

# Catholic Youth Today

CAPUCHIN YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES



FALL 2009

## WELCOME CAP CORPS VOLUNTEERS!



### CATHOLIC YOUTH TODAY

is published by the Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries on behalf of the teenagers and adults who make up our ministry and our benefactors who support our ministry

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Sleeping On A Mat?!	2
Executive Director's Column	3
R & R - Renew & Refresh	3
Ask The Padre	4
G.I.F.T. - Growing in Faith Together	4
DDA Leadership	4
DDA #211	5
DDA #212	5
CCV Perspective	6
Capuchin Outreach Mission (COP)	6
Where Are They Now	7
15th Annual Awards and Senior Recognition	8
Capuchin Appalachian Mission (CAM)	9
Donor Lists	10-11
Upcoming Events	12
Announcements	12

**C**ara Annese is a graduate of Assumption College in Worcester, MA. She calls Cranston, Rhode Island home. While at Assumption she was involved in many campus ministry programs such as the chapel choir and was on team for many retreats held throughout the year for both students and area confirmation classes. She was also a part of spring break service trips while at Assumption to both New Orleans and Baltimore. She is very excited to begin her year of service here at CYFM. She looks forward to all that she will get to experience and witness through all of the retreats and programs this year. She hopes to portray the experiences and witnesses of the CYFM community by putting together the CYFM newsletter. She is very thankful for all of the support she is already receiving while here. She hopes this year continues to go as well, and is as exciting as what she has already experienced to this point.



Cara Annese

**A**nthony Iraola is a familiar face here at CYFM, as he was an active teenager here when he was a student at Mahopac High School. After graduation, Anthony went to college at The College of Saint Rose, in Albany, NY, where he graduated with a degree in Business Administration with a Concentration in Management. While at college, Anthony was heavily involved with BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in



Anthony Iraola

Christ) and also established a Praise and Worship Ministry at the college. Anthony is excited to once again be a part of the CYFM community, now as a CCV, and cannot wait to share his love of faith and music with our amazing community. Anthony is also the Special Events Liaison, as he will be helping our CYFM staff to plan our major events, such as the Fall Lock-In and Family Festiva/ God's TYM Olympics.

**M**ary Kate Lowe's home parish is St. Anastasia's in Harriman, NY. She

graduated from Orange County Community with an Associate in Liberal Arts and then from Millersville University in Lancaster, PA with a Bachelors of Arts in Social Work. While at Millersville she was a member of the University Christian Fellowship organization where she began their first dance ministry group. UCF allowed her to be part of care groups, retreats and Outlet, a time for praise and worship. Having a passion for dance she was also part of Expressions Dance Group at MU. Having been involved with CYFM as a teenager, Mary Kate has come to know and love the mission and community of CYFM. She is very excited to be back for a year as a CCV to help others grow in their faith. For the upcoming year she will be the Liturgical Liaison, helping Fr. Fred with masses as well as the Peer Minister Liaison.



Mary Kate Lowe

*(continued on Page 2)*

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**B**rian Niemiec grew up in Cranford, New Jersey, and comes to CYFM after graduating from The Catholic University of America. While there he received a B.A. in politics, with minors in philosophy and theology. At CUA, Brian was involved in a number of activities. He was an active member of the Campus Ministry program. Brian participated in homeless food runs and volunteered in soup kitchens. He went on a mission trip to Jamaica during the spring break of his sophomore year, and then returned as a leader of the trip the following year. Brian also served as a student minister in an underclassman dorm his senior year helping students grow in their faith. Brian was also involved in student government, Redline A Cappella, a barbershop quartet, and the Chamber Choir. During his junior year, Brian, along with 15 other undergrad and grad students had the honor of singing for Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to Catholic University. Following in a long line of CUA grads, Brian heard of CYFM from others who have been through the



Brian Niemiec

Cap Corps program. He is very excited about the ministry that is done at CYFM, and especially excited about the opportunity to touch so many lives during this year of service.

