



### **Upcoming Surgery and Recovery:**

On Thursday March 10 I will be placing myself at the skill of another surgeon as I have my ankle strengthened. As many of you know, I have suffered with foot issues since 2005. The most recent surgery worked well and many of the foot ulcers have been eliminated. However, the movement of a tendon weakened my ankle. Even with physical therapy it didn't hold and I want to walk on the side of my foot. This is not sustainable and eventually I will either break the ankle or have a serious infection.

So...I have chosen to have a reconstructive specialist insert a metal rod up my ankle to strengthen and fuse the foot to the ankle. Please keep me, my wife and the surgeon in prayers. I will be in the hospital for about 4 days and then released to come home and recuperate. Once I am released to work, I will work from home.

Beginning March 10 I will not be around digitally. Please direct any questions to Sherri Simmer at [ssimmer@dmdiocese.org](mailto:ssimmer@dmdiocese.org) or Tessa Roberts at [troberts@dmdiocese.org](mailto:troberts@dmdiocese.org). Once I feel better and am released I will respond to questions and calls.

Today's edition of the Growing Disciples E-Newsletter will be the last one until after Easter. Sherri will keep everyone updated by e-mail.

### **Confirmation Retreats?:**

This is the time of the season when we have inquiries about spring Confirmation retreats that colleagues will have in their parishes. We have all had candidates who missed what was planned for them and are looking to what might be available. If you have a retreat that will be held between now and the middle of May, please let Sherri Simmer know at [ssimmer@dmdiocese.org](mailto:ssimmer@dmdiocese.org). Please let us know if you would be open to have someone attend who is not from your parish, if there is a fee, and vital information including date and time. Thank you for your help.

### **Jubilee of Mercy Activities?:**

What ways have you helped your parish lean into the Jubilee of Mercy? Would you like to share them in story form with the rest of the diocese? The April centerfold will be focused on Evangelization and Catechesis and we would like to make you and your parish the star. Let Sherri Simmer know what you have done: pilgrimages, Bible Study using the *Face of Mercy* document, retreats, days of reflection, social justice outreach to those on the fringes, etc. Sherri

will work with our communications department and you to get pictures and interviews so we can share the wonderful work of your parish community with our diocesan community.

Contact us today!

### **Holy Ghost Juniorate Video:**

The video for the Holy Ghost Juniorate is completed and ready for you to share with the children, teens and parents in your programming. The video runs a little over six minutes but is loaded with video, pictures, music and captions so it moves right along. The goal of the video is to frame the narrative as to what has been accomplished with the money that has already been sent to the Holy Ghost Juniorate and show the excellent work by staff and students at the school helping bring significant change to the area.

Thanks again for your help with the Holy Ghost Juniorate outreach. The video directs those who utilize the envelopes we provided you to either put them in the Sunday collection or give them to the DRE, youth minister or their teacher. DVDs can be created if you would like Sherri to make them for you. You can contact her directly at [ssimmer@dmdiocese.org](mailto:ssimmer@dmdiocese.org).

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKZ0AZZXE8U>

### **3 Questions We're Still Asking About Youth Ministry:**

Tom Schwolert, from Vibrant Faith has written an insightful blog about ministry to and with teens.

Here is an excerpt, "I've been thinking and writing about changing youth ministry for a while. I'm also seeing many leaders step out boldly in faith and try new things that have taken them to exciting places in ministry and lead to transformed lives. I am no longer wondering if we can change the way we do youth ministry, I am convinced we not only need to but that it is possible and there is a better way. Not only is there a better way in how we do it, but there are also better ways to think about what we mean when we say "effective youth ministry."

To read more follow this link: [https://www.vibrantfaith.org/2016/03/01/3-questions-were-still-asking-about-youth-ministry/?mc\\_cid=11773b0232&mc\\_eid=5cb858c271](https://www.vibrantfaith.org/2016/03/01/3-questions-were-still-asking-about-youth-ministry/?mc_cid=11773b0232&mc_eid=5cb858c271)

