



Footnotes

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

ISSUE 9
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2005

HOLLA!

- We asked what you thought would be the best Halloween costume. Here are our favorites:

1. A Green Bay Packer. Yeah, that's pretty scary stuff.
2. Donald Trump or Martha Stewart; you can go around firing people or writing them a letter.
3. A "Vote for Pedro" t-shirt.
4. One person as a hot lunch food item and another as Pepto-Bismol.
5. A shirt with Marc's 5th grade picture on it (that's an inside joke from this summer's Mission Trip).

Thanks to all those who responded!

Bonus points to anyone who actually dresses up like any of these costumes and tells us about it!

NEXT MONTH'S POLL:

We want to know your ideas for the best stocking-stuffer ever!

Send yours to:

Footnotes_editors@yahoo.com

The ATTIC is Open in October!

~ Now that the ATTIC is nearing completion (financially and physically), it is ready for near-daily use. Last year, it was used mostly in the evenings, for meetings, the Quad Parish Night of Prayer, and Confirmation sessions. There were a few organizations and groups that used the ATTIC to meet during the day, and St. Mary's grade school hosted their 6, 7, & 8 grade day-long retreats in the ATTIC.

This year, the ATTIC looks to be used much more. Already, it has a busy calendar with different parish group meetings during the day and with Youth Board meetings and Confirmation sessions in the evenings. Teens of all ages will have greater access to the ATTIC with a trial period of being open after school in October.

Beginning Monday, October 3rd, the ATTIC has been open from **3-5pm Monday through Thursday**. Each afternoon so far, the ATTIC has been a popular attraction, bringing in junior high and high school

youth to shoot pool, play pinball, watch TV, hang out with friends, or do homework. If this popularity continues, a regular schedule will be in place for the rest of 2005-2006 to allow more teens greater access to the ATTIC facility.

However, in order for the ATTIC to be open *each day*, Monday through Thursday, we need parent help chaperoning the ATTIC for dates and times when Marc (so far, the primary

chaperone) has meetings or other obligations. As such, Marc is asking *your* help to recruit parent or other adult volunteers to help supervise the ATTIC after school. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please pass their name and phone number along to Marc.

Be sure to spread the word and bring your friends to the ATTIC, so this can be the beginning of a great new opportunity for all youth in the area!



Look for this sign to find your way to the ATTIC entrance, located on the North side parking lot between St. Mary's Church and School (the glass doors are under a blue awning).

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND FOR MISSION TRIPS IN 2006

~ On Tuesday, October 25th at 7pm, there will be an informational meeting in the ATTIC concerning the Mission Trip opportunities for the summer of 2006. If you have ever wondered what a Mission Trip might be like, this is **not** something you'll want to miss!

Mission Trips are opportunities for high school youth to serve others in need. They are week-long experiences for teens to grow in their understanding of what service really means and to

improve their relationship with God and others. In the past, these experiences have been *very* powerful and profound, and the selections for 2006 will not disappoint!

As in past summers, this year, SJ + SM Youth Ministry will combine efforts with SJV to send teens across the country. This year, we are considering trips which would head to Dulce, New Mexico (for the second year in a row) in June, Appalachia (in July), and possibly the Gulf Coast (also in July), to help

communities battered by the hurricanes.

What is more, this session will provide you information on other Archdiocesan opportunities right here in Milwaukee (with Reach Out/Reach In) and abroad, to Belize, Ecuador, Guatemala, or St. Lucia (with Global Youth Mission).

Registration for these Mission Trips will begin *at* this meeting and spots are limited, so if you're interested in this amazing experience, plan to join us on Oct. 25th!

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

Quad Parish trip to Fright Fest
Oct. 21, 4:15-midnight (bus @ SJV)

Youth Board: Oct. 24, 6-7p (ATTIC)

Spooks & Spoofs Halloween Family Fun
Oct. 28, 5-9pm (SM School)

Halloween Service Dance Party
Oct. 29, 6-9pm (SM Gym)

Make a Difference Day
Nov. 12, 8am-1pm (for parents, too!)

Youth Mass & Guest Speaker
Nov. 20, 6-8:30pm (St. Dominic)

Youth Board: Nov. 21, 7-8pm (ATTIC)

Guest Speaker to Address Parent-Teen Communication, Sunday, November 20th

~ Mr. Bill Johnson, youth consultant and ordained Deacon, will be speaking to teens and parents directly following the **6pm Quad Parish Youth Mass on Sunday, November 20th at St. Dominic's Church**, on Capitol Drive in Brookfield.

Mr. Johnson will speak from 7-8:30pm about "parent-teen communication" and improving the lines of communication at

home. This is the second consecutive year Mr. Johnson has been a guest speaker for the Quad Parishes.