**K**atie-Sue Scullin is originally from Liverpool, New York, and graduated from Christian Brothers Academy High School in Syracuse. From there, Katie-Sue attended Providence College where she enjoyed a rich spiritual, social and intellectual atmosphere, thanks to her friends and mentors. At Providence, Katie was on the women's tennis team and involved in numerous Campus Ministry groups including: Music Ministry, Providence College for Life, Youth Ministry, and various retreat programs. She feels blessed to be a part of such a welcoming and supportive community here at CYFM, and is thankful for the privilege to work with teenagers throughout the year.



Katie-Sue Scullin

## SLEEPING ON A MAT?!

**W**ho wants to sleep on a mat? I do not know many people who would willingly give up the opportunity to sleep in a cozy bed in exchange for a hard floor with only a small mat for comfort. However this is exactly what 73 teens and adults do every year during CYFM's service trip to Kentucky. Even more, it is what the early Franciscans did during the famous Chapter of Mats.

The original Chapter of Mats occurred 800 years ago when St. Francis called together 5,000 friars for prayer and communal discernment. The Franciscan fraternity was expanding quickly because so many were attracted to the friars' simplicity, joy, community life, prayer and service. No place could accommodate such a large gathering of friars so they all slept on mats outside the small chapel of St. Mary of the Angels in Assisi. And that's how the gathering (Chapter) got it's name.

During this meeting Francis encouraged his friars to imitate Christ and so to live in perfect poverty and simplicity. The friars committed themselves to prayer and a communal religious life in hermitages outside the city and in solitary places. Their prayer and community life spilled into the neighboring cities where the friars preached and served.

800 years later people are still attracted to the spirit in which Francis lived the Gospel life. Simplicity, joy, community life, prayer and service are still the central hallmarks of our ministry at CYFM vividly experienced especially during our Outreach Missions in Garrison, NY (Capuchin Outreach Program - COP) and Harlan, KY (Capuchin Appalachian Mission - CAM).



I believe St. Francis would love the schedule of our Outreach Programs. It fulfills perfectly what Francis called his early friars to do. We rise early and gather for our morning prayer followed by a quick breakfast. We then go out in small groups to our different ministry sites. We return around 3:30 and wash up (in Kentucky it means a dip in a nearby lake because there are no showers) and get ready for supper. After the meal we have a time of silent reflection before we gather in small groups in what is called Theological Reflection to share where we experienced Christ in our day. Finally we gather about the altar as brothers and sisters and celebrate Eucharist giving thanks to God for the joys and challenges of the day.

So who wants to sleep on a mat? WE DO! And at CYFM we do all of this with great joy and enthusiasm. We come together to pray, hear and share the word of God, deepen our relationships with Christ and one another. Refreshed and reinvigorated we return home to share our encounter with God with our family, friends and neighbors. Hey! That sounds like the original Chapter of Mats! At CYFM we get to celebrate a mini Chapter of Mats every day during our outreach programs!

~ Br. Lake

*N.B. I am exceedingly grateful to Fr. Fred for his insights and major portions of this article.*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Anyone who experiences the Christian community that God has created in Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries knows that we have a very special gift here. Part of our Strategic Planning Process conducted over the past couple of months included reflecting on and articulating "core values" that inspire and permeate all that we do. Below you will find the fruits of the reflection by the group of 20 members of our community who gathered to create the plan for CYFM. Our experience has been that as people read through these, they are familiar. There are no surprises. And that is the way it should be. Our community lives these values.

We publish these as a reminder of who we are. We acknowledge that God calls us to grow in these Gospel values He has entrusted to the CYFM community. By growing more deeply in our love for God, through fidelity to our mission, and adhering to these core values we will renew the young and domestic church by nurturing faith and taking action to serve God by serving our brothers and sisters.



### Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries' Core Values:

- The charisms of St. Francis of Assisi inspire everything that we do. For this reason, Jesus Christ is the center of our ministry. Our ministry helps youth and families to know and to encounter Jesus personally, and not just to have abstract knowledge about Him.
- We believe in young people and in their ability to be authentic and responsible leaders in the Church and in society.
- Grace-filled relationships are at the heart of a Christian community. We are committed to nurturing such relationships as the most effective way to evangelize young people and their families and as a privileged way to experience God's love.
- We respect and support family as the first community and as the domestic church in which young people live.
- We believe in collaboration and partnership among friars and lay people within our ministry and with people in the broader community we hope to serve. We respect the different gifts that each person brings to the community and to the ministry.

