

COMING

... April 2004

San Antonio  
Young Adult Ministry  
Website

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February - March 2004

Volume 1 Issue 1

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (YAM) in the  
ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN ANTONIO

This Newsletter is designed specifically for Young Adults. 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 are in your 20s and 30s, this newsletter is for you.

Are you a member of a parish family? Read about a young adult's personal search to find a parish. Pg. 2

Find your calling!

Young Adult Activities around the Diocese!

**Young Adult Mass with the Archbishop**

Young Adults are important to the Archdiocese! Archbishop Flores will celebrate a mass for young adults on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00pm at the Chancery, 2718 W. Woodlawn Ave. Come experience spiritual blessings and fellowship.

A potluck reception will follow. For more information contact Paula [ptgalan@excite.com](mailto:ptgalan@excite.com).

**Young Adult Catholics Hanging Together (YACHT Club)**

Friday, March 12, 2004: 7 - 9 pm, 210 St. Ann Street, St. Ann's School Cafeteria

Why Do Catholics Genuflect? A Q&A Session about the Catholic Faith.

For more information call: 210-886-0075

**Catholic Young Adults at St. Mary Magdalen (CYA @ SMM)**

Tuesday, March 2, 2004: 7:30 - 9 pm

Purgatory *What is it? How long am I there? Find the answers to the questions you didn't know to ask...*

Tuesday, March 16, 2004: 7:30 - 9 pm

Confession *What do I do? How long should I be there? Confessions will be offered.*

All events held at 1701 Alamo Street (behind St. Mary Magdalen church). Rosary begins at 7 pm.

For more information call: 210-264-9954 or [cvasmm@hotmail.com](mailto:cvasmm@hotmail.com)

**Young Adults at St. Patrick's**

Friday, February 20, 2003: 6 - 9 pm

Lenten Reflection - Location: Spiritual Life Center, 1114 Willow Street (N35/New Braunfels)

**Women of Faith National Conference 2004: Irrepressible Hope**

A hope-filled gathering of women, all denominations, ages, and walks of life to inspire, motivate and refresh. March 18-20, 2004 @ Alamodome, San Antonio, TX

For more information see their website [www.womenoffaith.com](http://www.womenoffaith.com)

**Young Adult Ministry Leadership Training Weekend**

Friday, March 5: 6 - 9:30 pm & Saturday, March 6: 8 am - 5:30 pm. (Cordi-Marian Community Center)

Explore the leadership traits of Jesus; learn the skills and practice of Christian Leadership. Presented by the Center for Ministry Development. Registration fee = \$15, includes book. Suggested meal donation = \$10.

Register by contacting Office of Family Life, [jromo@archdiosa.org](mailto:jromo@archdiosa.org) or (210) 734-2620 ext. 215.

**Together Encountering Christ (TEC)**

TEC is designed to give YAs an opportunity to encounter and integrate the Paschal Mystery as they make the passage into Young Adulthood. Next Retreat Date: May 29-31 @ Camp Sionito in Bandera.

Contact Gregory Beach, [gjbeach@aol.com](mailto:gjbeach@aol.com) or (210)-523-6926

**"Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility"**

A 3-part mini-course, especially designed for YAs, to examine the US Catholic Bishop's document "Faithful Citizenship" and its Call to Action. Offered by the Northwest Urban Deanery. Presenter: Leota Roesch.

Tuesdays - March 23, April 13 and May 4 at 7:00pm. @ Holy Family Parish Hall, 152 Florencia.

Place your activity here! Email: [marivel\\_toledo@yahoo.com](mailto:marivel_toledo@yahoo.com) / 210-320-8305

**Excuse Me? How do I do that?**

By: Celeste M. Roman

During my college years, I never had to worry about joining a parish. I did not belong to one. If I wanted to complete my obligations, I attended mass at the university. I was at that time a seasonal Catholic-I showed up at Christmas, Ash Wednesday, and Easter. I went to church when my family did.

In my senior year at the university, a deep religious experience reopened my eyes to the love of God and refueled my passion for Christ. I completed my basic Sacraments at the age of 25 and re-dedicated my life to Christ. However, when I made my First Holy Communion and Confirmation there was something missing. I had no idea how the church operated!

