



San Fernando Pastoral Region Ministry With Young Adults Newsletter

No. 4

Winter 2006

www.sfmya.org

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Young adults are called to lead the church



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. ARVIZU/SFMYA
FOCUSED — Top, a young adult listens to a presentation by Bishop Gerald Wilkerson during Santa Clarita's Theology on Tap sessions in October 2004, and above, a young couple listens to Wilkerson during the San Fernando Region's "Rebuild My Church" sessions in 2005.

BY BISHOP
GERALD WILKERSON

While the Catholic Church continues to take a beating in the media, for the most part, it seems to me that our church is on the verge of a new flowering, of opening the door to a new surge of vitality and richness.

Young adults will be the main players in this renewed church, since it is your gifts that will bring about this resurgence.

As many of you know, the fewer number of ordained priests is calling forth the giftedness of the entire baptized community in staffing our parish communities. Already, deacons, women and men religious, and lay women and men have been given the responsibility of leading parish communities here in the United States.

Canon 517, Paragraph 2, of church law states that the bishop may appoint someone other than a priest to oversee the pastoral care of a parish. In the Archdiocese of Los Angeles there are two such parishes that have a nun as the pastor.

See *LEAD*, Page 2

Dialogue with the bishops

BY DENNIS H. YOUNG

In 2001, Cardinal Roger Mahony announced a call for the first Synod in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to involve the laity.

Eager to be heard, parishioners from Santa Barbara, to Long Beach and Lancaster, shuffled into a series of local parish listening sessions to let their voices be heard.

Among the hundreds of ideas, six general themes emerged. Now, five years later, these initiatives are being implemented, and the bishops are asking "What's the best way to do this?"

To answer this question, the bishops have formed regional councils made up primarily of laity to advise them. The problem is the lack of young adults in their 20s and 30s to advise them on the future of the church in Los Angeles.

These decisions will affect the church for decades — the bishops not only want your input, they absolutely *need* it.

To find out more about the work of the Synod and the councils,

See *SYNOD*, Page 6

SFMYA presents Fr. Alexander Lewis in TOT II

BY REV. ALEXANDER LEWIS

He presents 'Living in the Present Moment: The Balancing Act,' as part of PIES — living a Physical Intellectual, Emotional and Spiritual Life

San Fernando MYA presents the Rev. Alexander Lewis in a Theology on Tap II presentation, "Living in the Present Moment: The Balancing Act," as part of PIES — living a Physical Intellectual, Emotional and Spiritual Life — on Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Parish.

PIES is all about keeping a balance in our Physical, Intellectual, Emotional and Spiritual

life.

Taking care of yourself is not selfish.

As we work toward balance in life, we nurture strength for our service to the church community and the world.

Please join us for an evening of reflection on PIES as a way of living a more whole and holy life.

The PIES we ought to digest are the ones that help keep us centered in

the sacrament of the present moment. God only lives in the present moment. With Him there is no past or future, only an ever present "present moment." This is the place where Jesus lives with us in a relationship of unconditional love. We only have this moment.

Right now there is no other moment.

The main ingredient in life is to live in God's

love.

Taking care of the PIES is not an option, it is a necessity and pure gift.


Bring a pillow or cushion for the meditation.

St. Francis Xavier Parish is at 3801 Scott Road in Burbank.

For more information, call Denise Sims at (818) 421-2644, e-mail tot@sfmya.org or visit www.sfmya.org/tot.



Rev. Alexander Lewis



San Fernando Pastoral Region
Ministry With Young Adults Newsletter

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In these cases, a priest who may be retired or has another full-time ministry during the week (teaching, working at the diocesan office, etc.) is appointed as the priest minister for the parish and is responsible for administering the sacraments and officiating at Sunday Masses. This arrangement requires that all the people of the parish take a more active role in its mission than ever before. This is why you are so important even now.

A parish "works" because the gifts of all the baptized are allowed to flourish so that it becomes a home for everyone.

At the same time, while this new model is exciting, we should never forget that our baptism

'Young adults will be the main players in this renewed church, since it is your gifts that will bring about this resurgence.'

calls each of us to work in the world to build up the body of Christ.

You must sanctify the neighborhood where you live, the place where you work, the school that you attend.

