

# Office of Youth Ministry Newsletter

September '09



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## Introduction

Welcome back to school! I can't believe another summer has come and gone [Charlie Brown, anyone?]. Many things are happening. And there are many resources you need to be made aware of. So, as usual, take your time looking through this newsletter and please ask if you have questions. If you have anything you'd like to mention or make available to others, please contact me. I'll try to get it into our next issue.

With Peace,  
Matthew Boerke

## Bless our Ministry Prayer

Heavenly Father, Great Counselor;

We are your disciples. Teach us that we may know your ways.

Our youth look to us for support and guidance. But, we must first know your ways. Speak to us, Lord. Help us be better disciples and followers of your Son, Jesus Christ.

We are your apostles. Send us to preach the Good News.

Lord, we are called to speak your truths. We are your voice. Both in actions and in words, may we forever proclaim your greatness, your mercy, your love.

We ask you to bless our ministry for this school year. We ask this with, in, and through your resurrected Son, Jesus; in whose name we pray. Amen.

# Pew Study:

**Almost 70 percent Catholic youth stay Catholic. Only 2-3 cite sex abuse as reason they left Church. Disaffected youth a primary concern.**

A Pew Forum poll on Americans and their religious affiliation finds Catholics have one of the highest retention rates (68 percent) among Christian churches when it comes to carrying the Catholic faith into adulthood.

It also found that a determining factor in whether or not one remains Catholic as an adult is whether or not the individual attended Mass as a child and teenager.

“The report highlights the importance of Mass attendance among children and teenagers,” said Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, past chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Catechesis and next chairman of the Committee on Doctrine. “Adolescence is a critical time in religious development and, as the poll shows, what happens in the teen years has a long-lasting affect. We have to help young people and their parents appreciate the importance of going to weekly Mass so teenagers know Jesus is there for them now and always.” Archbishop Wuerl said the poll showed the resilience of the Catholic faith, even in the face of something as horrific as the sexual abuse crisis.

The study also found that the key reason people leave their church, Protestant or Catholic, is that “they just gradually drifted away from the faith.”

Specific reasons cited by Catholics for leaving the faith were (in order of percentage)

- 1) Disagreements on doctrinal matters
- 2) Catholics becoming unaffiliated with any faith; and
- 3) Becoming protestant.



Study from: 09-092 DD,SEC,USNewswire,CNS,RNS,Crux

## How to Waste Your Time

### Poem About a Wasted Hour

I wasted an hour one morning beside a mountain stream, I seized a cloud from the sky above and fashioned myself a dream.

In the hush of the early twilight, far from the haunts of men, I wasted a summer evening, and fashioned my dream again.

Wasted? Perhaps. Folks say so who never have walked with God. When lanes are purple with lilacs or yellow with goldenrod.

But I have found strength for my labors in that one short evening hour. I have found joy and contentment; I have found peace and power.

My dreaming has left me a treasure, a hope that is strong and true. From wasted hours I have built my life and found my faith anew.

-Author Unknown





# Charity and Social Service Award

Nominate your students for  
the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (BNSIC)  
*Charity and Social Service Award*

This award was Inspired by the Holy Father's Apostolic visit in 2008 and timed in conjunction with the Golden Jubilee (1959) of the dedication of the Basilica.

## Process:

You nominate a student whom you feel is deserving of this award, and able to fulfill the requirements/obligations of being an award recipient (see below). Contact me with serious applicants by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Then, by December 8<sup>th</sup> (the Immaculate Conception) I/we, the Diocese, must have chosen and submitted our final nomination to the BNSIC committee. Just in time for Mardi Gras (February 16<sup>th</sup>) final national candidates will be chosen and the announcement will be made nationally. April 11, 2009, winners will be flown to Washington for the conferral of the awards at the BNSIC.

## Criteria:

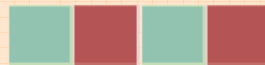
Applicants must be a sophomore or junior in high school (can be an individual or group). Award is based on actively living out the faith, specifically the 7 Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. To nominate someone, applicants must submit a video or PowerPoint presentation (3 minutes maximum), highlighting their works and faith-filled life.