~ Tom Brinkmann

## R & R - Renew and Refresh

R & R was a really big deal to me this year. I really wanted to connect with some old friends from COP 09 and make some new ones. As a senior this year, to go on R&R was one of my goals. I really enjoyed this retreat. It made CYFM seem like more of a family to me rather than just a community of friends I could always rely on. The bonfire on Friday night made all of us on the retreat feel that much more connected. We seemed to all be having a good time and were all excited about the weekend we had ahead of us.

The theme of the weekend was missions. We discussed different missions in which we could be involved. We found out that not only are we needed around the world but also right where we live. We even got to design our own "dream mission" which we were told might be used to help develop our journal for next year's COP and CAM. We also learned that you don't have to travel to be a missionary; there are plenty of ways to

help out in your own "backyard". This theme inspired me to get more involved with my community back home. And it furthered my desire to travel as a missionary to Africa and do mission work there.



By the end of the weekend I felt as if I had gained another part of my already large family. To say I had a lot of fun is an understatement. I loved that I got to spend time with the people in the retreat community and also with God himself. I saw God in ways I never thought possible. I also enjoyed spending two weekends in a row with our new

Cap Corps Volunteers. They are absolutely amazing and I can tell they are going to have a really great year. R&R was definitely one of those retreats that I consider at the top of my list...of course along with DDA!

~ Ashley Heckert



## ASK THE PADRE

### **C**an someone not confirmed marry in the Church?

In my last seven years here at CYFM I have seen many relationships being formed. Young people come seeking to find or deepen their relationship with God or as in the case of our Cap Corp Volunteers to give a year of service to God and the community and something else that is wonderful happens – a new friendship or relationship is formed sometimes leading to a permanent commitment in the Sacrament of Marriage. In the past year alone I am aware of three couples each of which came to find and serve God and also found each other and committed themselves to each other in marriage. There's Joe and Becky, April and Sean, and Jay and Kerry who many years ago as teenagers or young adults came to deepen their relationship with God and found also a deep relationship with each other. God is never outdone in generosity. This all leads to the question I am often asked. What if each of them discovered that their fiancée was not confirmed? Should their reaction be: "Oh no! We can't be married in the Church!!" Sad to say that many young people who come to prepare for Confirmation at CYFM do so with that belief in mind. The good news is the church does not require Confirmation before marriage. Confirmation has always been a sacrament that an individ-



ual must be allowed to choose to receive or not receive, with no penalties ever being attached to not receiving it. The bad news is some young people receive Confirmation primarily because they believe it is necessary to be married in the church. It is true that the church strongly encourages the faithful to accept this sacrament but for each of the following reasons or a combination of them. To some it represents the maturing of an individual in the faith; to others it is a personal commitment of the individual to active membership in the faith; to others it is a personal ratification or acceptance of the commitment made for one by one's parents at baptism; for others it represents the so-called "baptism in the Spirit." All are good reasons to be confirmed or "make strong" my beliefs in the Catholic Faith. The very word means:

Con – "with" and firm – "strong" or to make strong. Confirmation should be a personal desire to "confirm" or "make strong" my relationship with God and the Church. Oh and congratulations to Joe and Becky, April and Sean and Jay and Kerry. May you have many happy years together and may God always be a part of your Sacrament of Marriage. May your Faith always be strong!

~ Friar Fred

## G.I.F.T. – GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

**I**n late August I attended the Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) leadership retreat at CYFM. On GIFT I learned how to be a good leader, not only on CYFM retreats, but at my own parish and in school. I learned many important aspects of being a good leader; like how to facilitate a small group, and how to communicate more effectively with a group or one on one. What I found really important was that to be a good leader you have to be aware of your gifts and gaps and that you don't have to do all the work yourself. You can and should use other people's gifts to make everything run smoothly.

