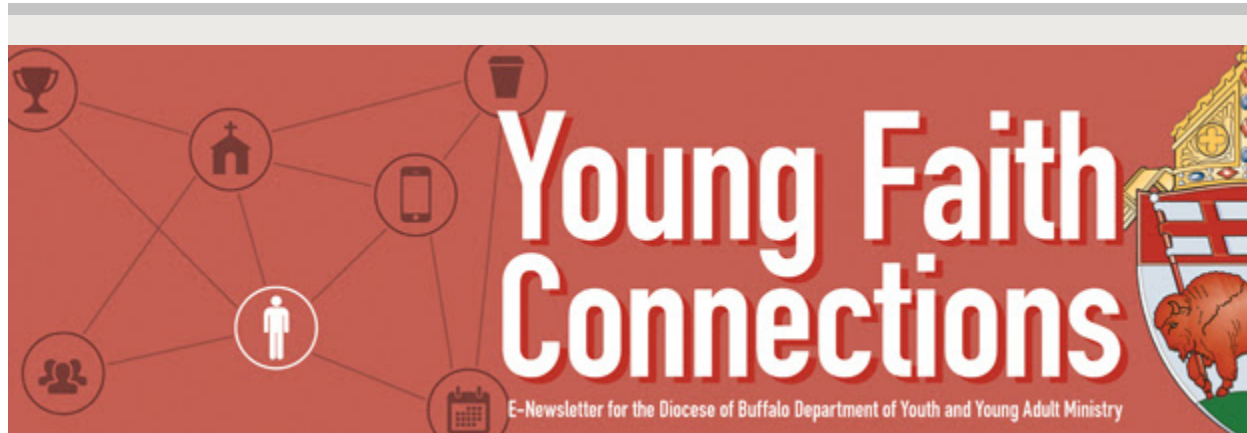

From: Diocese of Buffalo - Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 5:25 PM

To: seasred@outlook.com

Subject: Young Faith Connections - August 2019



Dear Natalie,

Do you ever feel like your life is all tied up in knots? As though your life, your ministry, your emotions and thoughts, are like a big ball of knotted yarn? That seems an apt description for life and ministry in the Diocese of Buffalo these days. Thank goodness we have the resource of prayer to rely on when difficulties arise! In his press release announcing his role in the Apostolic Visitation in Buffalo, Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio asked the intercession of our Blessed Mother, referencing her under the title of Our Lady, Untier of Knots. What better intercessor could we ask for at this time?!



As we see this image of Mary so carefully and patiently undoing the many knots in a long ribbon, we can imagine her lovingly holding all of us in our diocese, and tending to our many knots. Bishop Malone has suggested that all of us pray the prayer to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, particularly during this time of the Apostolic Visitation. It is a most beautiful prayer, and one that I believe many youth and young adults need in their own personal lives, lives which so often feel knotted up with pain, confusion and struggle. Let us join together in this prayer – for our diocese, for our young people, for ourselves.

Peace and blessings,
Kathy Goller

Virgin Mary, Mother of fair love,
Mother who never refuses to come to the aid of a child in need,

Mother whose hands never cease to serve your beloved children because they are moved by the divine love and immense mercy that exist in your heart, cast your compassionate eyes upon me and see the snarl of knots that exists in my life. You know very well how desperate I am, my pain, and how I am bound by these knots.

Mary, Mother to whom God entrusted the undoing of the knots in the lives of His children, I entrust into your hands the ribbon of my life. No one, not even the evil one himself, can take it away from your precious care. In your hands there is no knot that cannot be undone.

Powerful Mother, by your grace and intercessory power with Your Son and My Liberator, Jesus, take into your hands today this knot.

[Mention your particular request (need or knot) here]
I beg you to undo it for the glory of God, once and for all. You are my hope. O my Lady, you are the only consolation God gives me, the fortification of my feeble strength, the enrichment of my destitution and with Christ the freedom from my chains. Hear my plea. Keep me, guide me, protect me, o safe refuge!