You are the one called to sanctify the professional world, the working world, the world of education and business and home. As Pope Benedict XVI has said so often, "The church is young!"

Roman Catholic feast days: Lent through Easter 2006

March

- 1, Ash Wednesday
- 3, St. Katharine Drexel
- 4, St. Casimir
- 5, First Sunday of Lent
- 7, Sts. Perpetua and Felicity
- 8, St. John of God
- 9, St. Frances of Rome
- 14, Purim
- 17, St. Patrick
- 18, St. Cyril of Jerusalem
- 20, St. Joseph
- 23, St. Toribio de Mogrovejo
- 25, The Annunciation of the Lord

April

- 4, St. Isidore
- 5, St. Vincent Ferrer
- 7, St. John Baptist de la Salle
- 13, Holy Thursday
- 14, Good Friday
- 15, Holy Saturday
- 16, Easter Sunday
- 24, St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
- 25, St. Mark
- 28, St. Peter Chanel
- St. Louis Mary de Montfort
- 29, St. Catherine of Siena

How to contact your young adult representatives

SAN FERNANDO REGION

Regi Meehan
(661) 202-0995

regi.meehan@sfmya.org

L.A. ARCHDIOCESE

Sheryl Lange
(213) 637-7354

smlange@la-archdiocese.org

Get involved in SFMYA — join the advisory board

The Young Adult Advisory board was established to keep the bishop informed, to help develop MYA in the region and to share infor-

mation among young adult leaders.

If you would like to serve on this board or learn more about it, e-mail board@sfmya.org.

Looking for something to do?

Check out these events from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and young adult ministries. For more events or to submit an event, visit our eCalendar at www.sfmya.org or e-mail at calendar@sfmya.org.

BY REGI MEEHAN

First Sunday of every other month, through Oct. 1 | 3 p.m.

“Jet Stream in the Spirit”

St. Finbar Parish Hall
2010 W. Olive Ave., Burbank

Come celebrate the Spirit with other young adults in a relaxed atmosphere and give your spiritual life a charge.

For more information, call (818) 771-1361, e-mail spirit@fea.net or visit www.sccc.org.

Feb. 11 | 7 p.m.

“11th Annual Celebrating Young Adults in Ministry”

St. Monica
725 California Ave., Santa Monica

This Los Angeles Archdiocese-wide event celebrates, affirms and recognizes the leadership skills

and gifts young adults bring to ministry.

Come and support the honorees.

For more information, call Sheryl Lange at (213) 637-7354 or e-mail smlange@la-archdiocese.org at smlange@la-archdiocese.org.

Feb. 21 | 7:30 p.m.

“God’s Chosen Sinners Living With God,”

Presented by Sister Karen Wilhelmy

Sacred Heart Parish Kesterson Learning Center, 45007 N. Cedar Ave., Lancaster

Sister Karen Wilhelmy, from St. Andrew’s Abbey, is the director for retreats at Valyermo.

She will explore the different ways that one can make amends with someone and how to overcome the hurts we have all suffered from those we care for or love.

How do we seek forgiveness or forgive



Photo courtesy St. Mary’s Seminary

GROTTO AT SUNRISE — The Antelope Valley Ministry With Young Adults will host its third annual retreat May 5 to 7. This year’s retreat, “Lost? Fine Tune Your Spiritual Compass,” will be held at St. Mary’s Seminary in Santa Barbara. Above, the center’s grotto overlooks the Pacific Ocean.

others as Jesus has asked us to do?

March 31 to April 2

Religious Education Congress 2006

“Step Into Freedom”

Anaheim Convention Center
800 W. Katella Ave., Anaheim

Sponsored by the Los Angeles Archdiocese Office of Religious Education, this is the largest annual gathering of Roman Catholics.

Last year’s Religious Education Congress drew over 38,000 people.

This event represents many different cultures, provides entertainment and exhibits, and offers a variety of speakers on a wide range of topics.

Some topics that caught our eye include:

“Soul Formation: The Foundation for Positive

Self Esteem,” presented by Patricia M. McCormack; “Purpose Driven and Catholic,” presented by Lloyd Torgerson; “Contemporary Myths About Catholics and Their Church,” presented by James D. Davidson; “Forgiveness: Freeing the Pain that Binds Us,” presented by Sr. Barbara Fiand; and “The Future of

Ministry in the Catholic Church: Our Best Hopes,” presented by Thomas H. Groome.

