



Stayin' Connected

A resource for youth leaders in the Diocese of Jefferson City

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Announcing the New Diocesan Youth Advisory Council

By John DeLaPorte, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

I am pleased to announce a new initiative by the Office of Youth Ministry for 2018. The Diocesan Youth Advisory Council (DYAC) will advise the Office of Youth Ministry on needs, directions, and priorities concerning events, leader formation, and parish support in the diocese. This council will be comprised of representatives from each of our eight deaneries, as well as others connected to youth ministry in the diocese. The council will serve as a resource and forum for shared dialogue as it relates to the mission, vision, and programmatic offerings of the Office.

This is an exciting development because, for the first time, the diverse constituencies that comprise the youth ministry community will be able to gather and strategize about how to meet the challenges we face today. Meetings will be held quarterly with our first meeting having already taken place January 26. At this meeting we discussed our own hopes and vision for this council, the state of youth ministry in the diocese, and needs and priorities for 2018.

Good ministry is never done in a bubble! And good youth *ministry* always requires a team of talented, caring, experienced, and faith-filled leaders to meet the challenges facing youth and families today. I am very grateful for those members who have graciously agreed to give of their time and talent to this council. Please keep this new initiative in prayer as we discern how best to grow in our shared ministry to the young Church here in the Diocese of Jefferson City.

The council members are:

- **Dcn. Bruce Mobley**, Lay Director of Mid-America TEC, Immaculate Conception - Macon
- **Dcn. Bob Leake**, Deacon and Youth Director at St. Joseph - Palmyra
- **Shannon Cerneka**, Director of Youth Ministry and DRE at St. Peter - Fulton
- **Emily Shull**, DRE at St. Thomas More Newman Center - Columbia
- **LeAnn Korsemeyer**, Pastoral Associate, DRE and Youth Ministry Director at St. Stan's - Wardsville
- **Pud Webb**, Director of Youth Ministry and Adult Faith Formation, St. Anthony - Camdenton
- **Kristen Bexten**, Religion Instructor at Tolton HS and Director of the Osage County CYOC
- **Fr. Paul Clark**, Associate Pastor of St. Patrick Parish - Rolla and Director of the Rolla Newman Center
- **Fr. Greg Oligschlaeger**, Vocations Director for the Diocese and Administrative Pastor at Our Lady of the Snows - Mary's home.
- **Jose Lopez** - Events Coordinator for the Diocese and Liaison for *Pastoral Juvenil Hispana*



Annual Membership Meeting

**February 6-9, 2018
Coeur D'Alene, ID**

NFCYM Annual Membership Meeting

On February 6, youth ministry leaders from around the country will be gathering for the NFCYM Annual Membership Meeting taking place at the Coeur D'Alene golf and ski resort in Coeur D'Alene, ID. The AMM is a time for NFCYM members to gather together in faith and fellowship and do the organizational work that needs to be done on a national level to improve service and support for Catholic youth ministry.

As the NFCYM continues to undergo its restructuring and updates its bylaws and membership qualifications this meeting will be very important. Topics will include self-care in ministry, evaluation of new by-laws, regional and national reports as well as how to move forward given the new mission, vision and values of the organization.

While I will not be able to represent our diocese at the AMM this year on account of the installation and ordination of Bishop Elect McKnight, I would ask that you keep this meeting in prayer, and that the fruits of this gathering will better assist us all in our shared ministry to the young Church nationwide.

"Let us give with wisdom to the youth: like good wine that improves with age, let us give the youth the wisdom of our lives."

-Pope Francis

Upcoming Webinars

Webinars are a great way to get high quality formation in a convenient (and often free!) way. They typically last one hour and encourage interaction and discussion amongst participants. Here are webinar options coming up in November. I highly recommend you check them out!