## Information:

If you would like more information or to nominate someone, contact me. Or visit:  
<http://www.nationalshrine.com/award> 202-526-8300



The award

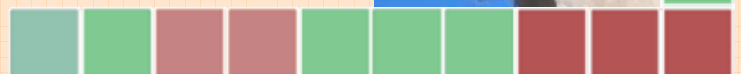
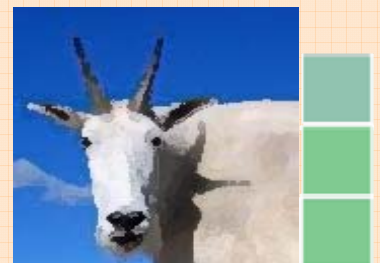


A young couple invited their elderly priest for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the cleric asked their son what they were having to eat.

"Goat," the little boy replied.

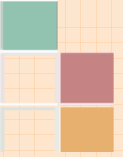
"Goat?" replied the startled man of the cloth, "Are you sure about that?"

"Yep," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mom, 'Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.'"





# Mahony on Ministry



“Few American bishops have pondered the future of ministry in the Catholic church as thoroughly as Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles; now 73.” - John Allen

Cardinal Mahony has sketched 17 specific challenges facing the church. These points offer us the opportunity for deep conversation. The following summary is based on excerpts from Mahony’s San Antonio address.



1. “Some really harsh generational divides with the younger generation often quite openly challenging the orthodoxy of older priests.”
2. We need “welcome and hospitality” in parishes. (Mahony offered a practical example: “On several occasions I have called parish offices and got entangled in the web of voicemail menu choices, trying to extract myself from the non-stop options without ever being able to speak to a real, live person.”)
3. In light of the priest shortage, deacons are increasingly being formed to administer to priestless parishes. Does that risk “undermine the integrity of the diaconate as a ministry distinct from the ministerial priesthood”?
4. Offering “proper theological and pastoral formation” for lay ministers at a time when the economy is prompting greater reliance on volunteers and deacons.
5. How to foster a strong identity among young priests, without making them “less collaborative, less flexible” and more inclined to throw their weight around. (Mahony appended what he said with a true story: “One of our seminary professors asked a first year seminarian: Why have you asked your bishop to transfer you to another seminary? Answer: Because the priests, sisters and professors at Saint John’s Seminary want to give the church to the laity!”)
6. Taking a “hard look” at the changing face of seminarians in terms of age, culture, and language. (“Do we realize,” Mahony asked, “that some of our seminarians from diverse cultures have little or no interest in what many of us think of as ‘multiculturalism’?”)
7. “Too many liturgies and homilies are not what they might be, often because of a lack of a good grasp of Scripture as the basis for homilies and for liturgy planning.”
8. “A slowing down of ecumenical efforts at the local level and at all levels.”
9. A “weakening” of social concern among parishioners, driven in some cases by moral and political disagreement. (Mahony cited: “The church’s current efforts at comprehensive immigration reform have often been met with outright denunciation as the anti-immigrant mood takes deeper root.”)
10. Threats to parish unity from “the re-introduction of the Latin Mass and more ‘sacred’ liturgies, which have the effect of creating two parallel communities.”
11. How to articulate the church’s positions on sexuality “in a plausible and compelling way.”
12. “More parish retreats, to give people an inexpensive and parish-related quiet time.”
13. A “poorly realized renewal of reconciliation ministry within parishes -- especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”
14. Training laity to provide spiritual direction as part of a larger parish spiritual renewal ministry.
15. “The nagging problem of too many people getting children baptized, and getting married, outside their own parish.”
16. “Not enough attention to a communal approach to the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, as an integral part of a community’s care for the sick.”
17. Greater interaction among all the parishes in a diocese, especially “where there are many social classes and many cultural groups.”



# Fall Activities

If you're looking for a few fun activities this fall, other than the obvious; the **State Fair**, ponder these:

**Laser Quest** at 7200 South in Midvale, offers group rates. 3 games for \$18, but when you book this "Triple Quest" you get the fourth game free. They are also available for overnight functions. Fun for Halloween or any other excuse to run around in glow-in-the-dark!

