



*Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the  
Diocesan Young Adult Newsletter*

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## What's happening in YA Ministry



We are happy to be back in your inbox this month! There are lots of things happening with and for Young Adults and we want to let you in on the work being done to serve parishes. We have three Regional Coordinators who have received grant funding and are working to connect young adults in their regions, to offer listening sessions to find out what needs there are and to build teams of leaders to see that those needs are met. Todd Raether is the Regional Coordinator for the Shawano, Mary Baird in Appleton and Fox Valley and Phil Kuenzi in the Manitowoc area.

**Some of the things we have discovered** - volunteers and passionate young adults have made things happen in their parishes and are making a difference. Coffee house nights, Adoration, Encounter, service events and casual dinner gatherings to meet new friends are happening all around the Diocese. As we listen and learn how to make the most out of our new regional model - **we would love your input, ideas, suggestions and help.** Click here to fill out a [quick](#) survey!

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## Upcoming events around the Diocese

**January 5, 5:30 pm** Young Adult paghetti dinner and music with Mike Casey -St. John Antigo (Child care provided) RSVP [antigoff@gmail.com](mailto:antigoff@gmail.com)

**January 12, 7pm** Encounter His Love - Quad parishes Green Bay - Mass, Adoration, Confession, Music

**January 14, 9-noon** Service Morning at Feeding America - Appleton - all are welcome RSVP on Facebook

**January 26, 6:30-8:30 pm** *Catholic Culinary Series Part 1: Finding the Flavor of Faith* International foods, music and speaker St. Matthew Parish Green Bay RSVP on Facebook





## Top 5 Ways to Make Your Parish Young Adult Friendly

**1. Young adults are looking for a place to be welcomed** - right where they are. They hunger for the holy, community and belonging. Do you have someone who has a particular ministry to this age group? Find someone! Young adults range from 18-39 and have every configuration of work, life, school and family. Their presence in our parishes is vital and they need someone as their advocate in the community.

**2. Ask them often what they need and what the church can do for them - then do it.** We like to do surveys and gather information, but at some point we have to make changes that will help to engage young adults in our parishes. It won't look like what we are used to, but get used to that! **They are looking for vibrant parishes and have ideas on just how to do that!**

**3. We imagine that we have to make over our churches to have lasers and light shows for young adults but really it's much less complicated and less expensive!** They have expectations for things to be done well; music, liturgies, meetings, communication methods and gathered activities. They are busy, used to the latest technology and customized everything. However, at the heart of things is that they are holding churches to a different standard and are asking us to give them a reason to stay, belong and be involved. **Make some simple changes to your website, social media platforms and ask at every meeting, "Have we considered our young adults?"**

**4. Food, faith and follow through.** Gatherings should include elements of all the things we are good at and love. We know faith things - prayer, sacraments, theology, social justice, catechesis, Scripture and saints. Share the amazing ways the Church is alive today. Do this in a casual atmosphere with some great food - and not your grandma's pot-luck tuna casserole - be creative and spend some time on Pinterest! The follow through is to not just offer a great event, but to continually invite young adults into relationship - with Jesus, with the parish community, with one another.

**5. Intentional invitation to be a part of parish leadership** - with their lifestyles in mind. Young adults have great ideas, but a long-term commitment on a council or committee isn't going to work. Find ways to include their expertise, opinions and ideas. **Make it easy for them to get involved!**

The key here is really to get to know the young adults in your parish and to commit to making the church a home for them. For a deeper look at Young Adult Ministry - look on a bookshelf in the parish office for "Sons and Daughters of the Light" - the USCCB original document on Young Adults - and the next book, "Connecting Young Adults." Dust them off, take a fresh look at how you can better serve this amazing group!

## Making Connections

This month college students will be home for break in your parishes- it's a great time to check in, meet for coffee and offer support. Take a look at this article from Fuller Youth Institute to fuel some ideas!

[Link to Additional Resources](#)



## A Prayer



Our autumned hearts stand waiting for God's gracious gift.  
Someone is coming whose sandals we aren't worthy to carry.  
Prepare the way of the Lord!

But how do we prepare the way for a King who is not of this world?  
Crowns, red carpets and flowing robes He desires not at all.  
Our ungospelled hearts try to hide - embarrassed at our slowness to respond

to such a gift.  
Poor, cluttered hearts starving for emptiness that makes fullness possible.  
Prepare the way of the Lord!

It is so little that God asks of us. give some evidence that you mean to reform . Wear lights on your hearts instead of on your trees.

Our autumned hearts stand waiting for God's gracious gift. Come Lord Jesus, Come!

Gospel up our lives with your presence and we will wear lights in our hearts that outshine the lights on our trees.

Sister Macrina Wiederkehr, "**Seasons of the Heart**"

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STAY CONNECTED



"We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do." St. Teresa of Calcutta

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