Outside of the learning modules I also discovered valuable skills from just being on the retreat and watching team members as they presented their topics. I used the skills I learned right away. I am now assisting in teaching a religious education class at my parish. While on GIFT I was able to gain not only leadership skills but I was able to become more confident in myself. I will continue to use what I learned on this retreat in everyday life and on team for retreats at CYFM.

~ Erin O'Neill



## *DDA Leadership*

**I** left DDA 211 fired up with love. Love for Christ, love for the whole world. It was a great experience, one that I will never forget. But very quickly my inflamed heart seemed to run out of fuel. The world was choking the flames. Leadership came at the right time and permanently set my heart ablaze.

For about three weeks before the weekend, I was already counting down the days. Each day on my calendar had a little blue number in the corner counting down the number of school days remaining and a huge red number written in sharpie counting down to THE weekend. On Friday afternoon as soon as I walked into the building, I felt at home.

After throwing all my stuff down in my room, I raced down the stairs and ran outside to meet my new family. There were many new faces around but many familiar ones as well. However by the end of the evening, I felt like I had known each and every person for a lifetime. Everyone was so open and friendly. We shared so many stories, some hilarious, some sad, some disgusting, some horrifying. But we all enjoyed each others' company. Love, joy, and laughter crammed the air. The friendships I made on my leadership are priceless. I had finally found a group that truly loved each other and most importantly adored Christ!

The most impacting people of the entire retreat were the members on Team. They were each a model to me in their own way. They all showed me what it means to be leader

through their talks and through their infinite kindness and inspiring example. They were true blessings from God. They taught us the importance of leaders in the DDA community and in the entire world. The world needs strong leaders, and they all helped us understand how to lead fairly and with love.

My Leadership was the most impacting and helpful experience of my life. I will always cherish the life lessons and the friendships I made. Thank you so much to all who helped me experience this weekend.

GOD BLESS

~ Thibault Vincent



DDA #211

**M**y experience at C.Y.F.M. is indescribable. At first I did not want to go. It is hard for me to say that now because the minute I got there I couldn't stop having fun. Each team member involved in the weekend helped me find myself and helped me to develop my own self-confidence.



The weekend was filled with laughter, joy, and spending time alone with God and with one another. The talks that were given had such an impact on me; each talk had a different effect on me. I connected with God on such a personal level that I never had before. I would recommend any teenager, boy or girl, go on a weekend and connect with God on a personal level. The most important thing I learned from the weekend was to "Stand up for your principles even if you stand alone."

~ Dominic Buono



DDA #212

*"Living here in this brand new world might be a fantasy, but it's taught me to love so it's real to me."* – Dorothy, The Wiz

**T**his is a lyric from the musical for which I recently worked on production. When I hear it, it reminds me of DDA. To me, it's like when we all arrive at CYFM we are all Dorothy and CFYM is our very own OZ...After all, at times it does seem just too good to be true. DDA 212 was truly one of those times for me. The whole weekend passed by so quickly. When I woke up on Sunday, I felt like I had just arrived. But leaving there Sunday evening, all I could feel was love. All of the team, adults, candidates, and those who showed



their prayers and support throughout the weekend... they provided this fantasy world for me, (which I am coming to realize is in fact, very real) and it's one memory I will always treasure. It was a special weekend, and a community was definitely created... a sisterhood of love.

Being on team with the amazing girls and adults was so inspiring... they all had so much to offer. And the candidates were also amazing, they taught me so much and truly



made the weekend special. Everybody on the weekend is clearly covered in God's fingerprints and is truly wonderful. I feel so blessed to know them and have spent some time in "OZ" with them. DDA 212 truly has taught me to love, and it is so real to me. After all, God is love and love is real.

~ Heather Sayers

## CCV PERSPECTIVE

In May of 2005, I remember having to get up in front of a room full of people to accept the Fr. Gary McAuley Christian Service Award at the CYFM Dinner Dance. I still remember the last thing I said before I sat down: "In four years, I will be back to do a year of service as a Lay Assistant." Who would have thought I actually would go through with it! So much has happened since that day, but one thing has remained the same; the feeling I get every time I come back to visit CYFM. I am so happy to be a part of a community that has given me so much when I was a teen in high school. I am so blest that I get to have that feeling back every day now, instead of just once in awhile.

