



S.M.A.R.T. NEWS

Saint Mary's Active Religious Teens

Saint Mary's Parish Iowa City, Iowa February 2012

Web Site: <http://youth.icstmary.org>

Dear Friends,

As we begin the liturgical season of Lent, I thought I'd share this story with you:

After a few of the usual Sunday hymns, the church's pastor slowly stood up, walked over to the pulpit and, before he gave his sermon that evening, he briefly introduced a guest minister who was in the service that evening. In the introduction, the pastor told the congregation that the guest minister was one of his dearest childhood friends and that he wanted him to have a few moments to greet the church and share whatever he felt would be appropriate for the service. With that, an elderly man stepped up to the pulpit and began to speak.

"A father and son, and a friend of his son were sailing off the Pacific coast," he began, "when a fast approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to shore. The waves were so high, that even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright and the three were swept into the ocean as the boat capsized." The old man hesitated for a moment, making eye contact with two teenagers who were, for the first time since the service began, looking somewhat interested in his story. The aged minister continued with his story.

"Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life – to which boy he would throw the other end of the life line. He only had seconds to make the decision. The father knew that his son was a Christian and he also knew that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the torrent of waves. As the father yelled out, "I love you, son!" he threw the life line to his son's friend. By the time the father had pulled the friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beneath the raging swells into the black of night. His body was never recovered."

By this time, the teenagers were sitting up straight in the pew, anxiously waiting for the next words to come out of the old minister's mouth. "The father," he continued, "felt his son would step into eternity with Jesus and he could not bear the thought of his son's friend stepping into an eternity without Jesus. Therefore, he sacrificed his son to save the son's friend. How great is the love of God that he should do the same for us! Our Heavenly Father sacrificed His only begotten Son that we could be saved. I urge you to accept His offer to rescue you and take a hold of the life line He is throwing out to you." With that, the old man turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the room.

Within minutes after the service ended, the two teenagers were at the old man's side.

"That was a nice story," politely stated one of the boys, "but I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his only son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian."

"Well, you've got a point there," the old man replied, glancing down at his worn Bible. A big smile broadened his narrow face. He once again looked up at the boys and said,

"It sure isn't very realistic, is it? But I'm standing here today to tell you that story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to give up His Son for me.

You see, I was that father and your pastor is my son's friend..."

Patti McTaggart

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it...Matthew 10:39

"CALLING ALL CHEFS!!!



DO YOU LIKE TO COOK? On the third Thursday of every month, join other youth from each high school and junior high as we collaborate together in St. Mary's parish hall and make four or five casseroles for the Free Lunch program. This month's "cooking class" will take place on Thursday, February 16th from 5:00-6:00PM. The casseroles created will be served the next day, Friday, February 17th, at the Free Lunch program. All youth are invited to participate!!



FEBRUARY

- 3- FEAST OF ST. BLASE - Blessing of throats
- 3 - Holy Hour for Vocations - 7PM in the church
- 4- KIDS AGAINST HUNGER - for Confirmation candidates - 10AM in the parish hall
- 12 - CONFIRMATION CLASS 7:00PM parish hall
- 16- Youth Casserole-Making for Free Lunch -parish hall 5:00-6:00PM
- 19 CONFIRMATION 2PM
- 18-20 TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) Weekend - See flyer
- 26 Teen Bible Study 7-8PM in the parish hall

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THANKS SO MUCH to everyone who chaperoned and/or participated in the St. Mary's sponsored City-Wide Ski Trip in January!

God blessed us with a great day and a lot of fun!

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TEEN BIBLE STUDY GROUP
For Junior High and High School Youth



WHEN: Sunday, February 26th, 2012
7PM-8PM

in St. Mary's Parish Hall

**Come join in the FOOD and FUN of learning
more about the Bible!!!**

You won't be disappointed!

VOCATION THOUGHTS...

"The dignity of a priest far exceeds that of kings, as the value of gold surpasses that of lead. The reason is, because the power of kings extends only to temporal goods and to the bodies of men, but the power of the priest extends to spiritual goods and to the human soul..."