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me. Amen.

Peace and blessings,

Kathy Goller

Youth Connections

Teens Experience Holy Fire!

Holy Fire is truly a middle school event like no other! Forty-eight Junior high teenagers (grades 6, 7 and 8) from Immaculate Conception, East Aurora; Nativity, Orchard Park; and St. John the Baptist, West Valley boarded a bus at 4am on Sunday, October 13th to travel to Great Lakes, Ohio. Many of their parents came with us too! The bus ride did not dampen their excitement. It was amazing to see



UPCOMING EVENTS

visit dobyouth.org for more information



GYM Nigh: Gatherings in Youth Ministry
October 17th
Blessed Sacrament, Tonawanda
and

their excitement as they entered the crowd of 2100 people at the Stroh Center.

They quickly joined their peers in the praise and worship music in front of the stage as musician Joe Melendrez encouraged them to, "Make a holy noise for Jesus!" When it was noted that Buffalo came the farthest, we could hear our young people on the floor yell, "Buffalo" all the way up in the bleachers! At one point, when teens were to stand and pray with their palms open in front of them and you could have heard a pin drop as these young people opened themselves to God's presence.

The day concluded with a Renewal of our Baptismal Promises, Adoration and Mass with Bishop Earl Boyea from the Diocese of Lansing. In his homily, Bishop Boyea told them that God does not want a payment. God wants to be received. We are to ask and we shall receive. When asked for words to describe Holy Fire our young people said: fun, exciting, peaceful, prayerful, gave me new music to pray with, proud to be Catholic.



See You at the Pole

Amanda Bergman, St. Padre Pio, Oakfield

At my small Catholic high school, I am grateful to have always had strong role models who were in the classes ahead of mine. Some of them have been leaders in volunteerism, in extra-curricular clubs, and in actively living their faith. Since several of these mentors of mine have graduated, I have needed to step into a few of their roles if I wanted to assure that certain programs continue.

November 7th

Contact **Sarah** for location

Eucharistic Youth Event

October 18th

St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, Buffalo

Young Christians at Work

October 19th

Queen of Martyrs, Cheektowaga

Planning for Convention 2020--Christ is Alive

October 22nd

Catholic Center, Buffalo

National Catholic Youth Conference

November 21st-24th

Indianapolis, IN

Scout Youth Retreat

December 6th and 7th

St. Gregory the Great, Williamsville

Christ is Alive--Diocesan Youth Convention 2020

February 28th-March 1st

Buffalo Grand Hotel, Buffalo

Help Us Bring Christ Alive!



We need your help to make Convention 2020 a success. You are all invited to join us once again to share your skills, creativity, and ideas to help make Convention a powerful experience for all! (And, of course, there will be food!). There are two planning groups, and you are welcome to be part of one or both.

Expo, Small Groups, and Playlist— October 22nd and December 11th

This situation is what drew me to take on leading one of my favorite Notre Dame High School traditions: Prayer at the flagpole. "See You at the Pole" falls within the Global Week of Student Prayer. The idea is to hold a student-organized gathering, under our right to free speech, where students of different beliefs have the opportunity to pray together. Prayers shared are for students, our families, and communities throughout the world. In reading up about it while I was planning the service, I was reminded of just how blessed I am to be in a place where I am allowed to share my faith.

With readings presented by a senior and a freshman from our campus ministry council, the service went very smoothly. There were about twenty-five students who gathered during homeroom, and they all took it seriously and participated. Many shared prayer intentions, and the service ended with everyone joining hands and praying the Memorare.

I am very glad that I took on this leadership opportunity because it encouraged me to remind myself that I am surrounded by fellow students who chose to show up to such an optional activity. Being on the leadership team of my youth group, and being on the Diocesan Youth Board has helped me to not only increase my faith, but to step out of my comfort zone and more

(Catholic Center), January 18th (Location TBD)

**Breakouts, Mainstage, and Liturgy—
December 4th at St. Benedict,
Eggertsville and January 18th (Location TBD)**

Meetings are held from 5:30-8:30 PM, and include dinner. If you are planning to come, **please let us know** so that we are able to order food.

