

Footnotes

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

ISSUE 8
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2005

HOLLA!

- We asked what you most look forward to when going back to school in our last issue, and here are our favorite responses!

1. Talking on AIM while pretending to do your homework.
2. Hot lunch. Yum!
3. Buying new school supplies.
4. Counting down the days until Thanksgiving break ... then Christmas... then Easter ... then summer ...
5. The sense of accomplishment from learning something new and understanding it well ... wait ... no ... hot lunch.

Thanks to all those who responded!

NEXT MONTH'S POLL:

We would like to know what you think is the best idea for a Halloween costume!

Send your ideas to:

Footnotes_editors@yahoo.com

TAPESTRIES DONATED FROM IRAQ TO THE ATTIC

In early August, Lt. Col. Robert M. Schoos (Ret.), who attended both St. Joe's and St. Mary's grade schools, presented The ATTIC with two beautiful tapestries he received as a gift while he was in Iraq, training the New Iraqi Army.

LTC Schoos was actually deployed to Iraq as a civilian, and during his 14 months there, he befriended an Assyrian translator (Assyrians were some of the earliest Christians) who was greatly moved by LTC Schoos' dedication to the peace and stability of a country half-way around the world and his Catholic faith.

In a setting where much of what is reported is negative, in a true gesture of friendship, solidarity, respect, and catechesis ("faith-sharing"), this translator presented him with two beautiful wool tapestries of the Sacred Heart, one of Jesus and one of His Blessed Mother, before his return to the USA.

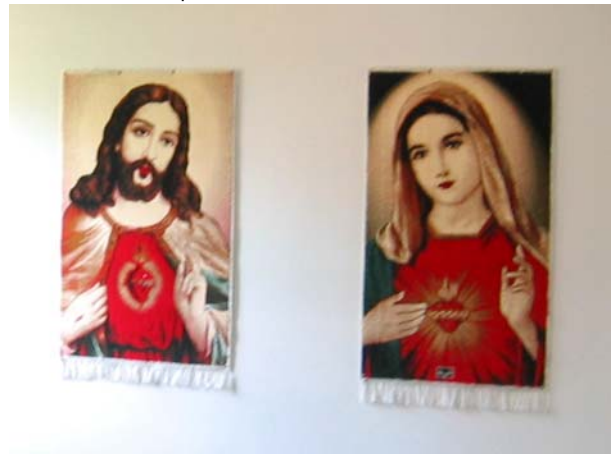
In a similar act of altruistic giving, LTC Schoos has

donated these beautiful tapestries to The ATTIC, where the youth of St. Joe's and St. Mary's - in addition to the youth from all over the area - can be moved and inspired by this great expression of faith.

In a very special way, these tapestries from Iraq (the one of the Blessed Mother even bears an inscription in Arabic) remind us to find God in all things, because He is there, waiting for us to be His instruments for peace,

justice, and solidarity with all His children. We salute LTC Schoos for his admirable service to our country and his compassionate commitment to the betterment of humanity.

His faith - which he so fruitfully shared with the Assyrian translator and which is underscored in this beautiful gift to the ATTIC - is one we strive to emulate as the future leaders of the Church and world.



These Iraqi tapestries now hang in the Chapel of the Holy Family, in The ATTIC (our youth center). They depict the Sacred Heart of Jesus and His Blessed Mother.

DOUBLE THE FUN - SPOOKS N' SPOOFS AND THE HALLOWEEN DANCE PARTY

~ As many students discovered last year, getting involved in service can provide unforgettable connections and memories with the people you meet. Halloween weekend will be a BIG one with SJ + SM Youth Ministry, with two GREAT ways to get involved!

On back-to-back nights, we are asking for 7th- 12th graders to lend a much-needed helping hand as we provide opportunities for area children to celebrate Halloween in a safe and VERY fun way.

Friday, October 28th, will be Spooks and Spoofs, St. Mary's annual community outreach event. While children and their families are enjoying games, food, crafts, and music in a Halloween-themed atmosphere, help is needed with running games, handing out prizes, and setting up/cleaning up before and after the event

On Saturday, you get to put on your costume again, or make another one if you're creative! In St. Mary's gym, we will host the second-

annual Halloween Dance Party for physically and cognitively challenged guests of all ages.

Like last year, this will be a wonderful experience for everyone involved. Our guests play games, enjoy face-painting, eat treats, and then dance the night away! Of course, with all this fun, we'll need lots of volunteers to participate in all the activities with our guests.

If you're interested in helping to make others' Halloween unforgettable, please contact Marc.

'MARC' YOUR CALENDAR! ~ from the desk of Mescher

SJ 150th Celebration & Picnic
Sept. 18th from 11-3pm

SM Welcome Picnic
Sept. 18th from 11-2pm

Quad Parish Jr. High Dance
Sept. 23, 7:30-9:30 (SJ School Hall)

Youth Mass: Sept. 25, 5-6pm (SJV)

Youth Board: Sep. 26, 7-8p (ATTIC)

Quad Parish Night of Prayer
Oct. 6, 7-8:30pm (ATTIC)

See more **BIG** dates on the enclosed flyer.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN 2005

~ Each month there is at least one service project to serve the needs of our neighbors who might be disadvantaged by hunger, poverty, age, or health. While each of these opportunities are great ways for you to answer the call to place your faith in action, this year there will be a few big projects to bring more youth together.

