

News Bulletin n. 3/2005
March 21, 2005

Vocations:

- The parish resource manuals on vocation and our new vocation posters have finally arrived and will be given out before the Chrism Mass (March 21st) to all parish priests. In these manuals you will find a good number of ideas and suggestions for promoting vocations through various initiatives in parish, home and school.
- After Easter we are ready to start a Vocation Week in each parish, one parish at a time. A “traveling chalice” is available here at the Office to be displayed in the parish or school as a symbol of vocations during this week. Other material will be made available as well. If you wish to have the display for a week, contact the Office as soon as possible.
- Saturday April 2nd will be the 4th seminar for our permanent deacons and their wives here in Peterborough.
- There will be a Day of Discernment on Saturday April 16th, 2005 from 10 am to 4 pm here in Peterborough for anyone wondering about a vocation to the priesthood, permanent diaconate or religious life. Please contact the Office by April 10th, if you are interested in attending.
- The following Sunday, April 17th, there will be a trip to St. Augustine’s Seminary in Toronto for anyone interested in taking a look inside a seminary. It will be an informal visit which will include Mass, lunch, meeting with our seminarians and other seminary staff and a tour of the seminary and grounds.
- April 16th/17th is World of Prayer for Vocations, short: Vocation Sunday or Good Shepherd Sunday. In addition to the above-mentioned manual, which offers ideas for liturgies, reflections and gatherings, the Vocation Office will begin a prayer initiative on behalf of all priests, active and retired, seminarians and religious of the Diocese. Names will be sent out to each parish where they should be made available to parishioners after Masses on Vocation Sunday. People are encouraged to pick a name and spiritually adopt the priest, deacon, seminarian or religious by praying for him / her regularly until Vocation Sunday 2006.
- The Vocation Office has taken some initial steps to foster and support the vocation of marriage and address some related issues. We need

lots more volunteers to do so effectively. Marriage is such an essential vocation, yet it seems sadly taken for granted these days. If you are interested in helping out in this regard, please contact the Office.

- There is a Marriage Encounter weekend coming up in Peterborough April 29th to May 1st. It's a great opportunity to make a good marriage even better. Other dates & places are also available. Please call Bruce & Flo Levia at 705-742-2868 for further info or registration.

Evangelization:

- The Evangelization Office has begun a Diocesan Prayer Chain. Contact persons from each parish will receive prayer requests for this Office and for the Diocese. These prayer requests are to be communicated to whoever locally wishes to pray for these intentions, which can be people in existing parish or prayer groups or simply dedicated individuals. So far we have about 450 people connected.
- You find some good ideas and suggestions for a fruitful celebration of the Year of the Eucharist on the following website: <http://www.yearoftheeucharist.tk/>
- The PowerPoint presentation on the Mass, which was such a success at our first "Day of Renewal" in November, is ready to be shown in parishes, schools and youth groups. If you are interested, please let us know. Young people from the Office are ready to come out and make the one-hour presentation.
- April 3rd is Divine Mercy Sunday and the Evangelization Office has organized devotions, including Mass with Bishop De Angelis, in the afternoon from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Information has gone out to all the parishes.
- On Saturday April 9th 'Renewal Ministries of Canada' will hold its annual 'Lift Jesus Higher Rally' in Toronto. The Diocese will have a bus going to the event leaving Peterborough at 6 am and returning at about 8 pm. There are special youth events and celebrations planned for the day. Cost: \$35 for adults and \$28 for students, including bus trip. Bring your own lunch! For reservations, call the Office or 705.745.2337.
- May 28th/29th is the Feast of Corpus Christi, which during this Year of the Eucharist has obviously special significance. The Office is working on some suggestions for the parishes in terms of liturgies,

devotions and activities which may be helpful in making this day even more meaningful.

- ‘Praying for each other’: Following a suggestion at a recent deanery meeting a list of all parishes will soon be sent out to all the parishes in the Diocese with a specific date next to each parish name. This would be the date (Sunday) on which this particular parish will be prayed for in all parishes of the Diocese. On that specific Sunday the name of the parish is to be added to the prayers of the faithful in all our parish and mission Churches.

Youth:

- The Good Friday Way of the Cross (March 25th) is coming up this week. A group of young people will perform the Stations of the Cross live in the city of Peterborough from the Cathedral down Hunter Street to Immaculate Conception Church. It will begin at 10 am at the Cathedral and will conclude at about 1 pm at Immaculate Conception Church, followed by lunch in the Church hall, music, youth witnessing and Passion Service at 3 pm for those who wish to stay and take part; others may wish to return to their home parishes for the service.
- On Sunday April 10th at 4 pm there will be Mass on campus at Trent University in Peterborough followed by a time for discussion, study and social for all university and college students in the city.
- On Tuesday April 19th another LifeSaver Retreat will be held here in Peterborough, facilitated by youth from the Youth Office, in cooperation with the Diocesan Respect-Life Office, for three grade 8 classes from Bowmanville. The retreat addresses some of the delicate issues regarding the dignity and sanctity of life. If your school or parish is interested, let me know.
- NET (National Evangelization Team) is coming to the Diocese again for a few days from April 27th to May 3rd. NET offers a great variety of retreats, presentations and conferences in engaging fun and faith-filled ways. If you wish NET to come to your parish, school, youth group, let the Office know as soon as possible.
- Our two Diocesan trips to WYD Cologne this August have some 15 openings left. If you or anyone you know is interested, please call the Office as soon as possible.

- The next meeting for all WYD pilgrims is scheduled for April 30th/May 1st. It will be a two-day gathering for all pilgrims from across the Diocese, also for those on trips other than our two diocesan ones, and will take place here in Peterborough. It will be an opportunity to get to know each other, address some outstanding technical questions and prepare ourselves spiritually for Cologne. NET will be part of the two-day event. Details will be communicated in time to the 130 pilgrims so far registered.
- WYD t-shirts are now available through the Office as a fundraiser for individuals or groups.
- The Diocesan Youth Cross is back here in Peterborough after two months in the northern parishes. It will continue its pilgrimage through the Diocese. If your parish, group or school wishes to have the cross for a week or more, please let us know. The visit of the diocesan youth cross is an opportunity to reach out to our young people and draw them closer into the life of the Church.
- Mark it on your calendars: Sonfest '05 in Grafton July 8th-10th. Preparations for the 3-day event, the second Diocesan Youth Day, will start after Easter.
- Last, not least: Our regular Youth Newsletter is coming today and should be in your parishes this week in time for Easter. If you have anybody, especially youth who wishes to contribute, please contact the Office, or just send in the article or news items.