Register now — it’s a weekend you won’t forget.

For more information or to register, call the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Religious Education at (213) 637-7348 or e-

See **EVENTS**, Page 4



Photo courtesy Religious Education Congress
WELL, DO YOU? — A 2005 Religious Education Congress participant dons a “Got Jesus?” T-shirt during the Religious Education Congress Youth Day Lunch.

Get the word out about your young adult event with www.SFMYA.org

BY MICHAEL J. ARVIZU

The San Fernando Pastoral Region Ministry With Young Adults launched its Web site in February 2004 with the goal of allowing young adult ministries to link and share information vital to the success of their ministry. Among the facets of the SFMYA Web site is the eCalendar. This is the portal to view upcoming young adult events in the San Fernando Region.

But it doesn't stop with San Fernando. The calendar is also more organized — events will be posted with regard to the regions events are taking place in — as we are expanding our coverage this year to encompass the entire archdiocese. Specifically, the calendar, in cooperation with the archdiocese's Ministry With Young Adults

Office, will cover ongoing and monthly young adult ministry activities in each of the five regions of our archdiocese: San Pedro, Santa Barbara, San Fernando, San Gabriel and Our Lady of the Angels.

So if you want to promote your event on a larger scale, SFMYA's eCalendar is the way to go. Our site is visited by thousands of young adults each month, many from neighboring regions, who are looking for young adult events to attend or volunteer at. Make the effort now and publish your event in our eCalendar.

If you have questions, e-mail us at calendar@sfmya.org.

Remember, you can submit your event easily by using our submission form. You can find the Submit Event link throughout the eCalendar.

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mail at recongress@aol.com or visit www.recongress.org.

May 5 to 7

Antelope Valley Ministry With Young Adults Third Annual Retreat: "Lost? Fine Tune Your Spiritual Compass"

St. Mary's Seminary and Retreat Center, 1964 Las Canoas Road, Santa Barbara

Join us for a reflective, spiritually uplifting weekend. There will be presentations, fellowship, small faith sharing groups, meditation, a hike, stations of the cross and Mass.

Cost is \$120 per person and includes food and two nights lodging.

Deadline to register is March 15.

Space is limited. For more information or to

register, call Tina Calderon at (661) 916-2460 or e-mail at grandambabe@sbcglobe.net.

young adult group, call Sister Bryant at (213) 637-7517 or e-mail at srkbryant@la-archdiocese.org.

DISCERNMENT WORKSHOP

What does God have planned for you?

Where is the road leading you?

What path are you following?

And more importantly, what path or direction are you drawn to?

There are so many important decisions to be made in our lives — decisions about our work, ourselves and our relationships.

Interested in learning how to make important decisions within a Catholic faith context?

Sister Kathy Bryant of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles will present workshops using the process of St. Ignatius of Loyola to help in faith formation.

If you would like a workshop for your

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASSES

St. Mary's Parish 1600 E. Ave. R-4, Palmdale

Feb. 21 / 7 p.m.

St. Mary's Church in Palmdale presents a healing Mass with the Rev. Michael Sears.

March 21 / 7 p.m.

St. Mary's Church in Palmdale presents a healing Mass with the Rev. Jerry Thompson.

April 18 / 7 p.m.

St. Mary's Church in Palmdale presents a healing Mass with the Rev. Abbot Francis

For more information, call Celia Cedillo at (661) 272-6880, or e-mail crcedillo@hotmail.com.

PETRUS, Vision offer opportunities for faith enrichment

PETRUS

PETRUS provides solid Catholic teaching, a live band and Eucharistic praise and worship. It is a meeting for youth groups, confirmation students and all teens. PETRUS is held the second Saturday of the month from 6 to 9 p.m.

No RSVP is required, and an admission fee is never charged.

Vision

Vision provides solid Catholic teaching, discussion, adult fellowship, Eucharistic praise and worship, with a live music ministry, to the par-

ents of teens and confirmation sponsors each second Saturday of the month from 6 to 9 p.m.