**Gardner Village** brings out all their witches and pumpkins to decorate the sidewalks during October. It's a fun place to grab a bite to eat or just browse through the shops. They are a bit "crafty" and may not be the most enjoyable for a bunch of rowdy males.

**Octoberfest and Snowbird:** Yes, it begins in September, but they still call it Octoberfest. Taste some good German sausage, listen to the alpine horns, maybe enter a polka dance competition (Sue and I placed second in the "egg between the forehead" competition ; ) Then, take a hike or bike ride. Finish off the day with a ride on the tram, a zip-line, or alpine slide.

## And Retreats

College students from across the diocese are invited to attend the **Student Fall Retreat**. Friday through Sunday, September 18-20<sup>th</sup> at beautiful Camp Utaba.

The theme of the retreat is: Catholic Saints: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives. Cost is \$50 with scholarships available.

Although this event is organized and sponsored by the UofU Newman Center, it is open to all college students, no matter what college; Ie. SLCC, Westminster, SUU, etc.

Contact Carla Zilaff at [czilaff@hotmail.com](mailto:czilaff@hotmail.com) or (801) 359-6066 for more info or to register.

**Koinonia Retreat:** October 23-25<sup>th</sup> at Camp Utaba in Liberty, UT  
Quite simply, this is two and a half fabulous days of spiritual/scriptural discussion and friendship building! Participants will listen to a short scripture reading and personal talk, then discuss at table groups. The weekend is full of fun and laughter, spiritually enlightening activities and events. It's deep and thought-provoking. It's warm and heartfelt. Each person's experience is unique, yet equally profound. So, I hope you can join us. Contact me for more information. [also, if you've already made this retreat, contact me to be on the leadership team]

# Sept-Oct Events

## Nic Vujicic:

Nic has no arms and no legs. Yet he's full of faith and life and his message of hope is profound. He's an evangelist, a motivator, and an energetic speaker. Best yet-he's coming to Salt Lake and you and your youth can attend for free!

Visit <http://www.lifewithoutlimbs.org> for more about Nic and his mission/ministry, including videos of Nic in action (which include things like him playing techno music, speaking, walking, and yes, even swimming and playing golf). **Remember him from Leadership Weekend?!**

**The Utah Event:** <http://www.lifewithoutlimitsutah.com/>

Although they're free, come early to guarantee good seating. Great bands, local and national will open each evening!

**September 11 at the Salt Palace; 7pm.**

**September 12 at the Salt Palace; 7pm.**

**Youth Event = September 12th from 2-4pm @ Salt Palace**

Special ticketed event at the Tabernacle; Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm.

I have 8 tickets to give away...please ask if you'd like some.



Tony Melendez Videos: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GF9wo9sVn2c>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOewMt0NCnU>



## Utah Pastoral Congress: October 10th, 8-3pm at Skaggs Catholic Center

Our Annual Diocesan Congress offers opportunities for continuing your adult faith formation. It reflects the increasing diversity of the Church in Utah. The National Directory for Catechesis reminds us that "adult catechesis is absolutely necessary for the Christian formation of the faithful," and that responsibility for sound education in the social mission of the Church belongs to all the faithful.



This year's Congress offers a variety of opportunities to explore the meaning of living as a believer. "Being a believer means that one lives a certain way-walking with the Lord, doing justice, loving kindness, living peaceably among all people." At this event participants will have an opportunity to reflect upon God's Word, to join in study and prayer, and to strengthen our Catholic identity.

**You will also not want to miss our keynote speaker, Tony Melendez and Toe Jam!** Tony became world-famous when he played the guitar for the Pope in 1987, using his feet. Being born a "thalidomide" baby of the 50-60's, Tony has no arms. He is a fantastic (bi-lingual) speaker and his music is truly inspiring

## Autumn Catholic Teen Social: October 11<sup>th</sup>, 4-8:30pm at Skaggs Catholic Center

This year we're going to switch things up a little bit. 1) The ACTS is open to both Junior High and High School students (grades 6-12). We'll begin with Mass at 4pm, with Bishop Wester presiding. From 5-6 we'll have a couple breakouts and small group discussions. 6-7pm is dinner and fun and games (such as inflatables and bouncy things). We'll end with a concert/keynote by **Tony Melendez and Toe Jam** from 7-8:30.

