

Dept. of Evangelization &
Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
May 17, 2017 Edition

“13 Reasons Why Not” – Peers Share Their Own Struggles and People Who Made a Difference:



A few weeks ago, I sent you an e-mail about the Netflix TV Show *13 Reasons Why*. Many mental health experts and other leaders across the country have been critical of this series on many fronts. The attached article from the Washington Post a group of high school seniors who chose to speak up about painful episodes in their lives and be heard that suicide is not the answer. One thing that greatly differs in the approach of the TV series (picked up for a 2nd season) and this peer outreach, the students

“single out a person who has been kind to them, who has helped make life worth living.”

Although this approach may not be something that will be done in the high school(s) your parish ministry takes place, it does show the power of peer ministry programs. Training high school juniors and seniors in peer ministry is one way to apprentice our teens after Confirmation. Not every one of your teens will be interested in this leadership opportunity, but for those whose gifts are in this area, it is well worth the formation you provide.

Please let me know if you would like to begin a peer ministry program. As with all formation, it is important to use credible processes so that the teens can lean into ministry but also know when and how to bring these issues to others who are equipped with training and experience.

Excellent Recorded Webinars Free from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry:

This year NFCYM has created some excellent one-hour webinars. The one held yesterday titled “*Can You Hear Me Now, Strengthening the Spiritual & Prayer Life of Middle Schoolers*” took me back to my middle school programing with some practical suggestions.



Many times the facilitators share resources. With this webinar, the facilitator shared a document she created “Ministry Leader’s Examination of Prayer” which offers an excellent reflective process in which to evaluate this component of your ministry. Attached to this e-newsletter is this resource.

Other excellent webinars I have watched recently include:

- Reinventing the Vision of Young Adult Ministry with Doug Tooke
- 13 Reasons Why: Discussion on Suicide Awareness with Scott Seibert, MSW, LCWS.

To view these recorded free webinars follow this link:

<https://channel.webinar.com/channel/3137548062961020934>

The Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference DCYC Moves to the Iowa Events Center:



Based upon feedback from teens and adult leaders one area we are going to change for DCYC 2017 is its location. To further move towards a conference atmosphere similar to NCYC and the Steubenville

Summer Conferences, we will be utilizing the awesome facilities of the Iowa Events Center.

The date remains Sunday, October 22, 2017. More details to come as we create other new enhancements for teens and pre-teens to encounter God in a day filled with faith, fellowship and joy. These changes will not reflect any changes in cost.

NCYC Parish Commitment Forms due May 22, 2017:

Based upon the number of scholarship applications and initial conversations with parish leaders, NCYC 2017 looks to be an exciting experience for an even larger group of teens and adult chaperones than 2015. Please send in your Parish Commitment Form to our Diocesan

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry soon so we have it by May 22, 2017. The form is attached to this e-newsletter.



This information helps us to continue planning for this fall. **The Diocese will not be asking for a deposit per person to accompany the form this year but I do recommend that you charge one and keep that money in your parish NCYC parish account until you are billed in October. This ensures more commitment on the part of your teens and adults.**

For those of you who are interested but have never taken a group to NCYC, call me and we can set a time to visit about the many spiritual benefits for your youth and parish by participating in

this pilgrimage. Sherri and I work very hard to make this an enjoyable experience for your teens and adults. Contact me at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org or by calling 515-237-5026.