This program meets simultaneously with PETRUS, the monthly youth meeting sponsored by the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles.

Vision topics for 2005-2006 are correlated to the PETRUS teaching themes in order to assist parents and sponsors in their roles of teachers and Christian witness.

The instructor for these presentations is Sister Carmelina Leland of the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles.

Sister Leland has a

master's degree in theology and catechetics from the Notre Dame Pontifical Institute. She has extensive and wide ranging experience teaching at both the high school and adult levels in California, Florida and Oregon.

TOPICS

Feb. 11, 2006

"Love Is Not for Wimps — The Commandments & the Cross: Obedience and Death to Self in Christian Life"

March 11, 2006

"Love Speaks —



TWO AS ONE — PETRUS and Vision offer teens and young adults the opportunity to learn more about their faith through a series of presentations.

Personal Prayer: Why to, How to (and we dare you to, too!)"

April 8, 2006

"Following Love's Leadings — My Body: It's All About Him"

May 13, 2006

"The Love that Never Ends — Heaven and My Body"

St. Joseph's Center is at 507 N. Granada Ave. in Alhambra.

For more information, call St. Joseph's Center at (626) 289-0223 or Sister Benedicta Marie at (626) 289-1353, ext. 800, or e-mail St. Joseph's at petrusyouth@yahoo.com.

These talks are sponsored by the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Antelope Valley Ministry With Young Adults

BY JOE SIBOLBORO AND TINA CALDERON

Antelope Valley Ministry With Young Adults (AVMYA) started in August 2000.

AVMYA consists of Sacred Heart Parish, 45007 N. Cedar Ave. in Lancaster; St. Mary's Parish, 1600 E. Ave. R4 in Palmdale; and Blessed Junipero Serra Parish, 42121 N. 60th St. W. in Quartz Hill.

We minister to young adults through spiritual, service and social activities.

Spiritual activities have included an annual retreat, faith sharing and eucharistic adoration.

Service activities have included the support of Saint Vincent de Paul food drives, Christmas caroling to shut-ins and the Relay Walk for Life fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society.

Social activities have included scuba diving, swing dancing, bowling and Christmas concerts featuring young adult musicians.

AVMYA meetings are held the first Wednesday



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. ARVIZU/SFMYA
The Antelope Valley Ministry With Young Adults comprises, from top, Sacred Heart, St. Mary and Blessed Junipero Serra parishes.

of the month at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call Joe Sibolboro at (661) 942-8887, e-mail isabelojr@aol.com, or call Tina Calderon at (661) 916-2460 or e-mail grandambabe@sbcglobal.net.

Our Lady of Grace Faith in Numbers

BY BARBARA ANN SLADKY

Faith in Numbers (FIN), Our Lady of Grace's young adult group in Encino, is celebrating its first birthday this month.

With more than 70 members, FIN welcomes young adults in their 20s and 30s, single, married, divorced or widowed.

See *FIN*, Page 6

Holy Family Catholic Actions Through Service

BY JEFFREY DE LEON

Holy Family's ministry with young adults is Catholic Actions Through Service or CATS.

The group started as a Bible scripture reading, reflection and sharing during the six weeks of Lent with the Rev. John Kyebasuta

Our ministry had its beginnings at these meetings. The group grew in April when we held a membership drive.

We have approximately 21 young adults involved in the ministry.

We are young adults, ages 20 to 30, enjoying life.

We meet every second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

Our goal and mission



PHOTO COURTESY HOLY FAMILY PARISH
Catholic Actions Through Service, Holy Family Parish's ministry with young adults, started as a Bible class.

is to provide opportunities for young adults to participate more in church life through community service while at the same time enjoying activities like tours, visitations and sports.

For more information, e-mail Jeffrey De Leon at jeejay98@yahoo.com.

Holy Family Parish is at 209 E. Lomita Ave. in Glendale

Santa Clarita Valley Ministry With Young Adults

BY ENRIQUE BAEZ

In September 2003, six young adults gathered in the relative emptiness of St. Clare of Assisi's large parish hall. There was an overwhelming feeling of what would become of our new young adult ministry.

Just then, eight young adults walked in and, thus, began the cooperation of three distinct parishes in the Santa Clarita Valley.

