

News Bulletin n. 4/2005
April 20, 2005

Dear friends,

With the events of the last few weeks, the passing of Pope John Paul II and the election of Pope Benedict XVI, we have witnessed history in the making. We are sad to have lost one extraordinary pope, but confident that his successor will continue his mission. He has already given every indication that he will; he quickly confirmed his attendance at World Youth Day in Cologne this summer, which will be quite some homecoming for him and has certainly given WYD organizers and pilgrims a historic event to look forward to. Our prayers now are with the Holy Father as he begins his challenging work.

A large number of VEYO volunteers, especially from among our young people, were blessed to have been involved with the Memorial Mass for Pope John Paul II here at the Cathedral on April 8th. It was a moving and fitting tribute to the late Pontiff.

As much as the news from Rome has, of course, been front and center these days, here is a little bit of home-grown news, our next VEYO news bulletin for this month. Some things to look for in this bulletin:

- Vocation Week in parishes of the Diocese
- Material for the Feast of "Corpus Christi"
- NET visits in the Diocese
- WYD meetings and, of course,
- Sonfest '05 in Grafton July 15th-17th

Thanks for being part of VEYO's great missionary effort and, again, please circulate or forward this note to other people who might be interested. If you have any suggestions or ideas, let me know. As always, use any of the info below in your parish bulletins, news letters or announcements. Thanks!

Vocations:

- The parish resource manuals on vocation and our new vocation posters and prayer cards are in the parishes now. Please use the material as they provide lots of ideas and suggestions for promoting vocations through various initiatives in parish, home and school.
- We have started a “Vocation Week” in the Diocese, one parish at a time. A “traveling chalice”, to be displayed in the Church during this week as a symbol of vocations, is making its way over the next few weeks through the parishes in the northern deanery. The resource manual offers prayers and activities for the week.
- Please remind people of the prayer campaign, begun this past “Vocation Sunday” April 16th/17th, on behalf of all priests, active and retired, seminarians and religious of the Diocese. If you wish to renew this campaign between now and “Vocation Sunday” 2006, please feel free to do so.
- Seminarian Jerry Tavares will be in residence at the Cathedral for part of the summer helping with the Vocation and Youth Offices as well as serving in parishes. He will be available to visit schools and parishes for the months of May and June. If you are interested in a visit, please let me know.
- Anyone interested in helping at the Vocation Office with matters pertaining to the vocation of marriage, please contact the Office.
- A reminder of the Marriage Encounter Weekend in Peterborough April 29th to May 1st. If you are interested in attending a weekend, please contact Bruce and Flo Levia at 705.742.2868.

Evangelization:

- The Diocesan Prayer Chain is growing. Whoever wishes to pray for the work and success of this Office can be part of it. Contact-persons from each parish will receive prayer requests through this Office which are to be communicated to whoever locally wishes to pray for these intentions such as people in existing parish or prayer groups or simply dedicated individuals. So far we have about 450 people connected.
- The Evangelization Office is working on a PowerPoint Presentation explaining the mission of this Office as well as giving some helpful suggestions for training lay ministers, adult education and reaching out to non-practicing Catholics.

- The PowerPoint presentation on the Mass from the last “Day of Renewal” is available to be shown in parishes, schools and youth groups. If you are interested, please let me know. Young people from the Office are ready to come out and make the one-hour presentation.
- May 28th/29th is the Feast of Corpus Christi, which during this Year of the Eucharist has obviously special significance. The Office will be sending out some material and flyers offering suggestions, ideas and some information which may be helpful in making this day even more meaningful this year.
- 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/>
- ‘Praying for each other’: The Office is working on a prayer initiative which would allow the whole Diocese to pray for each parish on a given Sunday of the year. The name of the parish would be added to the prayers of the faithful in all parish and mission Churches.

Youth:

- There will be a PowerPoint Presentation available shortly outlining the mission of the Diocesan Youth Office as well as promoting “Sonfest”, our Diocesan Youth Day, and World Youth Day.
- On Tuesday April 26th another LifeSaver Retreat for grade 8 students will be held in Downeyville, facilitated by youth from the Youth Office, in cooperation with the Diocesan Respect-Life Office. 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 from April 27th to May 3rd. NET offers a great variety of youth retreats, presentations and conferences in engaging fun and faith-filled ways. The schedule is full for this year’s visit, but next year’s is wide open.
- A Challenge weekend at Camp Northern Lights is coming up June 10-12. If you are interested in attending the weekend, contact Krista at 705.742.9780 or Tia at 705.385.2309.
- Our two Diocesan trips to WYD Cologne this August have some 6 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. It will be an all-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 at Mount St. Joseph. 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 day.
- 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 for now. It will continue its pilgrimage in the parishes of the southern deanery in preparation for our Diocesan Youth Days, Sonfest '05 in Grafton.
- **Please note change of date:** Sonfest '05 in Grafton July 15th-17th. Preparations for the 3-day event, our second Diocesan Youth Festival, have begun. Posters and info will be out within a few weeks.
- There is a new Youth Newsletter coming out soon. If you have anybody, especially youth who wishes to contribute, just send in the article or news items.

Thanks again for your cooperation, support and prayers.

For all VEYO volunteers,
Fr. Norbert.