



Finding Your Calling – Article from GV Magazine (Grand View University):

Recently I was touched by an article on vocation from one of our local universities in Des Moines: Grand View University (an ELCA Lutheran school.) The article uses vocational language as the foundation for how they have structured vocation in every aspect of student life. Several students and faculty members share out their vocation story throughout the article. The article itself is broken into the following subsections:

- What is Vocation?
- Vocation Today at Grand View
- Transforming Lives: Celebrate Vocation
- What the Research Shows

The University even has a Celebrating Vocations Week during March to spotlight sharing one's gifts with others. The message for the initial week was, "It's about YOU, your giftedness, your calling, your passion, your desire to give back."

I think you will find this short article full of great ideas that you might be able to co-opt into your own parish programming this year. We are currently in National Vocations Awareness Week by the USCCB and this time is set aside by the USCCB as an opportunity to share with children, teens and families the universal call to holiness along with information about specific callings to the priesthood, consecrated life and married/family life.

The link to the Grand View Magazine article (begins on page 8) is:

http://www.grandview.edu/UserDocs/e_alumni_mag/gv_mag_summer14/index.html#/10/

The link to the USCCB resources on National Vocation Awareness Week is:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/national-vocation-awareness-week.cfm>

Youth Ministry Rally – Unbury Your Treasure – November 15 & 16:

The Diocesan Youth Rally is a fantastic opportunity for teens of the diocese to gather with Bishop Pates and the rest of our young Church to grow deeper in their relationship with Christ and the Church. This day is also planned so that we can team with you and add the element of the larger Universal Church to your parish ministry.

The day is powerful and prayerful and features:

- Keynote by Chris Mueller – *“Chris is a truly gifted speaker. Not only is he incredibly knowledgeable of the Catholic faith but the man is funny! He makes me want to learn more about my faith. It's so great to have someone who can make being Catholic cool!”*
– Judy McDonald, Catholic Comedian and Speaker

video link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxZOybzYIeY#t=23>

- Praise and Worship music similar to CYC
- Service opportunity to feed others in poverty
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (high school day only)
- Great Food and Fun
- Mass with Bishop Pates

As you can see the Diocesan Youth Council and our office of youth ministry has put together a dynamic day for you. Cost is only \$20.00 per person or \$30.00 if you want a t-shirt.

Registration is easy by following this link and entering the information about your teens and chaperones. We will bill you later. We will continue to accept registrations but would love to have them by tomorrow, October 30 so that we plan enough food and order the right amount of t-shirts. Register on-line today at: <http://www.dmdiocese.org/youthrally.cfm>

So “Unbury Your Treasure” us as we celebrate our Catholic faith with the young Church of the Diocese of Des Moines.

Seekers Young Adult Retreat at the Saint Thomas More Center – December 12-13, 2014:

The Seekers’ Retreat is designed to meet the specific needs of people between twenty and thirty years of age. Rooted in Ignatian spirituality, this retreat places an emphasis on finding God in all things, especially through living and reflecting on everyday experiences. Ignatian spirituality also offers a simple introduction to prayer as well as providing uncomplicated and well-developed methods of discernment. Therefore, wherever you may find yourself on your Christian journey, this retreat has something for you.

This 24 hour retreat presents an intentional time of reflection for young adults seeking insight and understanding for some of these major life questions. Reach out to young adults in your parish and see if they will join the retreat team for some much needed quiet, speak with a spiritual director, and hear how peers encounter God in their lives, in their relationships, and in their work.

For more information or if young adults in your parish are looking for registration materials please use the following link: <http://www.stmcenter.com/young-adult-ministry-1>

The cost is \$45.00 per person which includes all meals and supplies. For any questions please contact Alex Kautzky at 515-309-1936 or retreats.stmc@gmail.com

Prayer to Know One’s Vocation:

Lord, my God and my loving Father, you have made me to know you, to love you, to serve you, and thereby to find and to fulfill my deepest longings. I know that you are in all things, and that every path can lead me to you.

But of them all, there is one especially by which you want me to come to you. Since I will do what you want of me, I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind, to show me what you want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all of my strength right to the end. Jesus, I trust in you. Amen.

(Source is USCCB)

