

# Young Adult Ministry

For young adults... .by young adults. Escrito por adultos jóvenes... .para adultos jóvenes

---

This E-newsletter is designed specifically for Young Adults within the vicinity of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Its purpose is to provide all young adults with spiritual knowledge and fellowship. Whether you're married, single, widowed, divorced, with or without children, if you're in your 20s and 30s, this newsletter is for you.

Volume 3, Issue 1  
January–June 2006



Inside this  
issue:

Archdiocese News	2
YA AC News	3
Q & A	4
Faith Sharing	5
Featured YAM	6
Resources	8

**“We walk by faith, not by  
sight”**



---

*July 29, 2006*  
*[www.yamsat.org](http://www.yamsat.org)*

# Archdiocese News

---

## *Weaving the Future Together – What's Happening?*

*Weaving the Future Together* (WTFT) sessions were conducted from September – November 2005 following the thematic process of Encounter, Conversion, Communion, Solidarity and Mission. There were 13 youth and 7 YA local sessions offered around the archdiocese. Information compiled from local sessions was used as a basis for gathering additional inputs at the Archdiocesan Youth and Young Adult Gathering.

### Archdiocesan Youth and Young Adult Gathering

The Archdiocesan Gathering was held on February 18, 2006 to provide an experience for youth and young adults to voice the dreams and share their gifts to the Catholic Church – a time to be listened to and gain awareness that they are not alone.

- \* The Archdiocesan Encuentro gathered 258 youth and young adult participants from 33 parishes and 6 campuses.
- \* The Encuentro experience affirmed personal cultural values and provided an opportunity for deepening faith.
- \* According to participant feedback, the experience
  - Fostered spiritual growth
  - Supported reflection on vocation/call and fostered realization of participant purpose in life
  - Stimulated direction and service focus
  - Increased openness toward others and awareness of the need for outreach
  - Affirmed them as individuals and in their faith journey
  - Motivated them to act on their faith and beliefs



The Archdiocesan Gathering provided a ministerial experience that promoted a deepening of faith which empowers young people to be more active and influential in church community. The process encouraged youth and young adults to become active and learn more about faith, offered hope for their acceptance as a vital part of Church, and fostered anticipation of more effective responses to their needs.

- \* Information acquired is meaningful and useable – shared from young people's experience, hearts, and dreams – they wanted to be heard.

27 delegates were named to participate in the Regional and National Encuentro.

### Regional Encuentro

The Regional Encuentro was held in Austin, Texas from March 31 – April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Over 250 young adults and youth came gathered from dioceses in Texas as well as Arkansas to process inputs compiled from across the region, fellowship as one amidst diverse backgrounds and expectations, and to experience a weekend of clarifying their voice for the Church.

Continued on Page 3



The Young Adult Advisory Council (YAAC) is a volunteer organization of Young Catholic Adults that work with the Office of Family Life to support, communicate, and advocate ministry with Young Adults. YAAC serves as a collaborative association to

- \* Integrate YA and YAM perspectives into parish ministries and communities
- \* Increase visibility of YA needs and YAM across Archdiocese
- \* Facilitate implementation of YAM perspective in Archdiocese

YAAC provides feedback on strategies for YAM in the Archdiocese, and is also committed to bringing community awareness of YAs and supports outreach activities and YA-connection events.

The first YAAC was commissioned by Archbishop Flores in May of 2004. As the council enters a second phase supporting *Weaving the Future Together* follow-up, participation of YAs interested in serving are encouraged to contact [yam@archdiosa.org](mailto:yam@archdiosa.org) or (210) 734-1651 for additional information.

---

*Weaving the Future - What's Happening?* continued...

The young adult and youth delegates from the Archdiocese of San Antonio were purposeful, enthusiastic, challenged, and represented the archdiocese in exemplary fashion. Young adult ministers and observers were certainly impressed with the work of these young people and the presence of the Spirit.

The needs, aspirations, vision and strategies identified during the process accentuated the commonalities between young people across the region as well as highlight differences between San Antonio and the other dioceses in the region.

- \* Some common themes among young adult inputs include (1) Truth, (2) Leadership Role/Life experiences, and (3) similar needs, regardless of background.
- \* They envision young people coming together more to worship and to be more comfortable with each other.
- \* A key principle is to encourage youth and young adults to be themselves and comfortable in a church environment.
- \* Needs, aspirations and vision crossed ethnic lines; universal among young people.
- \* Youth and YA spokespersons were articulate and direct, exuberating confidence and claimed their place in Church – voices were heard.