- ["Hagan Lío": Adolescent Catechesis and Missionary Discipleship February 28, 2018 at 2:00 PM EST Presented by: Miriam Hidalgo and Dr. Bob Rice.](#)
- [Even Superheroes Need Sidekicks: How to Build a Dynamic Team of Volunteers February 13 at 2:00 PM EST Presenter: Chris Wesley](#)

Welcoming our New Bishop! Resources for Prayer and Catechesis

As we anticipate the upcoming episcopal ordination and installation of Bishop-Elect Shawn McKnight as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City, the Catholic School Office, in conjunction with a few of the principals of the diocese have created a variety of teaching resources related to this event. We have created a shared Google Drive folder for all of these resources and would invite you to use any or all of them in your respective programs. This shared folder contains a variety of catechetical resources including:

- Lesson plans for grades k-8 on topics related to the Bishop and the Diocese
- Photos and a map of the diocese
- Helpful handouts and supplements
- A novena for Bishop Elect McKnight to pray with students or families

In addition, more [YouTube instructional videos](#) have been added to the Diocesan YouTube channel. In particular you may wish to check out the following:

- The lesson on the Cathedral and its Symbolism would be appropriate for many age levels and Msgr. Kurwicky does a great job leading people on a tour of the Cathedral as he explains the symbols found there.
- The lesson on the Miter, Crosier, Pectoral Cross and Ring is presented by students in Ms. Kristen Bexten's Church History class at Tolton Catholic High School. It is done in the format of a news program and as such would be appropriate for younger students to view as well. They did a great job sharing about these symbols in an entertaining yet educational manner.

[Click here to access the shared Google Drive Folder](#) (you may need to open this link in Chrome if your browser is having problems). Thanks to the office of Catholic Schools and the CSA Fund for developing and sharing these wonderful resources!



My Journey From Protestant Christian to Catholic Youth Ministry Leader By Eulynn Keller, Youth Ministry Coordinator , St. Mary's - Shelbyna

My name is Eulynn Keller and I am the youth ministry coordinator at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Shelbyna, MO. I grew up on a small family farm in Warrenton, MO with my parents and four siblings. I was baptized in the Methodist church my parents were married in. While we often drove, if you walked out the back door, took a small stroll, hit the gravel road, and followed it to the end, you could walk to Sunday service. Out of convenience and nostalgia we attended the Methodist church, but my parents noted a lack in youth education and decided it was time for a change.



Majority of my childhood was spent at a Friedens United Church of Christ. It was there that I learned the books of the Bible, I served as an acolyte, went through my FIRST (there are a couple yet to come) confirmation class, and took my FIRST (a couple of those, too) "first" communion. There were plenty of youth activities at the UCC church. But, about the time I hit high school the United Church of Christ as a whole, not just our location, was beginning to take political stances that my family was very uncomfortable with. We were also in the process of new house/farm shopping, then, God opened a new door for our family.

My family moved the summer of 2007 to Bowling Green, MO. New house, new school, new friends, and, you guessed it, new church. Mom grew up Lutheran and it just so happened that to go into town, we had to pass Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. I was over age for youth confirmation, so I attended weekly classes with my parents to join the Lutheran church. That was followed by confirmation number two, and my second "first" communion. We went to church every Sunday and it was at Good Shepherd that I began to really feel the need to have a Christ driven life.

I graduated high school in May 2010 and had every intention of being a career-oriented college student, followed by career-driven employee in a faraway land. God had other plans—as he usually does. In November 2010 I met my now-husband, Levi, at an agricultural conference through a mutual friend. God definitely had a hand in it because after piecing several events together, we realized we had to have walked right by each other a dozen or more times at various FFA and other high school events.

I thank the Lord every day for putting Levi in my life and using him to bring me to my Catholic faith. One of the very first questions Levi asked me was, "What religion are you?" and I will never forget my first Catholic mass with his family (up, down, kneel, hold hands....yikes!). While the first mass didn't come naturally, the decision to become Catholic did. A few months of RCIA later and I was Catholic (on the "winning team" says my husband)—I was confirmed and took my LAST first communion. It felt like coming home after a long trip.