The 5 of us, the new Cap Corps Volunteers (CCV's) have been together about 2 months now, and it's been pedal to the metal since the day we moved in. We had less than a week to prepare for our first retreat, which was G.I.F.T. Knowing that in recent years the number of participants on our retreats have been low, it was a blessing to see that we had over 35 high school teens come for our first retreat! What was even better was the weekend after. On our R&R retreat, we had over 50 participants! Coming from a time



when teenagers were overflowing here at CYFM, I was so happy to see so many teens coming to learn more about their faith and grow in this community. Without the teens that come here, CYFM would not exist. It's great to see such energy. The five of us cannot wait to see what the rest of the year has in store for us.

CYFM was a second home to me in high school. My first retreat was G.I.F.T., and then I soon made my encounter on DDA #185. It has all been nothing short of a perfect dream since. The Lay Assistants who were here when I was in high school made such a difference in my life, and I feel so privileged and blest that I now get the opportunity to do the same not only for our high schoolers now, but I get to share this year with four other amazing people, the other CCV's. This community has been so welcoming to us, and for that I would like to say thank you. God has put me here for a reason, and I am so happy and excited for the year that has just begun.

~ Anthony Iraola



## CAPUCHIN OUTREACH MISSION (COP)

Capuchin Outreach Program (COP) 2009 was my second COP experience and it was fantastic. Since I had already been on COP the year before working at Rosary Hill, a home for people living with end stages of cancer, I decided to broaden my horizons and work with young children. I had the opportunity to work at the Day Camp provided by the Salvation Army in Beacon. The kids were welcoming and it was such a gift to work with them. Each day my work group would drive to the Salvation Army building, greet the kids and play games. Whether we were singing DDA music, talking about yoga and castles, or just telling funny stories, I made a special bond with my work group members.

On our last day at the camp, it was especially hard to let go and say goodbye to this very small girl named



Sarah, because she was so open-minded to everything and everyone. Sarah is one of the cutest eight-year olds I have ever met, and truly has a beautiful soul. This time around, I not only helped others, but I allowed others to help me, by letting them into my heart and opening my mind. Being able to work and play with the little kids at that Day Camp will be an experience I hope never to forget. On COP

2009, I made several new friends and tightened the bonds I had with old ones. I expected this retreat to be much like the one I was on last year and I am grateful for the totally different experience with new memories.

~ Julia Mundy



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW

An interview with former Cap Corp Volunteer (CCV), PHIL OSLIN –  
Philoslin@juno.com:



### ***Where are you living and working now?***

I'm living in Arlington, Massachusetts, and I work in Boston - just a couple blocks from Boston Common.

### ***What are you doing there?***

I work for Pearson Education, where I am the MyMathLab/MathXL Content Development Supervisor. That means I supervise a team of content developers who create online math problems which accompany our college math textbooks.

### ***Anything Franciscan?***

Nothing specifically Franciscan, but I sing with, and help run, the Youth Mass program at a parish in Littleton, MA, where our group of teens sing and play the music at Mass once a month. We may not be the second coming of John Robinson, but we do sing the CYFM "Our Father" and several other of Garrison's Greatest Hits.

### ***Looking back on your experience as a lay assistant, how has your year of service helped your career or ministry?***

In my year as a volunteer, I learned a lot about organizing events and meetings, getting people involved and invested in a process, and working as both a member and a leader of a team. I use these skills every day in my current job. I also learned so much from Michelle Antalek and my God's TYM group at St. John's/St. Joachim in Beacon (Yeah Beacon!) about working with a youth group in a parish. I've put those experiences and lessons to good use with the youth group I worked with in Massachusetts.

### ***What do you miss most about CYFM?***

I miss the people. I miss the comfort of living in such a joyful Christian community, and the feeling of "home" that is such a huge part of CYFM.

