

The official Youth Ministry Newsletter

St. Norbert
Catholic Church

something to think about... May 2009

May 1st—The Feast Day of St. Joseph "The Worker"

May 1st, or "May Day" was celebrated throughout the Communist world as a way of supposedly honoring the role and importance of laborers in Marxist countries. The Communist conception of work as almost an end in itself was, of course, very different from the Christian understanding. In 1955, to highlight this difference, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Joseph, the husband of Mary and the foster-father of Jesus, spent a lifetime laboring as a carpenter. His primary motivation for working wasn't a quest for riches or status, but a desire to serve God and to care for his family in a loving way. Joseph never worked any miracles; he never made any important speeches; he wasn't a public figure, but was known only as a humble carpenter. Joseph labored in obscurity, but was nonetheless given an important part in God's plan.

Lessons In This

1. Work is not intended to be an end in itself or a path to earthly riches; rather, it's meant to glorify God and to help us prepare for eternity. As Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal."
2. Honest and humble labor is a source of true human dignity. Though St. Joseph worked as a simple carpenter, he achieved great holiness, and his example influenced Jesus, Who—though the eternal Son of God and the Source of all creation—Himself learned from Joseph and for a time followed in his footsteps as a carpenter.

Cosmic Bowling and First Friday Adoration!

Friday, May 1st

Adoration—7:30—8:30 p.m.

Join us for Meditations and Reflections and Music

Spend Some Time With Jesus!



Cosmic Bowling— 9:00 p.m. —12:00 a.m.

Arrive at St. Norbert at 9:00 p.m. to check in—Parents must drive their teens to Concourse Bowling Alley on La Palma in Anaheim, which is where our event will officially begin.

Requirements: Parent Signed Permission Slip and \$12 cash!

We'll bowl from 10:00 p.m.—12:00 a.m.

Parents must also pick their teens up from the Bowling Alley by Midnight!



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What's to Come next
Month (June):

Save the Date—
Registration Open
House is on Sunday,
June 28, 2009

Vacation Bible School:
June 29—July 3rd

Taco Tuesday and
Theology is coming!

Bring Me To Life!
Youth Night Workshop
#2 "Growing in Faith"

Save the Date!!

All Confirmation I, Confirmation II and Vision Leadership Team will have an opportunity to Register for the 2009-2010 year at the Youth Ministry Open House on:

**Sunday, June 28th, 2009 from 1:00—5:00 p.m.
In the Youth Ministry Room**

All returning Confirmation Candidates MUST re-register for their second year.

***Registration Packets will be available online prior to the Open House so you can review it, have questions prepared, and come prepared for the day!**

The Confirmation Program is going to be completely revamped and will be bi-weekly on a weekday evening (likely Monday nights). All changes made to the program are purpose driven and will be aimed at fulfilling an effort towards a “Renewing the Vision” program here at St. Norbert. We understand that these changes will involve flexibility and accommodation on your part, but ultimately, the program will meet the needs of the teens and properly prepare them for the application of faith to their daily lives. It will be crucial for us to all work collaboratively to provide the most comprehensive program possible, for our youth!

Youth Ministry Jam Session



We are slowly becoming outfitted for incredible talent!

Come “Jam for Jesus” on

Tuesday, May 12

from 4:00—7:00 p.m. in the YM Room!

All are welcome to share their talent
or to cheer others on!

**St. Norbert 8th Grade Retreat
Leadership Opportunity**

**Interested in Serving in a Leadership Capacity on
the St. Norbert 8th Grade Retreat?**

**Contact Kirsten asap for Details! The retreat is
going to be from Wed, May 27—Thurs, May 28**

Bring Me to Life!

Youth Night

Tonight’s theme...

“Planting Yourself”



Wednesday, May 13

7:00—9:00 p.m. in the YM Room

How many people really LIVE?

**Join us for an interactive discussion about
what it means to truly LIVE The way God
intended us to!**

**This will be a four-part workshop that
will run every couple of weeks.**

VISION LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sharpie These Dates on Your Calendar!

Leadership Vacation Bible School Service Opp Meetings!

Wednesday, May 6 and Tuesday, May 12

3:00—4:00 p.m. AND 7:00—8:00 p.m. on both Nights!

If you are interested in helping out this Summer at St. Norbert's VBS, please come to one of these four meetings to get registered! We need all the help and support we can get, and we definitely need your spirit and enthusiasm! If you are unable to make it to any of these meetings and are interested in helping, please contact Kirsten asap to get all the information you need!

The Vision Leadership Team is made up of Juniors and Seniors in High School who are interested in serving in a leadership capacity within the Youth Ministry and Confirmation Program at St. Norbert. If you are a Junior or Senior in high school and are interested in being a part of this developing ministry, please contact Kirsten King to get more information on how you (or your teen) can get involved! We will be doing leadership development over the summer and the Vision Team will have the opportunity to co-teach

Wednesday, May 20

7:00—8:30 p.m. in the YM Room

VISION MEETING! And Leadership Workshop!

