



The Steward's Harvest

We are Sower. We are Seed.

Ordinary Time 2008
Vol. II

Theology and A Pub Taps Well-Spring of Young Catholics ~ by George L. Gugle IV

Anyone who is curious about reaching out to young Catholic men and women would do well to follow the example set by Jesus and seek them out where they are. A good place to begin the search is Gresso's on South High Street for Theology and A Pub on the third Tuesday of each month.

According to its website, Theology and a Pub (TAP) is a program for young adults offering monthly speakers and a forum for the lively discussion of Church teaching while enjoying food and drink at a local restaurant or pub. TAP was originally "brewed" by Father Stephen-Dominic Hayes, a Dominican priest from St. Patrick Church in Columbus, and hosted at Plank's Café on Columbus' south side.

The current home for TAP is Gresso's, at 961 S. High St. in Columbus in German Village. TAP is coordinated by Megan Real, with the assistance of Kelly Lavelle, Program Coordinator in the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

I recently had the good fortune to speak at TAP on the subject of stewardship.

The upper room in which we gathered quickly filled with young people of all ages. A handful of the group would categorize themselves as "young at heart, mind, and spirit" if not in body due to a predominance of gray hair (or the lack thereof).

Of the young adults assembled, some said they had not yet found a parish in which to register. Others volunteered that they were non-Catholic, but both intrigued and attracted to Catholicism by the Liturgy and teaching that the Church offers.

For two hours, we shared each other's company and engaged in a lively discussion, interspersed with the reflections on stewardship provided by the late Archbishop Thomas Murphy and captured on DVD. The evening ended all too quickly with a couple of individuals indicating that while they had attended previous TAP sessions, this was the first in which they felt compelled to participate.

For its unique mix of hospitality, good company, and an opportunity to deepen one's faith by sharing it with a younger generation that hungers and thirsts for it, I would encourage both clergy and laity to tap into TAP to nourish body and soul.

TAP talks are held the third Tuesday of the Month at Gresso's. Admission is **free**. Doors open at **6PM** for dinner with the speakers beginning usually at **7:30PM**. ✦

TAP on Tap:

- **August 19, 2008, Mass Confusion: What Do I Say? When Do I Kneel?** Speaker: Deacon Tom Johnston. An in-depth look at the parts of the Mass that includes a guided tour of St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St. Meet at Gresso's at 6PM for dinner.
- **September 16, 2008, A Seminarian, a Nun, a Priest, a Married Couple, and an Expert on Marriage Walked Into a Bar...** A panel discussion that includes Stephanie Jenemann, Director of Marriage and Family Life, and Fr. Jeff Coning, Vocations Director.
- **October 21, 2008, Social Concerns and Political Responsibility: Not Just Every 4 Years** Speaker: Jerry Freewalt, Director of Rural Life and Parish Social Concerns Ministry in the Office of Social Concerns.
- **November 18, 2008, Poverty: One Word, So Many Meanings** Speaker: Fr. Kevin F. Lutz, Pastor of Holy Family Parish, and founder and curator of the Jubilee Museum at Holy Family. ✦

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Young Adult Summer Kick-off!



A group of young adults enjoy their meal, conversation and music in the Cathedral Undercroft.



After attending the Young Adult Summer Kick-off Mass and cookout, two ladies get ready for the kickball game.



At the Young Adult Summer Kick-off many were excited to join in a friendly game of corn hole.



Circleville Students Use Their Talents to 'Make a Difference'

~ by Pat Colangeli

"A man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them and made five more. Likewise, the one who received two made another two."
—Matthew 25: 14-17

As a teacher of ninth grade English students at Circleville High School in Circleville, Ohio, I am constantly looking for ways to inspire my students and to help them find excitement in an assignment. The "Make a Difference" project met that criteria and exceeded my greatest expectations.

I borrowed the idea from a minister who appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show. The minister handed several of his congregants \$200 and challenged them to make a difference in their community. I saw this as a tremendous opportunity for my students using the minister's project as a model.

After contacting a local organization, the Circleville City Schools Foundation, and requesting seed money for the project, the members of the foundation hopped aboard and provided me with a check for \$200. This money was evenly divided among my 20 students with each student receiving

the same message: "Keep the money, give it away, or pool your money and see what you might accomplish to meet a local need."