### ***What is your fondest memory of being an LA?***

Oh, I should mention I don't do superlatives. :-). I have so many fond memories of time spent praying, singing, working and sharing life with the incredible people I met at CYFM. Each time we had adoration in the Chapel, it was an incredibly intense and special experience. But then I also recall fondly the night our DDA team played dodgeball in a pitch dark gym (don't try this at home...) with basketballs. I remember some very personal sharing during our LA community prayer,

and all of the tear-soaked hugs at our send-off. But the fondest memories are not of "events that happened," but rather of the people that I was so blessed to share those events with.

### ***What is the biggest secret that now can be told about your year at CYFM?***

You won't get the really juicy news out of me that easily...

I guess it'd be safe to mention that I nearly died when my fellow LA Peter bounced me off of the trampoline in our backyard, and I shot through a row of bushes - leaving a Phil-sized gap that remained there for the rest of the year. But then I got Peter back (and then some?) when I hopped out of the car and left him alone to drive a mentally unbalanced hitchhiking stranger to his AA meeting, because it was my turn to make dinner!

### ***Have you done anything exciting since you left CYFM?***

Yes.

### ***Are you planning to take any vows in the near future to any one person or community? Care to give us the details?***

No plans for any vows in the near future.

### ***Do you have any fun facts about post-CYFM life?***

It's always rewarding to come back "home" to CYFM. Even years later, in a new center, with a new team, and new teens around, there is always that feeling of peace and joy in Christ to be found there.

### ***Do you have any advice for present and future volunteers?***

You will sometimes be a presenter, sometimes a leader, at times a facilitator, an observer, or a greeter. Your role will not always come naturally to you, but seek to imitate the attitude of Christ the servant, and there is no doubt that your year will be one of great peace, joy, and satisfaction.

### ***What would like to say to the CYFM community?***

Looking back on my year as a Lay Assistant never fails to bring a smile to my face, and that experience continues to impact my everyday life and my choices. I'd just like to thank everyone who was at CYFM the year I was there for playing such a special part in my life. And I also thank those who have come before and come afterwards, who have shaped, and continue to shape its ministry. I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to be a Lay Assistant, and every time I head out to Garrison to visit - I always think of it as coming home. God Bless!

## Fifteenth Annual Awards and Senior Recognition Dinner Dance

Pulling into the driveway at Crystal Bay in Peekskill, NY on May 2nd, it was hard to miss the cluster of people standing up on a deck hugging and taking photos. On this evening, the CYFM community came together to celebrate the graduating seniors of 2009. For most in attendance, the evening was expected to be a get together of friends past and present to reconnect. But for the seniors like me, it was a bittersweet evening. It was a time of celebration – our chance to make that next step after high school. But it was also a time of sadness, with the realization that my time at CYFM was quickly ending. I had waited 4 years for this night: **The Senior Awards Dinner Dance**.

It was an amazing evening with memories unforgettable. All seniors at CYFM were acknowledged with a certificate, stating all they had done at CYFM. And 5 seniors were recognized for their commitment to Christian Service and CYFM throughout high school, being given a plaque and scholarship. With complete gratitude, I was one of the recipients for the Christian Service Scholarship Award. To me, it really makes everything I have put into my dedication to CYFM come full circle. Throughout the past five years that I have been involved with CYFM, it has been my home away from home. It is the safe place in my life, my comfort, which has given me the ability to find myself and become the person I am today. Now, having graduated high school and taken those first few steps towards the rest of my life, I know that my real involvement with CYFM as a high school student is over. As extremely sad as that is, I know that I will always have a home in Garrison with a community that has given me so much in my life.

We also acknowledged four of the amazing adults who give so much of their time and energy to our CYFM community by presenting them with awards. The Solanus Casey Award, which recognizes adults in youth ministry for outstanding advocacy of and service to youth in a parish and through CYFM, was given to: **Paul Smith** – Youth Minister, St. Mary, Mother of the Church, Fishkill, New York, and **Carina Sceccitano** – St. Columba, Hopewell Junction, New York. The Bonaventure Award, honoring leaders in Religious Education and Spiritual Development of youth in a school, on the parish or diocesan

level went to **Brother Richard Galvin FSC** – Director of Campus Ministry, St. Raymond's High School for Boys,

Bronx, New York. Finally, **JoAnn Caruso** of St. Joseph the Worker, East Patchogue, New York, received the Franciscan Award, which recognizes an individual who furthers among us the charisms of St. Francis of loving generosity and service

At the dinner dance, the celebration started from the moment you walked into the hall and con-

tinued through the awards ceremony, to the slide show of photos reminiscing amazing memories from past year, into the dancing, and even as everyone hugged to say their goodbyes. This evening truly pulled together all that this community is about; love, strength and prayers.