St. Mary's Catholic Church left me with so much to be thankful for and I knew I wanted to give back. I began to volunteer for Wednesday night youth group. After about a year of helping with that and various other activities the youth ministry coordinator position opened up at our parish. I was interested but, scared. It was all I could think and pray about for several days—I didn't want to sell our youth short on anything because I was still new to things. Just to get an idea of things I attended the annual retreat for youth ministers last year in Moberly, MO. There was no doubt in my mind after leaving that day. I knew there would be challenges, but I also realized no one wanted me to fail and there would always be support. In September of 2017 I officially took on the position and I can honestly say I have never looked back. There have been disappointments and mistakes-- but those moments when you see a new glimmer of faith in a teenager's eyes, an excitement in their soul, it makes it all worthwhile. I have learned it's not about the number in attendance and it's not about making everyone happy. It's about the bit of faith and love you can put into a kid's life that they may have never gotten.



TOP: Fall Party and Hayride with Fr. Minj

Left: Shopping for Christmas gifts for local foster kids.

Right: The Shelbyna Reignite Crew!

FEBRUARY CONNECTIONS

Holidays to Connect Youth With This Month

- ◆ World Day for Consecrated Life, Feb 2
- ◆ Groundhog Day, Feb 2
- ◆ World Cancer Day, Feb 4
- ◆ Rosa Parks Day, Feb 4.
- ◆ Boy Scouting Sunday, Feb 4
- ◆ International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking, Feb 8
- ◆ World Day of the Sick, Feb 11
- ◆ World Day of Marriage, Feb 11
- ◆ Valentine's Day, Feb 14
- ◆ Ash Wednesday, Feb 14
- ◆ President's Day, Feb 20
- ◆ World Day of Justice, Feb 20

Holy People to Profile this Month

- ◆ St. Valentine
- ◆ St. Peter Damian
- ◆ St. Josephine Bakhiti
- ◆ Our Lady of Lourdes
- ◆ Abe Lincoln, George Washington, Rosa Parks

Celebrating Lent With Youth

Lent is always a wonderful time to invite youth to participate more deeply in the liturgical year. Encouraging youth to slow down, reflect, pray and serve as they prepare themselves for Easter is central to our work this month. And there are no shortages of great resources out there to help youth enter more deeply into this Lenten season.



- [Great collection of Lenten youtube videos, lessons, activities](#)
- [Lent ideas for youth ministry from LifeTeen](#)
- [Lent ideas for youth ministry from Fuller Youth Institute](#)
- [Lenten prayer resources from the USCCB](#) (Lectio Divina, Scripture, Stations of the Cross and more!)
- [Printable Lenten calendar](#)
- [CRS Rice Bowl educator resources](#) (Lessons, video clips, prayer services and more!)
- [3 great Lenten activities do with youth](#)
- [Creating Lenten prayer stations set to the Our Father for youth](#)

Scout Sunday February 4

The Boy Scouts of America annually celebrates its founding on February 8, 1910, based on the program started by Lord Baden Powell in England on August 1, 1907. Scout Sunday was added to the Scout celebration in the middle 1940s. The Scout Sunday tradition was started to make people in houses of worship aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live out their "Duty to God" pledged each week. The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith.



- [Click here for a great list of resources and ideas to celebrate Scout Sunday](#)
- [More ideas for celebrating Scout Sunday](#)

St. Josephine Bakhiti February 8

On February 8th the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhiti. St. Josephine's incredible story takes her from slavery to sainthood, and her feast coincides with the International Day of Prayer against Human Trafficking. Take some time this month to share a quote, prayer, video clip, or lesson on this modern Catholic Saint. Here are a few places to start:

- [Biographical Video Clip](#)
- [Printable PDF Prayer Card and Bio](#)
- [Order the full-length video on her life](#)





Youth Ministers are Advocates for All Young People in Their communities. By Alaina Kleinbeck

Youth speak the thoughts and questions adults will only whisper: “*Christian worship is where people go to show off their fake smiles.*” “*Why did that pastor talk about the Supreme Court’s decision on an immigration case during communion?*” And, after reading and taking comfort in Isaiah’s messianic prophecies, “*Is God ghetto?*”

The honest, insightful and inquisitive force of young people is a unique gift at this moment in U.S. history and the Christian story.

Yet today’s young people are also perhaps uniquely vulnerable. Youth populations in the U.S. are increasingly diverse on a range of identity markers, putting many at risk of violence or aggression. Some face diminished opportunities for economic growth. And many have trouble seeing the relevance of faith to the stark realities of their daily lives.