With a strong drive to grow, the young adult



PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. ARVIZU/SFMYA
The Santa Clarita Valley Ministry With Young Adults began in September 2003 at St. Clare's Parish.

ministries of St. Clare of Assisi, Blessed Kateri and Our Lady of Perpetual Help

See *SCV*, Page 6

Testimonials

MEET ...
Santiago Solares
and Melissa Solares:

San Fernando MYA

“We joined SFMYA in 2004 after getting married and moving to Santa Clarita.

“We teach Natural Family Planning and eighth grade CCD at St. Clare’s and attend many of the

young adult events where we’ve found very good Christian friends and useful and practical information.

“We believe it is extremely important for young married couples to be present in order to bring family life (the vocation of many young adults) into the ministry.

“Our sincere thanks to Bishop [Gerald] Wilkerson and all who work with him.”

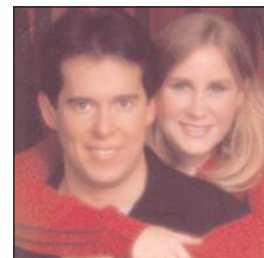


PHOTO COURTESY THE SOLARES FAMILY

Let your voice be heard — work in a Synod committee

SYNOD, From Page 1
visit www.archdiocese.la/synod/.

Within each regional council are committees that work together to implement each of the six Synod Initiatives.

Each of these initiatives is already impacting the church in Los Angeles.

Your voice needs to be heard, and your impact is guaranteed to be tremendous.

The invitation is out there.

Will you accept it?

Do any of the initiatives at right interest you?

Your voice can con-

tinue to be heard by joining one of the Synod’s committees.

The time commitment is minimal — figure on attending one two-hour meeting each month.

For more information, call Dennis Young at (661) 609-0083 or e-mail dennis.young@sfmya.org.

FIN, From Page 5

We hold one social event each month and four spiritual/service events throughout the year.

Some of our past events include Mass at the beach, Malibu sunset hiking, volley-

ball and reading “The Purpose Driven Life.”

We held a Hurricane Katrina relief benefit in November and an ice skating event in December. For more information on Faith in Numbers, visit the

ministry’s Web site at www.ourladyofgrace.org/fin or e-mail at fin@ourladyofgrace.org.

Our Lady of Grace Church is at 5011 White Oak Ave. in Encino.

SYNOD INITIATIVES

1. New Evangelization

Calls for the spreading of God’s word

2. Structures for Participation, Accountability

Calls for proactive lay involvement and participation in the Church

3. Ongoing Education, Formation; Young Adults, Youth

Calls for more faith-based education programs

4. Ministry, Leadership: Lay, Consecrated Life, Ordained

Examines the role of all of us as “ministers” in our church

5. Eucharist, Sacramental Living

Calls for each parish to give priority to the Sunday celebration of Mass as the primary occasion and opportunity for revitalizing the spiritual life of the community

6. Social Justice: Living at the Service of God’s Reign

On all levels, active collaboration with civil and religious institutions to improve the quality of life in the local community is to be fostered.

SCV, From Page 5

began to “cluster” or participate and cooperate in each other’s events in an effort to help each group thrive.

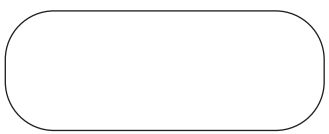
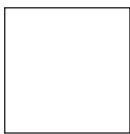
We have worked together to bring events such as Theology on Tap II with Bishop Wilkerson and Fr. Alexander Lewis, and an annual Christmas social.

Theology on Tap II with Bishop Gerald Wilkerson was presented Nov. 6. Pope John Paul II’s Theology of the Body was discussed.

Each young adult ministry group conducts individual activities as well. For more information, call Orien Broderick at St. Clare’s young adults at (661) 755-4656; Andy Kubasak at Our Lady of Perpetual Help at (661) 714-1811; or Matt Murphy at Blessed Kateri at (661) 212-8979.

St. Clare of Assisi Parish is at 19606 Calla Way in Santa Clarita; Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Parish is at 22508 Copper Hill Drive in Santa Clarita; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church is at 23233 Lyons Ave. in Santa Clarita.

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Ministry With Young Adults**
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Visit the TOT page at www.sfmya.org/tot