*"My wish to you is to continue giving this hope to all the people." -Pope John Paul II*

## FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY:



From time to time youth ministers will ask me what they can do to earn a little extra cash for their group. Well, seeing as how Utah doesn't have a lottery, I suggest working for it. Here is a new opportunity which you may wish to consider...

**Superior Discount Cards:** <http://www.asuperiorfundraising.com> 1800-649-5346 x. 233

These are laminated plastic cards (the size of a credit card) with your personalized/logo on the front. On back is a list of no less than 15 local businesses and their discounts. Ie. Buy one, get one free pizza from Domino's, \$6 off oil change at Jiffy Lube, laser tag, etc. You approve the vendors and their discounts before you buy the cards.

You must buy minimum of 300 cards. Your group sells them to the public for \$10 each. You make \$5 for each card; that's \$1,500 minimum. Card benefits are good for a full year. You must give a credit card deposit, but it's not actually billed until you've been selling the cards for one month.



# Miscellaneous Page

**Good Search** (a powerfully philanthropic search engine): <http://www.goodsearch.com/>  
Frequently Asked Questions Page: <http://www.goodsearch.com/about.aspx#faq1>

Each time you use this as your search engine, you direct money towards your favorite non-profit. Here are some Catholic and Utah non-profits you may be interested in...

Catholic Community Services of Utah – CCS, JDCHS, Madeleine Choir School, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, Pregnancy Resource Center - Salt Lake, Saint Francis Xavier, Saint George Catholic Church, St Vincent de Paul Catholic School...and many more.



Did you know there is now **Catholic Radio in Utah**? It's on 24/7 at **AM 1010 KIHU**. Their programming is pretty diverse, including question and answer sessions, discussions, lectures, music, and facilitated prayer (like the Rosary). Their website is: <http://www.ihradio.org/> You can even listen streaming online, follow them on Twitter, etc.

I'd be pretty confident you don't have too many stations pre-programmed on your AM dial, so go ahead and set that dial to 1010 AM.



# Diocesan Events

## September 11-13th:

Nic Vujicic performs @ Salt Palace-FREE  
Friday/Saturday evening at 7pm-public  
Saturday 2-4pm; special youth event

## September 19<sup>th</sup>:

Mass for persons with Disabilities  
7pm at Holy Family in Ogden

## September 20<sup>th</sup>:

First teen Mass at Saint Mary in Ogden-4PM

## September 21<sup>st</sup>:

Greater Salt Lake Council Boy Scouts Meet  
At the Diocese 7pm.

## September 23<sup>rd</sup>:

Farmer's Market with music/food at  
Saint John the Baptist; 12-7:30pm

## October 10<sup>th</sup>:

Annual Adult Pastoral Congress  
At Skaggs 8-4pm

## October 11<sup>th</sup>:

Autumn Catholic Teen Social  
At Skaggs 4-8:30pm.

## October 13<sup>th</sup>:

Red Mass for lawmakers, lawyers, judges;  
Noon at the Cathedral of the Madeleine

## October 14<sup>th</sup>:

DDD Celebration/Kick-off dinner

## October 21/22:

Hispanic Engaged/Marriage Encounter-  
6:30pm @ the Diocese

## October 23-25<sup>th</sup>:

Koinonia Retreat at Camp Utaba

## November 13-15<sup>th</sup>:

Human Rights Film Festival at JDCHS-it  
would be a great chance to talk social  
justice with your youth!

## November 19-21<sup>st</sup>:

National Catholic Youth Conference in  
Kansas City, MO...pray for Blessed  
Sacrament who will be attending as our  
diocesan delegation!

## December 5<sup>th</sup>:

Diocesan Advent Day of Prayer/Reflection  
8am-2pm with Fr. Jim Nielson. Contact  
[Timothy](#) for more information/to register.