Certain parts of the public sphere have become more aware of these vulnerabilities, but the church has struggled to develop formational opportunities for youth, youth leaders and pastors to help young people make sense of their Christian faith in this challenging context.

It is time for those who minister to young people — who are coming of age in a moment of political and social turmoil and decreased connection to traditional religious practices — to re-envision the work of youth ministry in holistic, theologically grounded ways.

[Read full article here](#)

Advocating for Youth in your Community

By Maria Calacan

Getting to know your community and the issues that are affecting youth and their families builds an environment of love, support and appreciation for diversity that testifies to the love of Jesus Christ. The building of relationships inside and outside your parish community assists the Coordinator of Youth Ministry (CYM) in understanding where your young people come from, what is the root of their struggles, and what sets them on fire with the love of Christ so you can encourage them to be faithful.

For example, in 2008 there was an issue with the County of Fairfax closing the Support on Suspension program in the Culmore area. During school suspension, parents struggle to find youth a safe, supervised program where they are able to keep up with their schoolwork and where they are prepared to resume their studies (FPY-SOS White Paper). Partners got together to organize fundraising efforts and created relationships with Fairfax County Partnership for Youth, businesses, faith based and non faith based community organizations. Partners got together to organize fundraising efforts and created relationships with Fairfax County Partnership for Youth, businesses, faith based and non faith based community organizations.

[Read full article here](#)

Activity of the Month: Grab It!

Top 10 Most Helpful Links for Youth Ministry

1. [Office of Youth Ministry Diocese of Jeff City](#)
2. [USCCB Youth and Young Adults](#)
3. [Center for Ministry Development](#)
4. [National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry](#)
5. [CRS Education](#)
6. [Life Teen](#)
7. [Project YM](#)
8. [Fe y Vida](#)
9. [Busted Halo](#)
10. [Discipleship Focused Youth Ministry](#)

For a comprehensive list of helpful resources and links

[Click Here!](#)

Top 3 YouTube Clips to use in youth group!

1. [Preparing for Lent \(Fr. Mike Schmitz\)](#)
2. [Ash Wednesday Explained through Lego!](#)
3. [You Don't Know Jack about Lent \(Busted Halo\)](#)

This is a great teambuilder to help break the ice and introduce discussion around communication and teamwork.

1. Have youth get with a partner. Each partner will have 1 paper ball.
2. Have partners stand about 2-5 feet apart. One partner will be the "thrower." The other will be the "grabber." The grabber should turn their back to the thrower.
3. **Round 1:** Have the grabber place one hand behind their back. The thrower will toss the ball at the back of the grabber. The grabber must try to catch the ball. Allow no communication between the partners. Do this for 60 seconds to see how many times they can accomplish this.
4. **Round 2:** Again, have the throwers toss the ball at the back of the grabber, but this time they will say "NOW" when

they release the ball. Do this for 60 more seconds noticing the marginal improvement that some groups will make.

5. **Round 3:** For the final round have the throwers toss the ball at the back of the grabber, but say "NOW" when the grabber should catch the ball. Do this for 60 seconds.

For Discussion:

- What did you notice about this activity? Why was this hard to do?
- How important is communication to the success of this activity?
- How important is communication to success in life?
- Are there things we can do to improve our communication with each other, with others, with God, in order to be more successful in life?

Tech Connections

Confessions: A Roman Catholic App

That's right...there is an app for that! As Lent approaches and penance services get under full swing, invite your students to take advantage of this app to help aid them in the sacrament of Confession.

"With a personalized examination of conscience for each user, password protected profiles, and a step-by-step guide to the sacrament, this app invites Catholics to prayerfully prepare for and participate in the Rite of Penance. Individuals who have been away from the sacrament for some time will find Confession: A Roman Catholic App to be a useful and inviting tool. "

- [Click here to download \(\\$1.99\)](#)



On the LifeTeen Blog

What Jesus Thinks About "That One Sin"

There's no support group called "Sinners Anonymous," but if there was, I would definitely be the first one through the door.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not a particularly terrible person (I hope). I don't rob banks on the weekend or post movie spoilers on Twitter. But there have been times on this crazy journey called "being Catholic" when I've struggled with going back to the same sin over and over again.