Continued on Page 4

## What Next?

WTFT – The Encuentro experience – highlighted how young people not only want to be heard, but empowered and guided as respected members of the Church. Youth and young adults need to be received in a welcoming, respectful manner, and be offered opportunities to explore and grow in faith, learn about Church teachings in a concrete and adult manner, and be prepared for leadership, in the context of their realities.

So – look for follow-up from Archdiocesan leadership... Increased awareness of youth and young adult needs? More welcoming parishes? Diverse formation opportunities? A realigned Office of YAM? An Archdiocesan Youth and Young Adult Encuentro Feedback Session in Fall 2006? A periodic Archbishop Q&A session? An Archdiocesan Youth and Young Adult Gathering Renewal in Spring 2007? Ultimately, it's up to you, the church, to make it happen!

And – Young adult delegates now prepare for the National Encuentro held at Notre Dame June 8 -11, 2006. Delegates look forward to the insights, challenges and spirit experienced with an expected 2000 delegates at Notre dame!

---

# Q & A

about our faith...

Q: What does our Archbishop desire for young adults?



---

It is clear that one of Archbishop José Gomez's greatest desires for young adults, and all the faithful of the Catholic Church, is to learn and understand as much as they can about the teachings of the Church and the beautiful faith they are living out. He said it during his presentations at San Antonio's Theology On Tap sessions this Spring and last Fall, at the *Weaving the Future Together Archdiocesan Gathering* in February, and is invariably expressed in his homilies and writings. A perfect example is his pastoral letter "To Grow in Knowledge and Love of Jesus Christ," marking his first anniversary as our archbishop.

In this letter we find an invitation to discover by God's grace our personal role in the Church's mission, and to be open to receiving and living it. To do our part in helping that happen, we can participate in formation and education experiences. Through an ongoing growth in knowledge of our faith we get to know Jesus better, and better understand what he taught and how he lived his life as a man. Archbishop Gomez mentions how we seem to never get enough of the things and people we love, always wanting to learn more. He says that in the same way, "If we truly love Our Lord in return, we will want to know him better every passing day."

Archbishop Gomez lists several means of formation and education that are available to us in the Catholic Church. These include schools, education programs, authentic Catholic media, religious art, study of the Bible, prayer, and especially the sacraments. Where else but in the Eucharist is Jesus really present, whom we cannot see or hear, but yet in this sacrament and endless other ways he is always with us.

It is time for renewed commitments, he says, and updating and reviewing the existing formation programs and plans. Archbishop Gomez pledges to continue efforts in formation and education, including the work in social teaching education which is so essential in today's world, and supporting parents as they are the first teachers of their children.

These are great things our proud servant and humble pastor desires for us, for through learning and forming ourselves we will increasingly long to fulfill our call. At the same time we will have met and loved Jesus thoroughly, and what greater peace or happiness could we hope for. In knowing and loving Jesus Christ, may we use the channel of true love to become fountains for our thirsty world.

To read Archbishop's Pastoral Letter, "To Grow in Knowledge and Love of Jesus Christ," check out [www.archdiososa.org](http://www.archdiososa.org).

# Faith Sharing Groups

Looking for Young Adults in Your Area? Check these out!

---

## Y.A.M.

**Young Adults at St. Francis of Assisi:** First Friday of each month: 7-9 pm. Praise and Worship for the Parish in the Day Chapel. Rescheduling dates posted in bulletin ([www.sfasat.org](http://www.sfasat.org)) Event held at 4201 DeZavala Road. For more information: 492-4600

## C-YA @ SMM

**Catholic Young Adults @ St. Mary Magdalen** Gatherings FIRST and THIRD Tuesday's of the month held at Casa San Juan on 1701 Alamos Street (behind St. Mary Magdalen church). We begin at 6:30 pm with prayer and meditation followed by topic discussion and fellowship. For information: Marivel T. Ojeda 210-320-8305. Upcoming topics: Mother Teresa, Padre Pio, Modern Day Saints, etc.

**Charismatic Prayer Group.** Join us for mass every 2nd Sunday of the month @ 6:00 pm and immediately following we meet for Praise, Worship, and teaching on the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

## YACHT

**Young Adult Catholics Hanging Together** Meets on the Third Sunday of every month for a monthly mass followed by a faith enrichment program. Held at St. Ann's Parish. For more information: Paula Trigo-Galan 663-0790

## Y.A.R.P.

**Young Adult Real Possibilities** Young Adults (18-30) gather on the first Sunday of every month in Room 5 of the Parish Hall at 6PM, immediately after the 5PM Mass, and once during the month for a variety of activities. For more information: Natasha 872-0181 Held at Guadalupe Parish in Helotes.