At the time, the “business” of the Church was unimportant, but I had made a promise to Christ that I would serve Him through lay ministry.

Although I soon began attending service with my husband and his family, my promise to Christ still loomed in the back of my mind. I needed to do more.

I scanned the weekly Church bulletin for weeks looking for something to join or something to do. That day finally came when an ad called for volunteer religious education teachers. There were no specific requirements to teach except that you had to have completed the basic sacraments and you had to register with the parish. Register? What did they mean I had to register! Would I qualify to be a member of the church? So how did I do it! I filled out one small blue card with all my personal information along with the when and where’s listed. That was the easy part. Now that I am calling another parish home, I’m back to square one.

How many of you feel that you just don’t get it? Why and how do you register or join certain ministries? As a young adult, we can drive a person insane with all the church related questions we ask, but the reality is that young adults need this valuable information..

Where’s my how-to manual to the parish? You know, the manual that tells you how to register, how to complete your sacraments, how to join the pastoral council, how to be a Eucharistic minister, and how to do everything! If you were blessed to have been active your entire life in the church, you

know the answers to these questions. On the other hand, however, if you are like most of us you are still trying to figure out what a deanery representative is.

How does a young adult find out all about the church? Well, glad you asked. I just recently adopted a new parish and decided that if I wanted to be a part of the church activities, I had to stop hoping that someone would post an advertisement for me.

My first mission was to make a connection to someone in the church. The

***Where’s my how-to manual to the parish?***

pastor and the Deacon made this easy for me. As they greeted exiting

parishioners, I introduced myself to Deacon Robert (He wasn’t as busy). I told him exactly this: “Hi, My name is Celeste and we are going to be new parishioners here. I would like to be able to talk to someone about getting a tour of the church and finding out about all the church has to offer.” and then I held my breath for his response. To my surprise, Deacon Robert was more than happy to meet with me and tell me all about the church. He invited me and my family to eat tacos at the parish kitchen and sat down to speak with us. Politely, I asked if I should call the office and set-up an appointment on Monday. He decided that it would be best to call him at home.

Wow! I hit the jackpot. I could go on and tell you all about my experience, detail by detail but that would take at least three newsletters to give you the full scoop.

***...my promise to Christ still loomed in the back of my mind.***

How did the meeting turn out? I met with Deacon Robert and learned about the church, the ministries offered, areas that needed volunteer workers; the people to contact and most importantly, he cared

about my concerns as a young adult. When I registered with the parish, I was also again welcomed into the parish community and got invited to join the choir. So, what is the purpose of the article?

As young adults we have high expectations, yet we will wait in hopes of someone seeing that we have a need and address it. We have to meet in the middle. So here is a small checklist on how to be acquainted with your church.

*Getting acquainted with a parish checklist*

1. Make a Connection:
  - a. Call the office and ask to speak with someone who can tell you all about the church.
  - b. Let this person know that you would like a tour of the church and find out about all the ministries the church has to offer.
2. Prepare your questions:
  - a. Make a list of questions that are important to you: (Some examples)
    - i. What types of ministries does the church offer? How do you join?
    - ii. Where can I find contact information for a ministry I am interested in?
    - iii. What are some of the Need areas of the church? In what areas do you need volunteers?
    - iv. Does the church have a Young Adult Ministry (YAM)? If not, why not?
    - v. What is the church's vision for YAM?
    - vi. How do I become a member of the parish?
    - vii. What type of enrichment opportunities does the church offer? Promote? Do you have resources available to use?
    - viii. What are the procedures for making an appointment with the pastor or anyone on staff?
3. Share your gifts and talents:
  - a. Be ready to talk about yourself and the gifts and talents you are blessed with. (i.e. singing, teaching, praying, planning)
  - b. Ask where they can use your gifts and talents.
4. Share your concerns:
  - a. Let your concerns be known, however do this diplomatically and offer a possible suggestion. (i.e. no YAM, offer to help develop one)
  - b. Ask if you can take a lead position in addressing this concern.
5. Talk to the Pastor of the church: (If the initial person meeting you is not the pastor.)
  - a. Make a point to schedule an appointment with the church pastor.
  - b. The pastor will be your ultimate advisor and you will want to get to know his view of the church and his vision for the church.