[Read Full Blog Here](#)

YOUTH MINISTRY RESOURCES

Resources for Social and Moral Formation

CRS Operation Rice Bowl For Youth Ministry and Educators

Lent is here, and one of the most popular and powerful programs available for Catholic schools and parishes is Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl. Many might be familiar with Rice Bowl, but this annual Lenten fundraiser offers youth much more than just a free foldable bowl to collect pocket change with.

CRS has a wide range of high quality educational resources that accompany this program. Thorough lesson plans for grades 1-12 grade profile the stories of people from around the world who benefit from CRS's work. These lessons are engaging, fun, provoking and help youth connect the dots between Lent, charity, CRS and faith.

In addition, there are some very high quality video clips that accompany these lessons which can be downloaded from youtube or ordered on DVD for free. I have found these video clips incredibly useful in educating youth about Lent and Catholic Social Teaching. Materials also include outlines for prayer experiences for both large and small groups alike. All materials are available in Spanish as well!

So if you are looking for a fun, educational, high-quality program to do with your youth I would encourage you to check out this great free resource.

[Click here to learn more about CRS Operation Rice Bowl.](#)



“You ask me whether I am in good spirits? How could I not be so? As long as faith gives me strength I will always be joyful!”

- Bl. Pierre Giorgio Frassati

Website of the Month: New Site for Office of Youth Ministry!

After lots of tedious data entry and photo uploads I am pleased to announce that the Office of Youth Ministry has a new website! The new site offers youth, families and pastoral leaders a more user-friendly way to learn about all of our diocesan youth programs and ministries. Through this new site you can:

- Browse all of our youth programs,
- Register for adult formation sessions
- Inquire about parish support
- Learn about upcoming events
- Access digital resources
- Download forms and policies
- Connect to us through social media

[Click here to check out the new site today!](#)



ADULT FORMATION

OYM Mission

The Office of Youth Ministry strives to empower young people and those who minister to them to live as disciples of Jesus in the Church and world.

OYM Philosophy

Our approach is comprehensive, understanding that youth ministry works best when the entire parish is involved. Using the principles outlined in *Renewing the Vision*, the Office of Youth Ministry collaborates with parish leaders to draw youth into a deeper relationship with Jesus, and fuller participation in the life, mission, and ministry of the Church. By supporting parishes in the ministry of welcoming, engaging, and forming youth, and by providing effective resources to adult Youth Leaders, we hope to create communities where needs are met, people are supported, families are strengthened, and Christ is served.

Contact Us

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[Connect with OYM on Facebook!](#)

facebook

We ALWAYS want to hear from you! *Stayin Connected* is here for your benefit!

- ◆ Share a success story
- ◆ Write an article
- ◆ Recommend resources
- ◆ Spotlight your program
- ◆ Promote your event

[Click here for upcoming trainings](#)



Effective Ministry in the Youth Setting

Sat. December 2, 9am - 2pm
Schwartz Catholic Center, Jefferson City

Sat. February 3, 9am - 2pm
St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbia

Sat. February 17, 9am - 2pm
St. Mary's Parish, Shelbyville

Lead and Follow is a workshop series providing youth ministry leaders the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to be successful in parish youth ministry.

Effective Ministry in the Youth Setting will explore practical strategies for ministry in the youth setting. Topics will cover catechetical planning, designing prayer experience, service learning, and communication strategies for teens.