## YC3

**Young Catholic Christian Community** St. Matthew's Parish holds a Young Adult Mass on the last Sunday of the month followed by dinner and fellowship.

## The Soldiers of Christ

Young Adults from St. John Neumann Roman Catholic Church gathers weekly to discuss various topics and teachings. There are also social and service-related activities. Monday nights, 7pm @ SJN Family Center. [www.thesoldiersofchrist.com](http://www.thesoldiersofchrist.com)

## YA Cursillo

Periodic meetings and workshops. Men's Upcoming Weekend is on June 1-4th and the Women's Cursillo is on July 20-23. For more information contact Elena Guajardo, 232-0322, [elena925@yahoo.com](mailto:elena925@yahoo.com), or Andria Gutierrez, 383-4685, [dreapal21@aol.com](mailto:dreapal21@aol.com).

## St. Joan of Arc

In the area? – Contact Maria Molina (378-7733) about being part of a new group in formation.

# St. Matthew YC<sup>3</sup>

## Young Catholic Christian Community

---

When one thinks of young adult ministry in San Antonio, the first thought that may come to mind is the young adult ministry at St. Matthew Catholic Church. For more than 18 years, the parish of St. Matthew has been blessed with an active young adult population. Even though the ministry's name has changed through the years, under the guidance of our Lord, it has always found ways to meet the diverse needs of the young adults it serves.



As with most long term organizations, the young adult ministry has gone through many peaks and valleys. There have been a number of times in which members questioned the longevity of the ministry. Some thought it had run its course. However, by the grace of God, the young adult ministry at St. Matthew not only exists today, but is stronger than ever.

In an effort to appeal to an ever changing population, the ministry underwent a name change and renewal of purpose in 1999. Previously known as YSMC (Young Single and Married Catholics), the name was officially changed to its current name YC<sup>3</sup> (pronounced YC cubed), "Young Catholic Christian Community." Throughout the name change process, many young adult ministries around the country were consulted, and many names were discussed. Finally, an active member of YSMC suggested YC<sup>3</sup> because it had a catchy sound to it. Since then the name has remained.

After a brief "valley" period, YC<sup>3</sup> is experiencing a renaissance. Late in 2004, eight members met to discuss ways to revitalize the ministry. The number one priority was to become more visible within the parish of St. Matthew. The new leadership sought new ways to communicate to the congregation the mission and purpose of the young adult ministry.

One solution was the scheduling of a monthly young adult Mass followed by dinner and fellowship. The success of this Mass and dinner has been tremendous. Our membership has tripled in size over the last year with our active population growing to more than 60 people. As YC<sup>3</sup> continues to grow, the core leadership team is faced with new challenges of providing fellowship, prayer, spiritual, and service opportunities for its members. Fortunately, the core leadership team consists of energetic, enthusiastic, and spiritual young adults who have all prayerfully answered our Lord's request to serve the young adult community of St. Matthew.

Following are some of the ways that YC<sup>3</sup> is meeting those challenges. We offer a number of fellowship activities including game nights, Sunday brunches, movie nights, holiday parties, and spiritual rallies. In the area of spiritual growth we offer the monthly young adult Mass, scripture study, opportunities for perpetual adoration, and a women's faith sharing group. YC<sup>3</sup> participates in a service project once every other month such as Habitat for Humanity, serving food at the SAMM shelter, and home improvement projects for elderly parishioners.

If you would like to know more about St. Matthew YC<sup>3</sup> or want to get more involved in young adult ministry, please contact **James Stambaugh at 632-4538 or 490-5064.**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*We are a community of young adults ministering to the needs of the Church by creating a welcoming environment through fellowship, prayer, spirituality and service.*

# Da Vinci Code: Novel VS. Knowledge

May 31, 2006

7:00pm to 9:00pm

Guest Speaker:

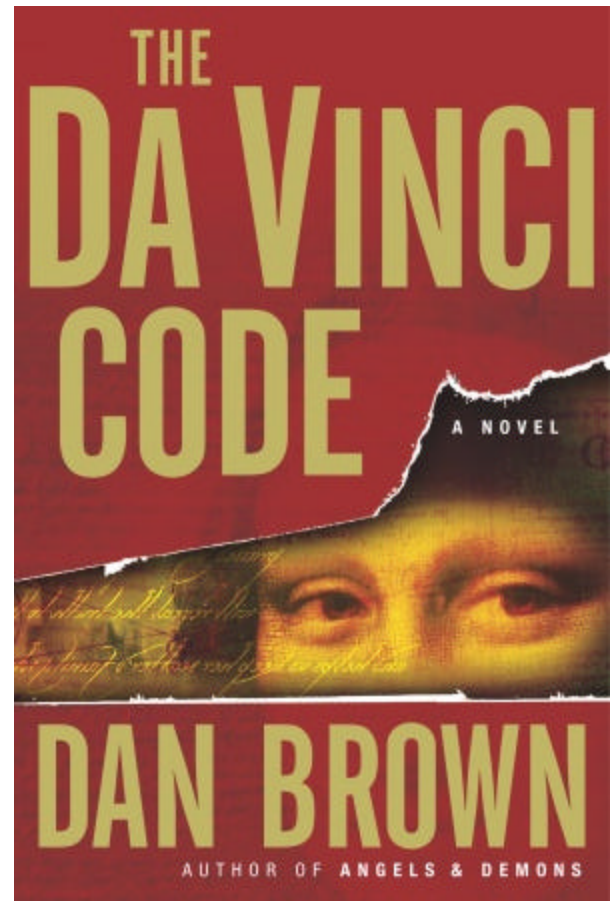
Fr. Stephen Jasso, T.O.R.

Our Lady of Grace Church

Madonna Room

223 E. Summit, San Antonio TX

78212



*R.I.S.E.*

*Rise, Inspire, Seek, Experience*

*R.I.S.E. is a gathering created for young adults by young adults. It's the opportunity to get the real inside scoop of what young adults think today about their faith and being Catholic.*

For more information contact: Katherine Lopez at 381-3388 or at [cocoordinator@yamsat.org](mailto:cocoordinator@yamsat.org)  
[www.yamsat.org](http://www.yamsat.org)

On the cover:

## F.U.S.E - Faith Unfolding Souls Exposed

*This year's Young Adult Ministry Fair is coming along. It will be a day long event filled with music, workshops, YA mass, food, and much more...Be on the look out for more information as the date nears!*

**July 29, 2006**  
**St. Matthew's Parish**

### Young Adult Ministry Web Sites

<http://www.disciplesnow.com/> - Disciples Now

<http://www.vatican.va/> - The Vatican

<http://www.jesuit.ie/prayer/> - Sacred Space

<http://www.bustedhalo.com/> - Busted Halo

<http://www.methodx.net/> - Website for YAs

<http://www.catholic.net> - Catholic Website

<http://www.nextwavefaithful.org> - Next Wave Faithful

<http://www.newadvent.org> - New Advent

<http://www.jesuits.net/charis/> - Ignatian Spirituality for YAs

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT GCI, INC.



Thanks to Liz O (See Matthew 6:3)

01-13-2006

USING SOME LEFTOVER CARDBOARD ED MADE  
SURE HIS LEFT HAND WOULD NEVER KNOW WHAT  
HIS RIGHT WAS DOING

### Prayer Corner...

Please pray for the young adult delegates participating in the National Encuentro at Notre Dame June 8-11<sup>th</sup>.

May the young adult *Weaving the Future Together* delegation to the National Encuentro have a safe a blessed journey, and may they be spiritually enriched as they represent the voice of young people of our archdiocese so that our communities may be better served. Lord God, help the delegates to prepare themselves for serving our community. Guide them and instill in them appreciation for the many that they represent. Allow them to witness, listen, and express what they need to be a light to those they encounter, and may they realize the fullness of your presence as they experience your call.

**Amen.**

### A Message on the National Catholic Singles Conference 2006!

My experience at the 2nd National Catholic Singles conference, held from February 10-12, 2006, in Denver, Colorado was fabulous. I learned, shared, and lived a beautiful weekend where I met national and international spiritual leaders evangelizing our country with the grace and power of the Holy Spirit working in their lives (and preparing at the same time future leaders committed to help and support one another in knowing and recognizing their gifts to share in Our Family, The Church).

If anyone is interested in learning more, I gathered lots of information to share with you such as the following website:

[www.theologyofthebody.net](http://www.theologyofthebody.net) .

Lilianna Chavana

[liliannach77@yahoo.com](mailto:liliannach77@yahoo.com)

### E-Newsletter Team:

Marivel T. Ojeda, Parishioner at St. Mary Magdalen  
Adriana Perez, Parishioner at St. Luke's

### Additional Contributors:

John Romo, Associate Director, Office of Family Life

Disclaimer: This newsletter is written to serve Catholic Young Adults in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The opinions expressed in contributed information are the sole opinion of the contributor and does not express the opinions held by the coordinating team or constitute any expressed or implied endorsement from the Archdiocese of San Antonio.