St. Ambrose

If you think God may be seeking you to consider the priesthood or religious life, please contact Fr. John, Fr. Rick, Sr. Agnes, Patti at 337-4314 or Fr. Thom Hennen – the vocation director for the Diocese of Davenport at 563-324-1911.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

By: Joseph Malanson
Junior, West High School



St. Leander of Seville (Feast Day February 27th) – St. Leander was born in 534 to one of the wealthiest and most powerful families in Carthago Nova, Spain. In 554 the family moved to Seville, and soon the family became some of the most prominent members of the community. Both Leander and his brother Isidore would become bishops of Seville. A sister, St. Florentina, was in charge of forty convents throughout Spain and directed 1000 nuns. A third brother, Fulgentius, became a bishop in another city and was canonized too. The family was Catholic to its core, however, heretical Arianism held sway over much of the political elite. The Visigothic rulers of Spain all followed Arianism, and tension over political power was great between Catholics and Arians.

Seville, however, was tolerant of Catholics, and Leander quickly rose through the ranks of the Catholic clergy. At first he was a Benedictine monk, but by 579 Leander had been appointed bishop of the city. As a monk he founded (and later supported as bishop) a Catholic school in Seville that soon became famous for its quality of education. As Bishop, he was in close contact with the Visigothic rulers, especially the Catholic princess who had just married into the family. With her help, he successfully converted her husband, St. Hermenegild, to Catholicism. The conversion shocked the court. A brief war erupted, with the Arian King Liuvigild defeating his son; Liuvigild blamed Leander the most for the conversion and the war.



Leander was exiled from the kingdom because of his opposition to Arianism and his work on converting others to Catholicism. He fled to Byzantium and remained there from 579-582. During this time, he may have attempted to ask the Byzantine emperor to wage war on the Arian Visigoths. He also met the future Pope Gregory the Great, who was a papal legate to the Byzantine court. In addition, he composed several documents attacking Arianism and its doctrines, all while defending the Catholic faith and its beliefs.

Back in Spain, Liuvigild put his Catholic son to death in 585 before dying in 589. It is unclear when Leander returned, but it's highly unlikely he returned before Liuvigild's death. When he did come back, he helped convert the new king to Catholicism and retained influence over him in religious matters. In 589, almost immediately after Liuvigild's death, Leander hosted the Third Council of Toledo where Arianism was finally ended in Spain. The Council promised moral reforms and affirmed the doctrine of the Trinity. Triumphantly, he closed the Council with a sermon on the conversion of the Goths and the success of Catholicism. When he returned to Seville, he convened a synod and never stopped trying to root out the last bits of Spanish Arianism.

In his later years, Leander wrote an influential rule for nuns and was the first to begin using the Nicene Creed at Mass. However, these many activities were tiring, and he died in Seville around 600. The bishopric was then given to his brother Isidore. St. Leander is known as a defender of the faith who was always determined to fight heresy. The Spanish Church honors him as a Doctor of the Faith to this day.

Teens Encounter Christ Feb. 18-20

St. Ann's Parish Long Grove, Iowa

TEC is a weekend experience in Christian living, which takes a Catholic perspective on the journey of faith, with an emphasis on the Paschal Mystery of Jesus in our lives.

In TEC you experience:

- a fresh, different atmosphere, away from home or school...
- a chance to meet other young people...
- a time to reflect on your life through the eyes of Jesus...
- an opportunity for prayer and sharing with others...
- a God you can believe in, encountering Christ risen and alive!

TEC is open to high school juniors, seniors and college freshmen. It begins on Saturday at 10 AM and lasts until 4 PM on Monday.

The cost of TEC is \$55. St. Mary's will offer financial help. No one will be turned away because of inability to pay.

For more information or for an application form, please contact Patti McTaggart at pmctaggart@icstmary.org or 337-4314, or contact Pat Finan, Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator, Diocese of Davenport, at (563) 888-4242 or finan@davenportdiocese.org.

Applications must be received by Monday, Feb. 6. Space is limited so apply early. Applications will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.



*2012 Diocesan Jr Hi Youth
Rally*

Heaven

Planted in Our Hearts

Sunday, March 25

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. ~ Regina High ~ Iowa City

Featuring
**Vince
Nims**



WHO: 6th through 8th graders

Cost: \$21.00

T-shirts cost \$10;\$12 for 2X & 3X

Registration deadline:

March 11, 2012 before 4PM

Contact info: Patti McTaggart

319-337-4314 or pmctaggart@icstmary.org

Diocese of Davenport ~ Permission, Health and Medical Release Form

Participant's Name: _____

Birth Date: _____ Age: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Home Phone: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____

In case of emergency and parent/guardian cannot be reached, alternate contact is:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Insurance Information: Insurance Company: _____ Policy No.: _____

Policyholder: _____ **Please attach a copy of your insurance card.**

Health Information: Please circle any illnesses, allergies or medication reactions you've had; give approximate dates.