Mr. Johnson was a popular attraction last year, as both teens and parents found him funny and interesting. For 25 years Mr. Johnson has worked with teens and families in programs such as the Big Brother/Big Sister Program, Juvenile Corrections, and Youth

and Family Ministry. Mr. Johnson is married with two adult children and is currently serving in Aurora, IL as the Director of Campus Ministry at Marmion Academy.

Parents and students in the High School REC program at St Joe's + St. Mary's are required to attend this event, but *all* teens and parents are invited to join us!

By Michele Derdzinski,
Staff Writer

A teacher was trying to explain the theory of evolution to her first-grade class, but they could not understand where God fit. To illustrate her point, the teacher asked one boy, "Tommy, do you see the tree outside?"

Tommy replied, "Yes." The teacher asked if Tommy could see the grass outside and again, Tommy said, "Yes."

The teacher then asked Tommy to go outside and look up to see the sky.

Tommy did this, and when he returned, reported to the class that he saw the sky.

The teacher asked Tommy if he saw God. "No," Tommy replied. He did not. The teacher explained, "That's my point. We can't see God because He isn't there. He just doesn't exist."

A little girl raised her hand and asked if she could ask Tommy a few questions. The teacher agreed, and the little girl asked, "Tommy, do you see the tree?" Tommy replied, "Yes, of course!"

The little girl responded, "Do you see the grass outside?" Tommy replied, "Yes! I told you that already!"

The little girl persisted. "Did you see the sky?" Tommy was exasperated by now. "Yessss!" he shot back.

The girl asked, "Do you see the teacher?" Tommy replied, "Yes!" The little girl continued, "Do you see her brain?" Tommy replied, "No."

The little girl turned to the class, and announced, "Well, according to what we learned just now, that means she doesn't have one!"

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SJ + SM Youth Board in Place for 2005-2006

~ On Monday, September 26, the St. Joe's + St. Mary's Youth Board reconvened for the 2005-2006 school year in the ATTIC.

The meeting was very well attended, actually filling every seat in the large conference room, where the Youth Board meetings are held. At the meeting, Marc Mescher, Director of Youth Ministry, directed elections for several positions on the youth board.

The first election was for Youth Board Chair, the leader of the youth board, in charge of running meetings and coordinating the efforts of the other Chair positions (in Faith Formation, Service Work, and Social Development). The Youth Board elected David Kruse, a Senior at WWHS.

From there, the other Chair positions were chosen. Diego Palacios, a Senior at MUHS was elected Chair of Social

Development and is in charge of forming a committee to organize and promote social events for junior high and high school students. His first focus is on spreading the word about the Quad Parish trip to Fright Fest on Friday, October 21st.

Ryan McCauley, also a Senior at MUHS and Angelica Bernetich, a Senior at DSHA, were elected co-Chairs of the Faith Formation Committee, and they will assemble a committee to plan and publicize programs and activities to enrich the faith journey of 7-12 graders. Currently, they are working on spreading the word about the Quad Parish Night of Prayer which happens in the ATTIC the first Thursday of every month from 7-8:30pm.

There were 7 people who ran for the Chair position for the Service Work Committee, so that was narrowed down to a quad-Chair situation, and Kate Novotny and Theresa Lauer,

Seniors at DSHA, Colleen Pesci, a Senior at CMH, and Russell Miller, at Senior at Pius XI, will work together to lead this committee in its plans to improve and add to the service projects already in place.

The position of Communications Chair was retained for the second year in a row by Anna Grum, Editor of *Footnotes* and long-time Youth Ministry publicist and recruiter. The final position, for Youth Board Secretary, was a close race, but in the end went to Claire Zagar, a sophomore at Pius XI.

Now that the Committee Chair positions have been selected, the Youth Board will be looking for other at-large members and other junior high and high school students to join the specific committees and get involved in their planning and programs for the year ahead. You can learn more about the Youth Board by contacting Marc or the Committee Chairs, or at our next meetings, **10/24/05 @ 6pm or 11/21/05 @ 7pm**, both in the ATTIC.

We Need Your Help!

~ As many students discovered last year, getting involved in service can provide unforgettable connections and memories with the people you meet. October and November are *packed* with service opportunities, which will only be successful with help from people like **you!**

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 teens to lend a much-needed helping hand as we provide opportunities for area children to celebrate Halloween in a safe and fun way.

On Friday, the 28th, we will be helping with Spooks and Spoofs, St. Mary's

annual community-building 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, the 29th, in St. Mary's gym, we will host the second-annual Halloween Dance Party for physically and cognitively challenged guests. 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.

Just two short weeks later, from 8am to 1pm on Saturday, November 12th, we will be going out into the community for our third-annual Make A Difference Day, where teens (and parents!) rake leaves, winterize homes, and visit with parish seniors.

We need your help to make these services possible. If you're interested in being a part of one or more of these events, please contact Marc @ 414-630-4626. We hope to see you there!