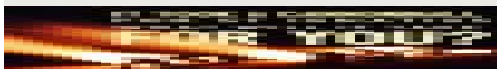
Young Adult Connections

Prepare to BRAVE the elements of life!

Following up with the first Brave retreat last year, we return for our first full weekend in Allegany State Park, November 9-11. This retreat will be geared towards building community and preparing you to brave the elements of life with Christ at the center. Be Brave and join up for this amazing opportunity for young adults to grow together.



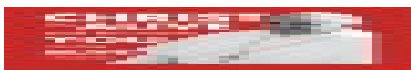
All are welcome! **Register online by October 25th**. Contact **Adam** for more details!



What's Your Cannonball?

At the next Theology on Tap, Sarah Signorino, Director of Mission and Identity at Canisius College, will recount the story of St. Ignatius of Loyola, who went on to found the Society of Jesus. Everything changed for young Ignatius when he was struck in the legs by a cannonball as a young man, ending his earlier courtly aspirations, and setting him on a path to find God. What can we learn from St. Ignatius' life and the Spiritual Exercises he developed? Sarah plans to share lessons in Ignatian spirituality to help us in our journey of faith. **All are welcome at Big Ditch Brewing Company on Monday, October 28th. Doors open at 7, talk begins at 7:30.**

Ministry Leader Connections



There is still time to join a Discipleship Small Group!

Join a small group of other ministry leaders from across the diocese to break open *Christus Vivit*. As ministry leaders, understanding our call to

serve the young Church is vital to our mission. Revive your own faith, sharpen your vision, and connect with others who are committed to ministry!

If you would like to join a small group, **click here to view times and locations**. If you preferred day or time are full, email **Kathy** to let her know. If you are unable to join a group this fall, stay tuned! We will be relaunching groups in January 2020.

See You In Lisbon!



We are in the planning stage for the diocesan pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal Stay tuned for more information including dates and prices in the coming months!

Camp Connections



WinterCamp Registration Opens Soon!

Wintercamp runs from December 28th at 10 am through December 30th at 6 PM. Round trip bus is available for additional cost. Open to boys ages 7 - 13 and girls ages 7 - 15. Visit **www.campturner.com** to sign up starting November 1. Financial aid is available. Deadline for Financial aid is November 15. Deadline to sign up is Dec. 20. Camp Turner Health forms are due one week before arrival.

Find God at Camp this Spring!



Camp Turner is booking spring retreats and other group rentals. Visit www.campturner.com for rates and guidelines. Call John at 716-354-4555 to sign up. Currently the following dates are open:

All of March and April are wide open.

May 4-14

June 8 - 14

Scouting Connections

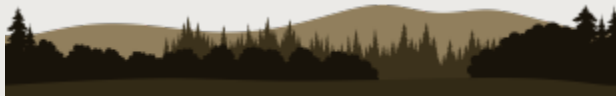


Scouts Celebrate Priesthood Sunday

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY, celebrated nationwide on the last Sunday of October each year, is a special day to honor the priesthood in the United States. It is a call for parishioners to honor

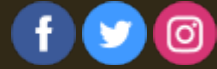
Christ as Priest and the men who were called to be his priests on earth. It is also a day to honor all religious and to focus on the importance of vocations. Catholic Scout Packs, Troops and Venture Crews are encouraged to make a special effort to involve the youth in programs of making appreciation cards to be presented after Mass on this day or at an event planned in your parish. See www.priestsunday.org for some ideas, then plan your own way of honoring the priest(s) of your parish. This date has passed but I am sure it would be appreciated at any time!

Joyful Connection



**Diocese of Buffalo - Youth and Young
Adult Ministry**
716-847-8788
youth@buffalodiocese.org
www.dobyouth.org

Connect with us



Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry - Division of Evangelization and Catechesis | 795 Main
St., Buffalo, NY 14203

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