When you set-up your appointment, remember to be a genuine person. Relax and speak in a conversational tone. Try to keep your anxiety to a minimum and have fun. This should be a pleasant experience.

Celeste M. Roman and her family are new parishioners at Our Lady of Good Counsel. If you would like contact her with questions, you may email her at [forgivenesschrist@hotmail.com](mailto:forgivenesschrist@hotmail.com)



## *The time is now ...*

Over the last year, more focused effort has begun to bring Young Adult Ministry (YAM) to the forefront and help young adults (YAs) be better integrated into community. Three key thrusts include (1) Education and Training – YAM Certification Program; (2) Gathering Space – Physical and Virtual; and formation of a (3) Young Adult Advisory Council (YAAC). In this first e-newsletter issue, we note the beginning of the YAM Certification Program. In other issues, we will focus on the YAAC and Space. Both of these are being spear-headed by young adult teams who have committed to make YAM be more alive in the Archdiocese! To learn more before the next e-newsletter, note the team contacts at the end of this newsletter. The time is now!

### YAM Certification Program

“Awesome!” several participants exclaimed. Over 70 YAs and YAMs are participating in the first-ever YAM Certification Program for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Made possible by a Home Mission grant as well as Kenedy Foundation grant, the program consists of four weekends presented by the Center for Ministry Development (CMD).

The first weekend, held January 23-24 at Cordi-Marian Community Center, was spirit-filled, energetic, and offered attendees opportunities to reflect on their gifts and their call, helped them connect, and was fun! Joan Weber, a YAM consultant with the CMD was enthusiastic and kept things moving! The session ended with a truly uplifting liturgy celebrated by Fr. Mauricio Alarcon-Martinez of St. Leonard’s, who is also participating in the program and beautifully interwove session concepts in his inspiring homily.



The next session will be March 5-6 – explore the leadership traits of Jesus. This session is open to young adults who are not enrolled in the certification program, but would like to experience a weekend to help them better understand their personal gifts and learn the skills and practice of Christian leadership. If you are interested, contact [jromo@archdiososa.org](mailto:jromo@archdiososa.org).

## Who is your family?

Share this page with your family and others.



### Intimacy within the Family “Made in God’s Image”

To be a Christian family is to be called to create an intimate community of life and love. Here family members can learn daily what it means to be created and formed in the image and likeness of God. Circle the ways your family helps you feel accepted, loved and good about yourself.



Praying Together



Learning



Affection



Celebrating



Helping



Listening

**Think It Through** My family shows their love for me by.....

I show my love for my family by.....

When things get difficult in our family this is how we work things out.....

These are ways we love one another through words, actions, activities, values and responsibilities.....

**Act** Family Poster: Write the name of each person in your family on a large piece of paper. Then write words or draw pictures that show loving things about that person.

**Scripture** You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb. I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! Psalm 139: 13, 14

**Resources** Home Is A Holy Place Reflections by Mark G. Boyer, ACTA, 1997

Websites: <http://www.homefaith.com> <http://www.ipj-ppj.org>

Property of National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers – <http://www.nacflm.org>

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# Lenten Season

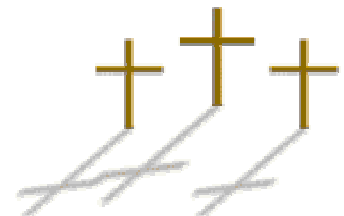


Lent is a preparation period for Easter. It is a time for us to prepare ourselves for the resurrection of the Lord. Here are some facts about our faith and why we do what we do.....

- The Lenten Season begins with Ash Wednesday, February 25, and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday.
- The liturgy at Holy Thursday begins the Triduum, the great three days that celebrate the central mystery of our faith.
- The entire season lasts for 40 days.
- Lent is known as the penitential season.
- Sundays of Lent are not counted because they are a time of celebration.
- The Lenten triad of praying, fasting, and almsgiving helps to shape the focus of our thoughts and calls us to remember our shortcomings, our failings, and our ability to overcome them.

Challenge yourself during this season, do something that will enrich your life. Here are some ideas...