Ear infections	Hay fever	Rheumatic fever	Chicken pox	Poison ivy
Diabetes	Measles	Insects	Convulsions	German measles
Mumps	Asthma	Penicillin	Other medications	Behavioral problems
Any other _____				

Immunizations: Please list dates as accurately as possible

DTP Series Booster _____ Tetanus Booster _____ Polio OPV Booster _____ TB Test _____

Operations or serious injuries (include dates): _____

Chronic or recurring illness: _____

Activity or dietary restrictions (**if you need special foods, please alert parish leader**): _____

Any other health problems or comments regarding anything listed above: _____

If needed, my child may be given (circle each approved):

ASPIRIN ACETOMINAPHEN IBUPROFEN

If you would like your child to participate in this event, please complete, sign and return this statement of consent. As parent or legal guardian, you remain fully responsible for any legal responsibility that may result from any personal actions taken by the named student. Participating adults must fill out the medical information and sign below.

Statement of Consent

Your child/legal dependent is eligible to participate in an activity at a location away from the school/parish site. This activity will take place under the supervision of _____ (Parish/School).

Supervisor of Activity: Volunteer Chaperone(s): _____

Date/Activity/Destination: March 25, 2012

Diocesan Junior High Youth Rally at ReginaHigh School Iowa City

Departure Place/Time: Regina High School - 9:30AM

Return Place/Time: Regina High School - 4PM

Method of Transportation: You will provide your own transportation

Student Cost: \$21.00 T-Shirts are \$10

I give permission for my child/legal dependent to participate in the above mentioned activity, sponsored by the Diocese of Davenport. I submit that this health history is accurate and correct so far as I know, and the person described herein has permission to engage in all planned activities, except as noted by me or examining physician. In the event of sickness or accident, the adults supervising this activity have my permission to secure medical care for my child/legal dependent. I hereby release the Diocese of Davenport, Regina High School and all adult sponsors from any and all claims arising out of or from any accident or other occurrence, causing injury to any person or property, during this event. *This information may be shared with other adults from the parish for the benefit of my child/legal dependent.*

In the event of an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the adult/s supervising this activity to secure proper and adequate treatment including hospitalization, injection, anesthesia or surgery for myself, if of majority age, or the child/legal dependent listed, if a minor. I accept responsibility for all medical/surgical treatment charges, which may be incurred.

Photo Release: *Pictures of my child/legal dependent taken during event may be used in print or electronic media to publicize future events, unless I indicate to the Diocesan Coordinator of Youth Ministry in writing to the contrary.*

Parent/Guardian signature (if participant is a minor): _____

Date: _____

Adult participant signature: _____

Date: _____

IT'S A CONTEST!!!!



High school students in grades 9–12 in the Diocese of Davenport are invited to participate in a vocations essay contest sponsored by The Catholic Messenger, Serra Club and Diocesan Vocations Office.

Contestants will write a 500–word essay that answers the question: “How is the witness of priesthood, diaconate and religious life relevant in the world today?”

The essays, which are due Feb. 24, will be judged on originality, clarity of thought and grammar usage.

Entries must include first and last name, age, grade, home address, school (public or private with town name where it is located) and parish (name and city). Any information omitted could be grounds for disqualification.

Entries may be sent by U.S. Postal service, but must be postmarked by Feb. 24. Entries may be emailed to arland-fye@davenportdiocese.org or mailed to **The Catholic Messenger, 780 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport, IA, 52804, in care of Vocations Essay Contest.**

The winner and runner up will have their essays published in The Catholic Messenger. Both individuals will also be treated to lunch with Bishop Martin Amos, Vocations Director Father Thom Hennen and Catholic Messenger Editor Barb Arland–Fye. In addition, the winner will receive a Kindle reader! 😊

Any questions, feel free to contact anyone at The Catholic Messenger.

The Catholic Messenger
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Davenport, IA 52804
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Toll free in Iowa: (866) 843–9959