The students then scurried about forming groups, sharing ideas, and finding causes to support with their money. Next, they contacted local individuals, businesses, and other organizations that might be interested in helping the students raise additional funds for a variety of worthwhile causes in Circleville and Pickaway County. The project took off rapidly, like a snowball rolling down a hill. It picked up speed, adding layers of support as it stormed through our community.

The students raised \$6,300 that was shared with the local food pantry, the Humane Society, a breast cancer awareness organization, a needy family, and a very sick child who needed medical attention.

The project further received notice in local and national media. The students received local attention from the *Circleville Herald* as well as state attention

from *The Columbus Dispatch*. When our story hit the Associated Press wire, people around the nation wanted to know more about this unusual project.

Eventually, a Washington, D.C. affiliate of ABC News sent our story to New York, and our project became the spotlight of the Friday edition of the nightly news. In addition, a photographer, cameraman, and a reporter followed my students for two days as they collected and distributed funds around our community. Then on April 13, 2008, we were featured as "Persons of the Week" on ABC News, making for a truly memorable and rewarding experience.

The students raised a significant amount of money and contributed to those in need. No greater lesson was learned than doing a good thing for mankind and knowing that each one of them had made a difference within our community. ✦
Pat Colangeli and her husband, Tony, live in Circleville and are members of St. Joseph Parish.

Gettin Thru 2 R Yung Adlts

~ by Lena Richards & Kelly Lavelle

How do you get a message to the young adults of your parish? Send them a text message! "A text message—what is that?"

A text message is a service provided by cell phone companies to help people communicate quickly by typing messages and sending them through their cell phones, otherwise known as Short Message Service (SMS).

Only 160 characters or less are allowed per text message. That is why text messages have to be shortened and abbreviated, similar to the title of this article. Text messaging has brought about a whole new language that has been readily accepted by the younger generations. It may seem like a blunt way of communicating, but this generation is the most multi-tasked generation of our time, so they need to get their information "to the point"—messages and information about events that are short, sweet, and to the point!

By no means are we suggesting that you actually text to young adults to get your message out, but rather use this "text messaging language" or concept, as a means to reach out to your young adults.

Recently, St. John Neumann Parish hosted an ASK (Adults Seeking Knowledge) night, where they invited adults of all ages for an evening of "Q and A" for a priest. Half of the attendees were young adults, who asked some very important questions. They also liked the fact that they got direct answers, quickly.

The main idea is to be creative-short and to the point-in how parishes communicate messages or events to young adults. This can be an alternative method to reach out and inform young adults about Catholicism.

For more information on young adult events and activities and how you can engage more young adults in your parish, please contact Program Coordinator, Kelly Lavelle in the

Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at klavelle@cducation.org, or call 614.241.2565.

The youth of today are our leaders of tomorrow so it is especially important for us as Church to embrace our young adults and make sure they're getting the message—in 160 words or less, that is! ✦

We pray that the Holy Spirit will bring us wisdom, understanding, and guidance.



Upcoming Young Adult Events

Book Club: August 21, 2008, at Barnes and Noble Cafe in Easton Town Center, 4005 Townsfair Way, Columbus, OH 43219. The event begins at 7PM. This month's selection is the first half of *City of God*, by St. Augustine.

Cooking and Scripture: September 23, 2008, at 6PM in the *Columbus Dispatch* Kitchen located on the second floor of the North Market, 59 Spruce St, in downtown Columbus near the Arena District. Join *Dispatch* Food Editor Robin Davis and Father Dwayne McNew, pastor of Holy Redeemer Church in Portsmouth, for an evening of cooking, food, fun and scripture. Admission is \$12 that includes appetizers, drinks, cooking lesson, and a cookbook. This is a one-of-a-kind event. Seats are limited, so please RSVP to Kelly Lavelle to reserve your seat—Email: klavelle@cducation.org; or phone: 614.241.2565. ✦

Upcoming Stewardship Events

Anaheim, CA: Living Catholic Stewardship, Sponsored by *Our Sunday Visitor*, Anaheim, Calif: Crowne Plaza-Anaheim Resort, September 14-16, 2008

Youngstown: Stewardship Day, September 18, 2008. Featured speaker: Bishop Robert Morneau.

Chicago, IL: International Catholic Stewardship Conference, October 12-15, 2008; Hyatt Regency, Chicago. Presenters include George Gugle and Lena Richards from the Office of Development and Planning. To register: www.catholicstewardship.org.

Cleveland: Diocesan Stewardship Conference, November 7 and 8, 2008. Parish Steward-Shape: Ways to Integrate Stewardship into Parish Life. ✦