Time to start honing the Leadership Skills...This night will be a Gift Discernment Night as well as a "Be Caught Up" Meeting!



Confirmation Teachers, Young Adults and Volunteers

"God does not call the equipped, He equips the called!"

WE NEED 25 CONFIRMATION TEACHERS

For the 2009-2010 year!!

Young Adults—Interested in getting reconnected?

Adults—interested in sharing your wisdom?

**Returning Teachers—Interested in jumping on board with the
New Vision for the growing program?**

**There's no better way to join the community and to share your
gifts than to be a Confirmation teacher.**

**If you are interested in teaching Confirmation, or finding out
what the commitment is, please contact me as soon as
possible at 637-4360 x 210 or at kdking@stnorbertchurch.org**

Wish List for the YM Room:

- If you are interested in donating any of the following things, we would really appreciate it!!!
- USED COUCHES for the YM Room— *it's time to make this amazing room teen friendly!!!*
- Packs of Large Poster Board
- Plastic TUBS!
- Tempera Paint Bottles in a variety of colors
(Michaels sells big ones)
For poster painting, retreat prep, etc.
- Foam Paint Brushes
- Snacks that are not perishable, or that can keep in the fridge
- Flats of Bottled Water
- Tea Lights and Clicker Lights
- Colored Paper
- 2-Liter Sodas
- Paper Goods: Cups, Plates, Plastic Utensils, Napkins
- Old DVD's (PG-13 rated at the highest)
- Any Framed Catholic Art for the walls!

YM Dinner and a Movie Night!

**It's Memorial Day Weekend... and therefore there's no school on Monday!
So come hang out at YM after 5:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday!**

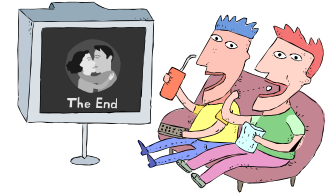
When: Sunday, May 24, 2009

Time: After 5:30 p.m. Mass – 9:00 p.m.

Where: The YM Room

Bring: \$5.00 to cover dinner, drinks and snacks!

We will order Pizza for dinner!



**The Movie:
“Bella”**

Are you artistic? I would like to get 14 teens to each paint (with acrylics on a canvas) their interpretation of one of the Stations of the Cross, to be displayed on the Youth Ministry Room walls.

If you are interested in doing this, please contact the YM office to reserve one in your name!

We would like to complete this project by the end of May!



Some alarming thoughts...

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day.

If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pains of starvation, you are ahead of 700 million people in the world.

If you can attend church without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are envied by and more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you can hold your head up and smile, you are unique to all those in doubt and despair.

May 2009.

I do not pray for success, I ask for faithfulness — Mother Teresa

I heard this quote, and I thought I would comment on it. It's been my experience that we fool ourselves into thinking that success and faithfulness are interchangeable. This could not be more wrong. Everything of *this world* is measured according to the appropriate definition of success. How "money rich" you are is one measure, what grades you get is another. What kind of car you drive—the world tells us that this is somehow a measure or a reflection of how successful you or your parents are. What college you go to, what kind of jeans you have, how well your soccer, volleyball, baseball or any sports team performs, and how big our house is—again, all measures of success that this increasingly secular world values. How hard it is to live in this world that preaches success, no matter how old you are.

But God places little relevance on this "worldly success." Based on the Scriptures, it's safe to assume that God has much bigger plans for our lives, and for the blessings which have been given to us. We might pray for good grades, we might pray for the big win, we might pray that we get that offer into a great college, but what we should really be praying for is wisdom to know how God wants us to be faithful with the talents, blessings and gifts that he has given us. There is absolutely nothing wrong with being successful and being smart, and succeeding in sports, but don't fool yourself into thinking that you did it alone—God is right there helping you in your achievements as much as supporting you through your trials. And remember "to whom much is given, much is expected." He wants to work miracles in your life. But he needs your cooperation and your commitment.

If you died today, and were at that famous gate, do you think that God would want to hear about your ability to have a perfect season? Or do you think he might ask you how you treated those who didn't make the team, or those teammates that you beat game and game again? He might want examples of humility and sacrifice, not success. Do you think he values your team record, your car, what your house looks like? Probably not as much as he values how you've been Jesus to those in your environment who are the "lepers." Parents—how crucial is it to teach your teens that even though it feels good to feel "successful," it's more important to be faithful. We somehow kid ourselves into thinking that this world is going to give us what we need. Success in worldly, materialistic things is insatiable. Faithfulness is fulfilling. Mother Teresa was onto something. Maybe if we are faithful enough, God will give us more success, because then, and only then, He can trust that we will be authentic stewards of it.



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