~ Patricia O'Connor



### CYFM 2009 Awards Dinner Closing Remarks and Blessing

*[Editor's note: Fr. John McHugh OFM Cap the Vicar Provincial of the Province of St. Mary, offered these closing remarks at the 2009 CYFM Awards and Senior Recognition Dinner Dance. We publish them here as Fr. John captured an essential aspect of our CYFM charism.]*

Most of you probably think that a friar like me is not biased. It's not true. I am very biased. The four teens who are here tonight from St. Joseph the Worker Parish, where I used to be pastor, shine like stars for me in this room. I am very biased in their favor. The truth is every teen and every adult in the room tonight gets my vote and then some.

I am affirmed every time some teenagers take the time to pray with me. I am enriched when teenagers teach me something new or point out something I never noticed before about the scriptures. I am comforted when teenagers cheer me up or offer to help. I am edified when teenagers help each other. I am in awe when teenagers do the right thing with such great courage. Teens in the room tonight have done all these things.

I am so pleased when adults take teens seriously and show them respect. I am encouraged when adults serve as mentors, counselors, and guides for their younger friends. I am humbled when, by example, adults make it clear that you don't have to be a star in order to shine; you don't have to know everything in order to teach; you don't have to be perfect in order to be good; and you don't have to pretend to be anything other than who you are in order to be loved. There are adults in the room who have done all these things.

Some of you have justly been honored tonight. All of you can be honored who have contributed to the life of CYFM. The teen years are not just a phase to get through in order to drink and to drive legally (though separately, of course). Teenagers have an inherent dignity and youth has an inherent God-given value for which we all prayed in the opening prayer of last Sunday's Mass when, referencing one of the psalms we said: "Lord, give me again the joy of my youth." Regardless of your age, may the Lord always give you the joy of your youth, In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## CAPUCHIN APPALACHIAN MISSION 2009 (CAM)

St. Francis' wise words "Preach the Gospel, when necessary use words" remained in my mind and heart throughout those ten days I spent in Harlan County, Kentucky. This Capuchin Appalachian Mission was my fourth trip to Kentucky with CYFM. Similar to the past two years I participated in manual labor. My work group spent the week at Debbie's house painting her living room, fixing her roof, building a deck, cooking a meal and getting to know Debbie and her family. This was my second time at this work site, last year I helped build a roof at a house nearby. I felt extremely lucky to be returning to the same area because in the midst of poverty and unemployment there is one valley that has been a home for this family for generations. I stood on that just-completed roof and watched as the sun rose over the tree line and realized that God truly is everywhere.

I look forward to CAM every year, when school and work seem unbearable I reflect on my experiences in Harlan and count myself blessed to have met such incredibly spiritual and hardworking people both in Kentucky and the CYFM community. Never before have I witnessed such kind and selfless people. Everyday I saw simple acts of kindness whether it was during Adoration, dinner or theological reflection. Still after four years I am amazed at the intense bonds of love and friendship formed between total strangers in ten days. We arrive on Saturday as nervous individuals, unsure of what to expect, but as the days progress, more songs are sung, more experiences shared, the Holy Spirit works among us opening our hearts.



By our return we are one, one with each other, one with the poor, one with God. The most difficult part of CAM is not the service or making friends or one week without a shower, but saying good bye and trying to keep your light shining everyday.

I always return from Kentucky exhausted, dirty and a little sad, but the purpose of going on a mission trip is not only to serve those less fortunate but to transform yourself from within and go out and change your world. Poverty does not begin and end with money. People need comfort, companionship. I have discovered that the only way to make my own happiness in this world is to help others in any way possible,

whether giving a hug, building a roof or simply listening. St. Francis of Assisi once said "Preach the Gospel always, and when necessary, use words" but only now do I begin

to understand that words are useless sounds without love and action behind them. Reaching out is terrifying but it is the only way to make a difference.