## December 11<sup>th</sup>:

Diocesan Vigil for Our Lady of Guadalupe  
I'd like to see more youth groups participate  
this year. It's a fantastic cultural experience  
and truly a beautiful tradition.

## December 19th:

Diocesan Posada-again, a fabulous way to  
learn and experience the traditions of our  
church (and a good excuse to eat churros ; )

**Most of these events have flyers and information in  
Attachments. Please contact me if you have any  
questions or wish to register.**

**I appreciate your help in getting  
the word out to our parishes and people!**

**A couple more thought provoking and  
Discussion starting videos for your youth:**

Piano Playing at the Mayo Clinic

<http://sharing.mayoclinic.org/2009/04/07/mayo-clinic-music-fun/>

No Man is an Island Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrDxe9gK8Gk>

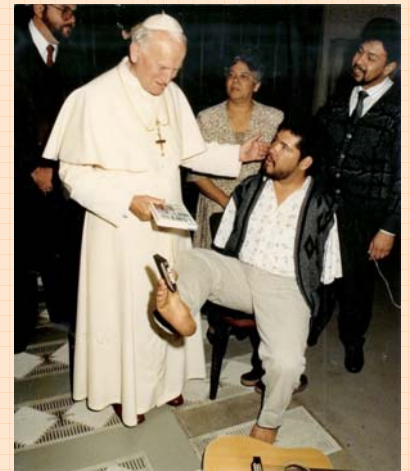


# Annual Pastoral Congress



## Annual Pastoral Congress Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> At the Skaggs Catholic Center

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This year’s Congress offers a variety of opportunities to explore the meaning of living as a believer. “Being a believer means that one lives a certain way—walking with the Lord, doing justice, loving kindness, living peaceably among all people.” At this event participants will have an opportunity to reflect upon God’s Word, to join in study and prayer, and to strengthen our Catholic identity.

Although we won’t have a youth ministry track per se this year, you will not want to miss our keynote speaker, [Tony Melendez and Toe Jam!](#) Tony became world-famous when he played the guitar for the Pope in 1987, using his feet. Being born a “thalidomide” baby of the 50-60’s, Tony has no arms. He is a fantastic (bi-lingual) speaker and his music is truly inspiring! His band puts on quite a performance by themselves. But, following the Nic Vujcic presentation in September, this stands to be a very powerful and moving fall! See him the next day at ACTS too!

## Form Central

I have posted online all the pertinent and necessary forms for youth ministry in the 2009-2010 school year (including the summer after). They are pretty much the same as you've seen before, but there are some slight changes.

Please read the instructions below and use the forms revised this year.

**Medical/Consent Form:** The language is pretty much the same as in year's past. But, the arrangement is a bit different, hopefully more streamlined and easy for people to fill out (ie. only one spot for signatures). I have also added the Code of Conduct directly into the form so both youth and adults may sign.

This form must be present with you at all events, whether at the parish or away. At all times it must be kept private and confidential and locked up.

**Field Trip Form:** No major changes. Use this form to let parents know you are leaving the usual meeting space. It should be descriptive enough to let the parents know what is happening, who is in charge, and what their son/daughter will be doing.

**Driver Form:** No major changes. Anyone who transports minors for diocesan/parish events must complete this form. It demonstrates they have proper insurance and accept responsibility for the minors they transport.

**Incident/Accident Report:** You should use this form (or something very similar) to keep records any time someone gets hurt or into "serious" trouble. Keep them secured and on file for five years. This form is useful should insurance claims be filed or you simply need more record/proof than "he said, she said."

All forms are available in English and Spanish.

Download them here:

<http://www.dioslc.org/ministries/youth/youthministers/forms>



### **Friendly Safe Environment Reminder:**

All those working with minors, even if they are minors themselves must complete the online training: <http://v015u02dig.maximumasp.com/dioslc/default.aspx>

All adults having regular contact with minors (ie, drivers, assistants, volunteers) must complete a background check through your local Director of Safe Environment (DSE).

Contact this person, your pastor, or myself for more information or assistance.