

Introducing City Wide Youth Ministry  
**Catholic *Connections***  
2009-2010

Dear Parents,

How quickly time passes! It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating the end of the 2009 school year and here we are in August. Hopefully, this past year has been one of growth and learning in faith for you and your family.

We are making an enhancement to our city wide Catholic youth programs for the Iowa City area that we would like to make you aware of. A Catholic youth group entitled *Connections* has been formed and has begun serving the Iowa City high school youth, grades 9-12 beginning September. *Connections* is an avenue for our Catholic youth from Iowa City public, Regina and home school youth to gather together as a faith community. Our goal is to build a community of faithful youth by providing a place for high school students to be strengthened in prayer, develop a deeper love for the Eucharist, provide service to the Church and Iowa City area communities, understand Catholic teachings and corresponding Scripture, apply current events to our faith, seek new friendships, and of course enjoy good food & music.

Youth learn the Mass from you, their parents. The old adage is true: "The faith is caught, not taught!" The Mass is the one time each week where we come together not only as a family, but as a Church family. *Connections* is not Religious Education (although in some ways everything we do is religious education), at least not in a formal sense. Our goal is to build our youth community from all parishes through placing value and honor on our youth, developing disciples and helping them take ownership of their parish.

*Connections* meet the first Sunday of each month at St. Wenceslaus during the school year (exceptions of Holidays and Christmas break) from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Watch for further announcements and details for upcoming activities within your parish's bulletin.

Please, as a family, make the commitment this year to attend Mass together and bring your youth to *Connections*. We pledge to you to make this program exciting and the very best that it can be. We are dedicated to serve you and to help you pass on the faith to your youth! We are looking forward to partnering with you and your family this coming year. If there is any way in which we can assist you further, please do not hesitate to contact us or your parish priest.

Yours in Christ,

David & Cathy Sharp  
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