Capuchin Appalachian Mission takes you from your comfort zone and changes you into a new person. Someone who will sing and clap their hands, build a deck or have an intimate relationship with Jesus.

~ Heather McCormack



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"Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries," a ministry of the Capuchin Franciscans of the Province of St. Mary of the Capuchin Order, a not-for-profit religious institution having its principal office at St. Conrad Friary, 30 Gedney Park Drive, White Plains, New York 10605.

*For more information, please call our development office at 845-424-3609.*

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**CYFM  
UPCOMING EVENTS**

PLEASE NOTE: dates and activities are subject to change

**NOVEMBER**

- Nov. 6-7 .....7th & 8th Grade overnight  
(Jesus and the Gospel Message)  
Nov. 8 ... .A.S.K. – Young Adult Day of Reflection  
(Where Am I?)  
Nov. 12-15 .....Boy's DDA Weekend  
Nov. 21-22 .....CYFM Lock-In

**JANUARY 2010**

- Jan. 3-7 ....College Capuchin Outreach Program  
(CCOP)  
Jan. 9 .....Volunteer Appreciation Party  
Jan. 15-17 .....DDA Leadership

**FEBRUARY**

- Feb. 4-7 .....Girl's DDA Weekend  
Feb. 13-14 .....7th & 8th Grade overnight  
(Morality, Making choices we can live with)  
Feb. 19-21 .....Women's Retreat  
Feb. 26-28 .....Saint For Youth

ALWAYS DOUBLE CHECK before you plan!  
www.CYFM.org

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ENGAGEMENTS**

**Michael Andriello** (DDA 147, 161, 187, 190, 197, 199 & 204), son of Ron & Rita Andriello and Brandi Oakes. The wedding is set for 10/30/10.

**Colin Dunnigan** (DDA 167, 178 & LI 18), son of Ed & Louise Dunnigan and **Kristy Wienecke** (DDA 170, 179 & 182). The wedding is scheduled for August 14, 2010.

**Gina Landi** (DDA 177, 183 & 186) and **Michael R. Sine** (DDA 159). The wedding is scheduled for June 11, 2010.

**BIRTHS**

4/29/09 – A son, Trent Edward Stabell, born to **Karen (Bell)** (DDA 126) and Chris Stabell. (Grandparents Dave & Kathy Bell)

**MARRIAGES**

10/11/08 – **Kristen Hempstead**, LA 02/03 (DDA 179 & 183) and Brandon McGann

5-30-09 – **Ed Rogers**, LA 94/05 (DDA 190 & 192) and Elizabeth Fette.

6/26/09 - **Jason Sclafani**, LA 03/04 (DDA LI 13, 185, 187, 190, 199, LI 15 & 204) and **Kerry Durkin**, LA 03/04 (DDA 184, 188 & 207).

7/25/09 – **Dan O'Neill**, (DDA 151, 159 & 165) and **Stephanie Clinton** (DDA 158 & 170) daughter of James & Christine Clinton

**Sean Lowe**, (DDA 178, 187 & 207) and **April Reece** CCV 06/07 (DDA 198 & 200)

**DEATHS**

6-26-09 - **Thomas Brogden**, father of Colleen Brogden Tempestilli (DDA 160, 170, 177, 180, 189, 202, 205 & 210)

10/16/09 – **Brendan O'Connor**, husband of Susan (DDA 193, 194, 202 & 205), father of Kevin, Michael, Cara (DDA 183, 186 & 191) and Patricia (DDA 196, 200, 205 and 210) and the brother of Msg. Desmond O'Connor.

9/19/09 – **Rev. Donald Hayden**, OSST, of Victoria, TX., chaplain at the Motherhouse of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters (participated in the DDA program on Long Island) brother of Nicholas Hayden (DDA LI 11 and LI 15), brother-in-law of Bette Hayden (DDA 141), uncle of Jane Chiappone (DDA LI 4 and DDA 138) and Teresa Hayden (DDA LI 4).