- Attend mass daily
- Spend ½ hour a day in quiet prayer time
- Say a rosary every day for the youth of the world that are abused or neglected
- Initiate a daily prayer time for your family
- Visit a nursing home
- Have simple meals
- Go on a retreat
- Make a pilgrimage
- Read the passion and death of Jesus Christ
- Attend an archdiocesan event
- Mend a relationship
- Make a financial sacrifice



## He Made Him to Be Sin

In Connection with Liturgical Calendar Year C, Cycle II Ash Wednesday Second Reading for February 25, 2004

*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us,  
that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

“This verse should startle us and cause us to tremble. It is not a verse to be read quickly and passed over. As Christians we are grateful to be forgiven of our sins. We are thankful we have been adopted as God’s children. Yet we will never comprehend the awesome price that Jesus paid to cleanse us of our sin and to give us His righteousness. How abhorrent was it for the sinless Son of God to have every sin of humanity placed upon Him? What love was required for the Father to watch His only Son bear the excruciating pain of our sin upon the cross?

The prophet Isaiah summarized the human condition: “We are all like an unclean thing, / and all our righteousness are like filthy rags” (Isa. 64:6). Even the high priest, Joshua, in his exalted position among God’s people, was clothed in filthy rags before God (Zech. 3:3). The apostle Paul, who labored arduously to be righteous before God, realized that his most strenuous efforts to please God were no more valuable than rubbish (Phil. 3:4-10).

The plight of humanity is that nothing we could ever do could satisfy God’s desire for righteousness. But the miracle of God’s mercy is that God exchanges our “filthy rags” for “rich robes” of righteousness (Zech. 3:4).

In this awesome exchange, God placed the sin of humanity upon His righteous Son. Jesus became so identified with our sin that Scripture says God made Him to be sin on our behalf. The holy Son of God could not possibly do more for us than this! Experiencing the Father’s wrath upon the sin He carried would have been more painful to endure than any human rejection or physical suffering.

Never take the righteousness God has given you for granted. Never take the forgiveness of your sin lightly. It cost God a terrible price in order to forgive you and make you righteous. Walk in a manner worthy of righteousness He has given you.”

Taken from Experiencing God Day-by-Day Devotional by Henry T. Blackaby and Richard Blackaby

### How and Why to Pray---

[www.ncregister.com](http://www.ncregister.com)

- Kneel or Sit respectfully when you pray. Your body and soul are one.
- As a baptized person, you are the representative of Christ’s love at home, at work, and in social situations. You will only represent him well if you’ve prayed.



## MUSIC and MORE!

Great websites for music, artists, concert, and event news:

- [www.spiritandsong.com](http://www.spiritandsong.com)
- [www.gregcarnesprod.com](http://www.gregcarnesprod.com)
- [www.jesuskidshideout.com](http://www.jesuskidshideout.com)
- [www.tomwilsonusa.com](http://www.tomwilsonusa.com)

"Sing praises to our King, sing praises!  
For God is the King of all the earth" Psalm 47

### Feb/Mar New Album Releases:

Avalon, Jeremy Camp, Steven Curtis Chapman, dc Talk, Delirious?, Jeff Deyo, Falling Up, Jump 5, Kutless, Greg Long, Out of Eden, Michael W. Smith, Rebecca St. James, ZOEgirl, Sara Groves, Switchfoot, Veggie Rocks!, WOW Worship, Tree63



### 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://ncyama.org/> - National Catholic YAM Association
- <http://methodx.net/> - Website for Young Adults

### Movie Preview of *The Passion*

<http://home.adelphia.net/~annunciation/>

### Movies

Wondering which movies are appropriate?

Visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)  
Or call 1800-344-4222

### Scripture and Film

"Let His Blood be on Us: Portrayals of Jesus' Passion on Film." Guest speaker: Dr. Adele Reinhartz of Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario (Canada) at the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) on March 8th, 2004 at 7:00p.m., in the Marian

Has the Lord been calling you? Maybe your skills and experiences aren't just for the business world. Join our team.

- Young Adult Advisory Council Formation Task - Celeste Roman ([CMRoman@west.com](mailto:CMRoman@west.com))
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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 may not express the opinions held by the coordinating team or constitute any expressed or implied endorsement from the Archdiocese of San Antonio.