



Footnotes

ST. JOSEPH +
ST. MARY'S VISITATION
YOUTH MINISTRY
NEWSLETTER

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Missions Accomplished:

Teens travel to Los Angeles and Louisiana to serve in summer

Father Jim: Called to Priesthood

~from an August 2006 interview~

Before talking with Father Jim about his life experiences and call to priesthood, I was looking forward to learning about him, but also generally unsure of what to expect. I had never done an interview such as this with someone before, so I could only hope that it would go smoothly. Hearing him speak at Mass is of course different from speaking with him one on one, but upon talking with him I was at ease and able to find commonalities between us and understand his hopes for the parish youth.

Father Jim Kimla, parish priest for St. Joe's, eagerly teaches the youth and adults alike about the importance of God. Early on, he saw the good example that priests set for the church community and quickly decided he hoped to be such a role model. One step he took in achieving this was attending DeSales Preparatory Seminary during his high school years. Today DeSales is no longer in existence, and the Cousin's Center has been built in its place. At DeSales and throughout Father Jim's entire Seminary experience, his favorite class was Scripture.

Pastimes of Father Jim primarily include taking long walks, reading books, and seeing movies. He does not have one specific favorite book; rather, he says, his favorite tends to be whatever book he is reading at the time. One of his favorite movies is Dead Man Walking, although he considers a few others to be favorites as well.

Although he does not travel often, Father Jim considers Santiago de Compostela, to be his best travel experience. Located on the Province of Galicia in Northwest Spain, Santiago de Compostela is named after Saint James, the Apostle, because he visited here to share the Word of God with people, some of whom converted to Christianity. Saint James was killed here and, years later, his tomb was discovered and a chapel was built near this spot. Pilgrims soon walked the "Camino de Santiago" (Walk of St. James) as Santiago de Compostela became a popular destination for Christians.

Father Jim has used his experiences to grow in his relationship with Christ and hopes to impact the parish youth. He says "I'd like to do whatever I can to help them discover the presences of God within themselves."

"This summer we traveled to Los Angeles, CA on a mission trip through SHINE. Our group saw Christ from the project we were sent to do. It included building four wheel chair ramps for a local church and school. Even though the task seemed impossible to finish the first day, we came together as one group to complete all four. Working this long and hard got us closer to the other teens from all over the country. Also experiencing emotional times like adoration brought us even closer. Not only did it develop friendships but also our faith. We left with a better understanding of our relationship with God and wouldn't trade this experience for anything."
by Maggie Alex and Claire Zagar

"The other kids on the mission trip were really cool, so it was awesome that we got to meet and work with them for the week. Working in their company was so much fun and I'm glad we helped the Los Angeles community in the process. My group basically built ramps for the handicapped...I even used a power drill! We also did miscellaneous chores like cleaning! It was great!"
by Megan Casey

"The California mission trip was such a rewarding experience. It was the smallest work camp I have ever been to, probably because it was over the week of the fourth of July. The weather was very hot, and sunny every day. About a total of 80 teens from all over the U.S. came to help families in poverty. At my work site I helped clean out a church. I worked scrubbing pews, dusting and vaccuming and clearing out an old storage room. Other teens worked on building ramps over staircases to make the church handicap accesable. In California, everyone bonded really well, due to the small amount of youth. Every day we opened with mass before the work started, so we could carry Jesus in us through the rest of the day. California was truly a life changing week fulling God's will."
by Kendal Kornacki

"This year in Lake Charles, Louisiana, work campers were reunited with the devastations of hurricane Rita. It is estimated that damage will not be repaired until up to the next five years! Teens worked as God's hands and feet repairing homes that had been badly damaged from the Hurricane nearly two years prior. We helped rebuild siding, ceilings, pulled out carpet, clearing away debree, and even worked on some painting. It was so overwhelming to see the joy in the homeowner's eyes. Slowly we were helping them put their lives' back to normal. One of the days, we even worked in the pouring rain! Louisiana was another fufulfilling trip, just knowing every day we made a house look a little bit more like home."
by Kendal Kornacki

Save the Dates!

(a few of the) Upcoming Youth Ministry Events:

SEPT 9th, 7-8:30 pm – 9/10 REC Orientation (SJ)
SEPT 16th, 7-8:30 pm – Confirmation Orientation (SJ)
SEPT 23rd, 7-8:30 pm – 9/10 and Conf. Kickoff! (SJ)
SEPT 29th – John Bosco Day!
OCT 4th, 7-8:30 pm – The ATTIC

OCT 14th, 5-6:30 pm – Mission Trip Information Meeting (SJ)

If you or someone you know would like to write for Footnotes, contact Michele Derdzinski, editor, at footnotes_editors@yahoo.com.