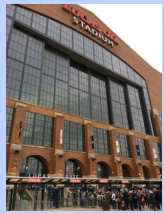




Did you know that we had 15 youth attend the **National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)**, November 21-24, 2019, in Indianapolis, Indiana?

Gabby Audi
Julia Barker
Jenna Capasso
James Cook
Ian Fitzgerald
Mia Greco
Dean Hartl
Ariana Romeo-Mullin
Keara Papa
Olivia Papa
Sarah Pegarella
Danny Rys
Gabriella Schaefer
Frank Schaefer
Anna-Jeanne Staerker

Thank you for all the fundraising support the parish gave us to make this pilgrimage possible.



Our Lady of the Assumption
Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
498 Watervliet-Shaker Road
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Winter 2020
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Living in Faith

A Newsletter from the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Office

Beyond Faith Formation

In the cold winter months, we tend to see our OLA families less frequently at church. We work around holidays and school breaks, and we miss those lucky enough to escape to a warmer climate for a few days. So we're reaching out through this newsletter.

A few wonderful opportunities have come across our desks so take a moment to grab a cup of something hot, and read through this. We know we have youth in this parish with amazing talents we don't always see here under our roof, but parents and others do. Encourage your young person to give these a look:

- ♦ **2020 Generation Faith Essay Contest:** America media is seeking submissions from young writers for this year's Generation Faith Essay Contest. They want to hear from high school and college students interested in reflecting on the joys and challenges that come with living out (or struggling with) one's faith in the midst of real life. All entries should be true personal essays, between 800 and 1,200 words. The winning entry will be awarded \$1,000 and will be published in *America* magazine. Go to www.americamagazine.org/generationfaith2020 to submit your essay and find out more. **March 8 deadline!**
- ♦ The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, sponsored by the USCCB (*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*) **2020 Contest for Young Artists** is an opportunity for artists from K-12 to enter their artwork. The theme, "More Than A Roof", asks youth to create a work of art about our Catholic response to poverty and unaffordable housing. Sister Betsy Van Deusen, CSJ, is collecting submissions **by February 14**, for the Albany Diocese and Catholic Charities. Go to www.USCCB.org/YouthContest for all the details.

Let us know if you enter! We'd love to brag about you at OLA!



Inside this issue

Camp Breakaway	2
VBS.....	2
Catechist Reflection	3
Welcome.....	3
NCYC.....	4

Dates to remember!

- **2020 Generation Essay** deadline March 8, 2020
- **"More Than A Roof" Art Contest** deadline February 14, 2020
- **VBS** July 20-24, 2020
- **Breakaway** Register by March 1
- **Confirmation** Sunday, May 3
- **First Eucharist** Saturday, May 9



Camp Breakaway

An Experience for Youth

June 28-July 2 at Pyramid Life Center

For youth currently in 5th grade and up, Camp Breakaway offers two separate experiences for junior high and high school youth. Each day, campers participate in fun and faith, through hiking, boating, swimming, worship and amazing food. Register by March 1 to get the early bird rate!

Camp Breakaway is a ministry of Pyramid Life Center. Go to <https://www.rcda.org/YAYA> to see a video of last year's fun and to download a registration form. Be sure you register through OLA and Mrs. Rosemary Gavin. Our parish pays a portion of the costs so register early. The fee covers your meals, lodging and all program supplies. Questions? Call our office at 518-785-1605 and speak with Mrs. Rosemary Gavin.

*"For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."
(Philippians 4:13)*



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 20-24, 2020

ROCKY RAILWAY:

Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through

*Climb aboard for mountains of fun
at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure,
kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through
life's ups and downs.*

So mark these dates on your calendar:

July 20-24, 2020!

*Have you ever considered
becoming a catechist?*



We Just Have to Love

By Julie Mickler

Being a catechist or a teacher can be scary. We are tasked with the faith formation of young people. Children have questions and look to us for the answers. We can lose sleep at night, thinking, "What if they ask me something I don't know? What if I give them the wrong answer?" In spite of solid faith formation programs, and intentional preparation, it is impossible to anticipate what may come at us each time we gather with children.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle taught his brothers to "be convinced that the main conversion is that of the heart, and without it the conversion of the mind is quite sterile." Centuries later, *The National Directory for Catechesis* reminds us that catechesis is not simply about education but must focus on forming disciples. As teachers and catechists, our real goal is not to provide answers, but to help facilitate a conversion of the heart for children.

Ultimately, we are called to accompany children on their journey of discipleship. We don't have to have all the answers. Our presence and example of faith are often all that is necessary. We are, above all, guides and companions and together we can all be drawn to a deeper relationship with Jesus and his Church.

Faith in God, love for the Church, and the willingness to respond to the call have brought each of us to this ministry. We can be confident in our ability to share the Good News with children by forming caring relationships with them. We don't have to be perfect or have all the answers...we just have to love.

Shared from *Inspire!* Magazine, Volume 2//Fall 2019



To download our app, visit myparishapp.com

Welcome!

Mary Coleman is our newest staff member. She serves as the Administrative Assistant for Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, and all over the parish, wherever we need help. Please stop in to say "Hi!" and introduce yourself to Mary. She is here Monday and Friday, 9am—2pm and one other day each week. You may know her husband, Jim Coleman, as a catechist in the 10th grade, or her son, Liam, a student at CBA. We are so blessed to have her as part of the team!

Ash Wednesday is February 26!

9am Mass and Ashes
12 noon Liturgy of the Word & Ashes
5:30pm Mass and Ashes



*"He gives power to the weak and strength
to the powerless." (Isaiah 40:29)*