As mentioned on the previous page, Halloween weekend will

provide excellent service opportunities on Friday and Saturday. Two weeks later, on **November 12**, we will kick off our third-annual "Make A Difference Day," as teens help senior members of the parish by raking leaves, cleaning gutters, and winterizing homes. Last year, we had nearly 65 teens and parents chip in and we helped at 19 different homes. This year, we hope to have an even greater turnout!

Around Christmas and Epiphany, we will once again visit with children at St. Hyacinth for a cultural exchange with this Hispanic parish. In Spring, we will have our second-annual "Make Another Difference Day," and help parish seniors prepare for the summer ahead. Be sure to look for these great service opportunities in the months to come!

Possibly the best way to serve is on a mission trip, a week-long

experience to serve others in a community in need. This coming year, we will return to the Jicarilla Apache Native American Reservation in Dulce, New Mexico June 25 – July 1, 2006. We will be looking to take 25 teens and chaperones. More information will follow in the bulletin and on the parish website. There will be an informational meeting on Tuesday, **October 25** at 7pm in the ATTIC. Sign-ups will begin at that time.

WORLD YOUTH DAY - COLOGNE, GERMANY by Sean Creegan

~ Recently, I took a pilgrimage to Europe with a group of 100 or so other American pilgrims and the Brothers of Saint John from Peoria, Illinois. Our final destination was the 20th World Youth Day Festival in Cologne, Germany.

What is World Youth Day? WYD, begun by Pope John Paul II in 1984, is a MASSIVE gathering of the world's youth to celebrate the Catholic faith with one another and the Pope. It occurs every few years in a different city around the world.

After landing in Paris, we slowly made our way across Europe to Cologne over the course of twelve days. On our journey, we visited many religious sites in Europe, including the Notre Dame Cathedral and the shrine at Banneux, Belgium, where the Virgin Mary appeared to Mariette Beco eight times.

In Cologne, or Köln in German, we gathered with about one million other youth

and camped out in a giant field. Pope Benedict XVI arrived in the midst of the giant crowd and held a vigil with Adoration. During the vigil, the Pope led a prayer for World Peace and continued reconstruction of Europe, on both political and religious levels.

The next morning the Pope celebrated mass for over one million people. After the final blessing, the Pope concluded

with "I'll see you in Sydney, Australia," announcing the location of WYD in 2008.

The whole experience was just incredible. I met new people who I now consider great friends, I developed a greater perspective on the world, and above all I came in closer touch with not only the human world, but also with the spiritual world. It's an experience I strongly recommend. Hopefully, I'll see you in Sydney.



GUTEN TAG! Youth celebrate WYD in Cologne, Germany.

Worshipping with Youth: A Growing Trend

~ As youth are growing into a more personal relationship with God (often retreats, service or mission trips, Confirmation programs, or World Youth Day pilgrimages serve as a catalyst for this), the Church responds by providing more outlets for youth to worship with other area teens.

Such is the case this year, with SJ + SM Youth Ministry. The first Thursday of every month, in the ATTIC, area high school students gather in the Chapel of the Holy Family to sing, pray, and adore the Blessed Sacrament from 7-8:30pm. Each time, Fr. Charlie (from St. Mary's) or a student shares a personal story of growing in faith.

Speaking of Adoration, to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Mary's, October 7th will be a community-wide day of celebration. A special time will be set aside after school for the youth of the quad parishes, from 3:30 to 4:30pm, for youth to sing and pray together before everyone is invited to Mass with Archbishop Dolan at 6pm.

Additionally, four times each year, the Quad Parishes host Youth Masses to promote unity among young people within the parishes. This is a wonderful opportunity to worship with your friends from not

only St. Joe's and St. Mary's, but also St. Dom's and St. John Vianney. The St. Mary's Youth Ensemble (which plays the second Saturday of every month) welcomes youth from the area to join them in providing the music for each Youth Mass. If you are interested in lending your talent, please contact Marc Mescher or Mrs. Ann Owen.

The first Youth Mass will be Sunday, September 25th at 5pm at SJV. Mark your calendar for the next Youth Mass on Sunday, November 20th at 6pm at St. Dominic's. See you there!

Divine Comedy

A pastor explained to his congregation that the church was in need of some extra money, so he asked them to consider being more generous. He offered whoever gave the largest donation would be able to pick three hymns.

After the offering plates were passed around the church, the pastor glanced down and noticed that someone had graciously offered a \$1,000 bill. He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with the congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the basket.

A very quiet, elderly, saintly lady in the back of the church shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front, so she slowly she made her way toward him. The pastor told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much, and in thanks he asked her to pick out three hymns.

Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation.

After some careful thinking, she pointed to the three most handsome men in the church and said, "I'll take him and him and him."

Contact Information

The Editors:

Anna Grum and Sean Creegan
~ footnotes_editors@yahoo.com

Director of Youth Ministry:
Marc Mescher

~mmescher@stmaryeg.org
~ mescher@stjoetosa.archmil.org

On AOL @ SJSMYM

or on the web @

www.stjoetosa.com

www.stmaryeg.org
(under Christian Formation)