



Parent Newsletter November 7, 2006

Dear Parents of Holy Trinity,

Greetings in Christ! This year in youth ministry we are distributing a newsletter to all the families of our parish what is happening in our youth program. We are doing this for two main reasons: first, we do not see our youth ministry program as its own entity separate from the “regular” parish, but as a integrate part of our parish family. Therefore, we want everyone to know about and share in our ministry to our youth, and we want our youth to know they are an irreplaceable part of our parish community.

Secondly, we look especially to those who are parents and grandparents of our teens. Pope John Paul II in his apostolic exhortation on the family encouraged the Church to recognize parents as “the first and foremost educators of their children.” We desire our ministry to the youth at Holy Trinity Parish to embrace this truth by implementing this concept in all our programs and encouraging the role of parents in sharing the message of the Gospel with our youth people, who are the future of the world and our Church. These monthly newsletters intend to keep parents connected to what is going on with the youth ministry program and offer opportunities for parents to take an active role their son or daughter’s spiritual development.

Student Spotlight

I am certain our teens are doing a lot of great and positive things in our community. If you know of a middle or high school student who has done something awesome let me know by emailing me at vacker@archdpx.org and we will place it in the next newsletter.

Up-Coming Events

SKI TRIP/ CONCERT

The Youth Group at Holy Trinity is taking a trip to see Christian band Pillar in concert, along with other rock Christian bands at the Day of Reckoning Tour in Medford, Or. As you know, Medford is quite a ways away, so the plan is to take advantage of being in the Medford area that weekend as much as possible. This means a lock-in with the Sacred Heart Teens of Medford, Oregon Friday after the concert, and after a night of much rest, a Saturday of skiing on the slopes of Mt. Ashland.

When: December 8-10, leaving Holy Trinity at 3:45 p.m. December 8th. Arriving back at Holy Trinity at ~ 9:00 p.m. on December 9th.

Where: Medford, Oregon, and Mt. Ashland

Cost: \$25 (Cost includes advanced purchase of concert ticket, food, and transportation. You will also need to bring addition \$30 -\$50 for skiing and food at Mt. Ashland).

Due Date: Friday, December 1st.

Requirements: We ask that those going be in 7th grader to 12th grade, sign the conduct agreement (please remember this is to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all that are attending this event), and a parent permission/medical form. Also, because December 8th is the feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation, we ask all teens who are Catholic attend one of the masses for this holy day. Masses will be offered on Thursday, December 7th at 7:30 p.m. and Friday at 8:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, at 12:00 at St. John's in Port Orford.

This is going to be an incredible weekend with a lot of exciting activities. Because this is such a jam-packed weekend I want every parent to be comfortable with everything that is taking place on this trip. Please feel open to contacting me at 260-2329 with any questions or concerns about this event. Also, we are in need of chaperones, so if you would like to join in on the fun (and the sleepless nights) let me know!

Adopt a Teen program

Our teens need much support as they grow to develop into mature Christians who will bring Christ's light into this world. What is most powerful in the life of a teen is often the most unnoticed and overlooked: the advocacy of prayer.

Even if you already have a teen of your own (or two!), we hope you would still participate in this program. The Adopt a Teen Program assigns a family a teen in our youth group, who the family will support through weekly prayer, encouragement through letters and birthday cards, and meet with the teen in person at least once at a bi-annual Adopt a Teen Dinner. This adoption program lasts for approximately one year until September 2007.

If your family would like to adopt a teen, please let us know by filling out the form at the bottom of this page and place it in the collection basket at Mass, or send it to Valerie at 355 Oregon Ave. SE, Bandon, OR 97411.

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Adopt a Teen Program

The _____ family would like to participate in the Adopt a Teen Program. We pledge to offer up weekly _____ (a rosary, a mass, give up candy, or other prayers and sacrifices) for the teen that is assigned to us. We are committed to this service as a family for the duration of the 2006/2007 year, until September 2007.

Holy Trinity may contact us by phone at _____ or by email at _____.

Please mail information to the following address: _____

Signature of Parent: _____

Table Talk: Universal Call to Holiness

We invite parents to use this section to initiate a faith sharing with their family. These short discussions are good to use while eating dinner together, while driving in the car together, or even on a commercial break! I welcome any feedback on the topic and questions and am welcomed to all suggestions.

“Put on the new self, created in God’s way in righteousness and holiness of truth.”

(Ephesians 4:24)

Background for parents:

It is a common misconception among Catholics that only priests and religious men and women are called to be holy. However, the truth is that anyone who is baptized has a fundamental calling to be holy, including the laity*. By virtue of their baptism the laity share in Christ’s priesthood and are called to live out the challenge of faith in their personal, family, social, and work aspects of their lives. The role the laity plays in the world gives them the unique opportunity to serve God and share the message of the Gospel in ways priests and religious cannot: through families, schools, military service, government, businesses, and other earthly affairs.

The laity have many examples before them of saints who lived “in the world but not of it,” such as St. Gianna Molla (doctor and mother), St. Monica (mother of St. Augustine), and Blesseds Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi (20th century couple. Luigi was a lawyer, Maria was a teacher). These saints maintained their faith amidst the difficulties of everyday life by constantly turning to Christ for strength through daily prayer, scripture, and the Eucharist.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What different roles do you play in your life? Does your faith influence the way you live out these roles?**
- 2. Have you ever felt challenged to “cave in” and do something that was against your faith? How did you deal with this? What could you have done differently?**
- 3. Is there one area of your life you struggle with living out God’s call to holiness?**
- 4. How can you as a family help each other live out your faith better?**

*Those who are baptized members of the Church but who are not ordained priests or consecrated religious

Junior High Youth Group

We meet most Wednesdays from 6:45 -8:00 p.m. after the Wednesday Community Night Dinner.

High School Youth Group

We meet most Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. mass. Youth group generally lasts from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

LIFE TEEN Mass

Every first and third Sunday at 10:30 p.m., with upbeat praise and worship music led by the LIFE TEEN Band.

Port Orford Youth Group

Every first and third Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at St. John’s Catholic Church, off of Hwy 101.

If you have any questions concerning what was mention in this newsletter, or if you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Valerie at 260-2329 or email her at vacker@archdpx.org.