ford, workshops, extended workshop; **Growing Youth Ministry for Adults and Youth**; lunch, community building, and Liturgy.

[Click here for more information.](#) Let cost not keep your parish or school from participating.

## Make Your Parish Young Adult Friendly

by Thomas P. Sweetser, SJ

Look around you at Sunday Mass? Who do you see? Fr. Sweetser gives an example that takes simple actions to create a young adult friendly atmosphere.

[Click here for Fr. Tom's article.](#)



## Working with Youth in Crisis & Difficult Situations

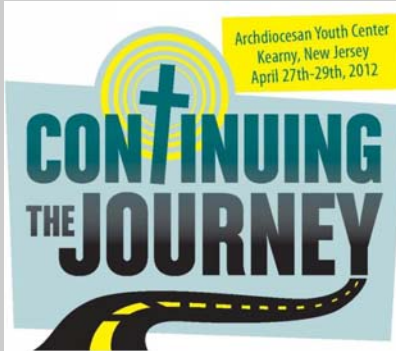
Don't miss this workshop on Saturday, March 24, 2012, 9:30 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, Sicklerville, NJ. Sylvia Loumeau MSW, LCSW, is the presenter and the Director of Behavioral Health Services of Catholic Charities of Camden.

Topics that will be addressed:

Bullying  
Relationships  
Mental Illness  
Eating Disorders  
Suicide  
Prayer

[For more information click here.](#)





## SPECIAL Opportunity

For those who minister & work with teens  
April 27-29, 2012

New Jersey Gathering Featuring  
National Catholic Leaders:

Friday Evening : [Mike Patin](#)  
Saturday Morning : [Steve Angrisano](#)  
Saturday Afternoon: [Fr. Leo Patalinghug](#)  
Sunday Morning: [Bob McCarty](#)

This is a weekend-long conference for adults, which will be filled with fun workshops, keynote addresses, prayer experiences and much more. This event is coordinated by the Archdioceses of Newark. Event held in Kearny, New Jersey. Come for the day or the whole weekend!

[See Newark's Youth & Young Adult Ministry website for more information & to register!](#)

## Legal & Ethical Issues in Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Justice & Service with Teens

Mark your calendars for two more vital and practical workshops for your ministry.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## Ministry Development Opportunities

Great opportunities to learn practical skills for service & justice for parish life leaders, young adult ministry leaders, and those working with high school teens.

[Click here for the Romero Center's opportunities.](#)



## New Jersey Catholic Youth Rally @ Great Adventure

The NJ State Youth Rally is a day long event on Sunday, May 20, 2012, that gathers teens and their families from across the state of New Jersey for a day of fun, sharing, Mass and more held at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, NJ.

The rally costs \$45 a person and includes entrance into the park, a FREE return ticket, a 4 hour all you can eat buffet, Mass, the opening ceremony, and a free parking pass.

[For ticket information click here](#) or contact Greg Coogan at [gregory.coogan@camdendiocese.org](mailto:gregory.coogan@camdendiocese.org) or 856-583-6122.

## Upcoming Events

Youth In Crisis  
Saturday, March 24, 2012  
9:30 a.m.