For Information and Registration
www.diojeffcity.org/leadfollow

Sponsored by the Office of Youth Ministry

[There is still time to register for the Feb. workshops!](#)

CALENDAR OF ADULT FORMATION

Event	Who	When	Where	Cost
Pastoral Juvenil Gathering	Hispanic Youth Ministers	January	St. Patrick Sedalia	Free
Lead and Follow Workshop	Youth Ministers Catechists	Feb 3	Newman Center Columbia	Free
Lead and Follow Workshop	Youth Ministers Catechists	Feb 17	St. Mary Shelbyville	Free
Annual Seminar	Youth Ministers Catechists	April 14 April 15	Eldon Monroe City	\$10
Pastoral Juvenil Gathering	Hispanic Youth Ministers	May	TBD	Free
Pastoral Juvenil Gathering	Hispanic Youth Ministers	Sept	TBD	Free
Annual Retreat	Youth Ministers Catechists	October 27	Covt. Point Holts Summit	TBD
Lead and Follow Workshop	Youth Ministers Catechists	Nov-Dec	TBD	TBD
NCCYM	Youth Ministers Catechists	Dec 6-8	Tampa, FL	Travel, Registration, Hotel, etc!

[Click Here to Learn More and Register Online](#)

2018 ANNUAL SEMINAR

YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE RURAL PARISH

1 SEMINAR 2 LOCATIONS YOU CHOSE!



SATURDAY, APRIL 14 FROM 9AM-3PM

SACRED HEART CHURCH, ELDON

SUNDAY, APRIL 15 FROM 9AM-3PM

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH, MONROE CITY



Ministry to youth and families in a small rural parish poses an unique set of challenges. Scarce resources, limited personnel, shrinking communities, and long travel distances are just a few of the obstacles that youth ministry leaders face. But the rural parish also offers ample gifts and opportunities that can be leveraged to meet these challenges and effectively evangelize youth today. This seminar will explore strategies to unlock the potential within the rural parish and build a strong, vibrant youth program.



Doug Tooke is the Director of Partnership Outreach with ODB films and an adjunct staff member with LifeTeen International. With a BA in Philosophy and Theology and a MA in Pastoral Ministry he has over 20 years of professional ministry experience with a strong focus on rural youth ministry outreach. Doug has traveled to over 100 Dioceses in the past 15 years teaching, keynoting, and training youth ministers. He has spoken at World Youth Day, NCYC, NCCYM, Los Angeles RE Congress and continues to serve as a leader in the field. Doug is a recipient of the National Catholic Youth Ministry Award from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

\$10 PER PERSON

INCLUDES MATERIALS, LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS. OPEN TO ALL YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERS, DRE'S, CATECHISTS. PAY IN ADVANCE OR AT THE DOOR.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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2018 YOUTH EVENTS

Visit www.oymdiojeffcity.org for information and registration on all our events!

Event	Who	When	Where	Cost
Reignite	High School Youth	January 6-7 2018	Tolton HS, Columbia	\$10
Teens Encounter Christ	Juniors and older	January 13-15	Im. Conception, Jeffer- son City	\$40
March for Life	Junior High and High School	January 17-20	Washington D.C.	\$150
NET Ministries Parish Retreats	Junior High and High School	Feb 10-27	Participating parishes	Varies
Teens Encounter Christ	Juniors and older	FEB TEC CANCELLED		
Vocation Reflection Days	Confirmandi, Parents and Sponsors	Feb 25, Mar 4, March 11	Cathedral Jefferson City	Free
Encounter Weekend	Junior Boys and older	April 14-16	Conception Abbey	Free
6th Grade Vocations Day	All 6th Graders	May 2, 2018	Cathedral of St. Joseph	\$5
Totus Tuus	All ages	June 2-July 20	Participating Parishes	\$1500/parish
Nun Run - Convent Hop	Open to all	TBD	St. Louis Area	\$TBD
Teens Encounter Christ	Juniors and older	June 23-28	St. Pius X Moberly	\$40
Camp Maccabee I	High School Boys	June 24-29	St. Robert, MO	\$150
CHRISTpower	Sophomore recently grad.	July 8-14	Helias Catholic High School	\$125
Camp Siena	High School Girls	July 22-26	St Patrick Laurie, MO	\$150
Camp Maccabee II	High School Boys	July 22-27	St. Robert, MO	\$150
Young Disciples in Ac- tion Mission Trip	Rising Juniors and Seniors	July 24-Aug 1	El Paso, TX	TBD
Camp Maccabee III	High School Boys	July 29-Aug 3	St. Robert, MO	\$150
2018 Youth Rally	High School Youth	Sept 8	Helias Catholic High School	TBD