

Catholic Youth Today

CYFM

CAPUCHIN YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

SUMMER 2017

MAKE FAITH
YOUR OWN



CCOP 2017

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

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CCOP Participant group picture

The end of the fall semester saw me physically, mentally, and spiritually drained. I could not wait to return home for Christmas and to return to the place that has always helped me to recharge and feel less stressed out about everything, CYFM. I, along with about 20 other college students, spent one week of our winter break doing service and living in community, while learning more about ourselves and about our relationship with God.

I choose to participate in senior ministry. The short amount of time spent with the people in the nursing home was a true blessing. Every day we helped move

people downstairs for exercises. After that we visited and talked with people until it was time to leave for the day. I learned about what it truly means to be a



friend from two of the funniest ladies that were exact opposites and yet still the best of friends. I learned that a simple smile can say everything you need sometimes from a woman who could not speak anymore.

After the week of service and prayer I felt renewed in my faith and excited to take on the new semester.

~ Margaret Delorey



CAPUCHIN YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

CYFM changes lives. Through our ministry people encounter Christ. This is a time in history that calls for the faith and creativity of our founder, St. Francis of Assisi. Our society, young people and their families, hunger for God. God alone can touch and fill the longing we all experience. Like St. Francis, we live in a time when the tried and true ways of communicating the amazing love of a God who is beyond our ability to comprehend are not speaking to a culture that has changed.

Francis, remaining faithful to the Gospel, set forth on a new way that inspired and attracted the people of his day, indeed people even to our day, believers and non-believers alike. The call to us is similar. God is leading us, the CYFM community, in the spirit of St. Francis to respond in new ways, so that we may continue the good work for which we are known. People hunger for an encounter with Christ.

CYFM's core values, communicated to us by St. Francis will continue to guide us. A personal encounter and relationship with Jesus will be at the heart of all we do. Grace filled relationships will evangelize us and people we encounter. Collaboration and servant leadership

foster commitment to a vibrant community which attracts all to the God whose love is at its heart. Among the unique gifts that we bring are that we empower young people to leadership in the rebuilding of our Church and society, and we commit ourselves to supporting families as the first church in the lives of the faithful.



Now, more than ever, we need you and the gifts that God has given you for the building of His kingdom. The success of CYFM's mission depends on your offering those gifts through CYFM in the service of our brothers and sisters. Pray and discern whether the Spirit might be calling you to serve on team for the recently revised DDA; to help us to develop new ways of engaging youth and adults of our parish in Gospel service; to help us to communicate our message; or to work at any of the ways we assist young

people and their families to encounter and journey with Christ. We thank God for each and every member of our community whose life proclaims the Gospel and gives hope to so many through the work of Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries.

~ Tom Brinkmann

LIVING STATIONS REFLECTION

The live reenactment of the Stations of the Cross performed by the CYFM community was brilliantly done and helped put a different twist on how we celebrate the Passion of Christ. Parents and other community members were able to witness yet again how devoted and passionate our teens are to their faith and their community. To be able to put together something special at the start of Holy Week really set the tone for everyone



who witnessed it. Watching the Stations being acted out by our brilliant youths allowed us to look at the Passion

in a whole new way. The maturity and courage of our teens really showed as they took very seriously their roles and parts in the Living Stations out of respect for Christ. They put this together out of their love for Christ and to help spread that love to the people who watched this powerful experience.

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ASK THE PADRE

“What is a Mass Stipend?”

A Mass stipend is an offering given to a priest by an individual or a group so that a Mass may be said for the donor’s intention. The origin of this practice goes back to the early centuries of the Church. The faithful brought bread and wine and also other gifts to Mass. Much of these gifts were in the form of food such as crops from their gardens or even fish if they were fishermen. Some of the bread and wine was used during the celebration. The rest of the gifts were given to the priest for his sustenance because his ministry is to serve the people and he would hold no other job. Some of it was also given to the poor.

Financial offerings came later, and by the 1100’s money for Masses became common and remain so today. Does this imply a person can “buy” a Mass? Not at all! No amount of money can buy a Mass. It is a means of supporting the clergy who are called to minister to the people as their prime work. When a priest accepts a Mass stipend, he sets up a contract with that person to pray for their intention at a specific Mass. The priest contracts to pray for that

intention specifically, but that does not nor can it preclude him from also praying for other intentions as well. All participants may and hopefully will not only pray for their own intentions at Mass, but also for the intentions of all present, as well as the needs of our world, Church, and local community.



Each of the Eucharistic prayers have within them prayer for many intentions and the Prayer of the Faithful does likewise. Therefore, a Mass is never offered for a single intention. To avoid the appearance of trafficking in Mass stipends the Church has placed a limit of one stipend intention for Mass.

It is possible to request Mass stipends here at CYFM for Masses offered by Fr. Fred. The standard donation is \$10 and anything over that is given to support our CYFM ministry.

Peace and all good things!

~ Fr. Fred

LIVING STATIONS

continued from Page 3

If there is one thing that really impressed me about the Living Stations, it was the seriousness that was displayed by each and every one of those who participated.

This was a main reason that this event had such an impact on those who watched it. The dedication and love that we have for the Passion and what it



means radiated throughout our community. The Living Stations of the Cross is definitely something worth watching. It was an honor for me to be a part of this and I really enjoy being a part of this community.

~ Blad Pena



SOMETHING FRANCISCAN

"What are you doing next year?"

Ugh! The question every college senior doesn't want to hear. As the recruiter for the Cap Corps Program, I visit many Colleges and University career and volunteer fairs looking for candidates who want to serve youth for a year. So instead of popping the dreaded question, I'll ask, "What was the best retreat you ever went on?" It's often the presence of the Lord on a retreat that is the critical juncture that awakened the dream within or their connection with the Lord; 'getting ahead' in life, pales by comparison. In the articulation of that experience a young adult comes to grip with the desire to 'give back', to also be a positive role model like their own youth leader.

I usually follow with, "How's your relationship with the Lord, your prayer life, and are you speaking with a spiritual director? That is the motor behind our ministry to youth and families. It's that relationship with the Lord who is the way, the truth, and the life, that puts us on the road. You may be very talented with sports, public speaking, theology, and psychology, but if you don't know the Lord, and haven't spent time trying to listen to His voice, you'll burn out, as you run out of captivating stories, and exciting new activities. Why you do this has to find its way back to the source - Jesus Christ.



Have you ever lived with a group of people? That's my next question. Are you prepared for the sacrifices necessary? Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker, penned the words, "... We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community." There are so many directions that freedom permits. If you desire to make a difference in the church, in society, or the world, one person can only do so much. But when you live together with others and work toward a common goal, the synergy, the delight, but also suffering ensues. Learning how to facilitate dialog is essential to accomplish the goals of the Body of Christ. With the Cap Corps we are talking about a 1 to 2 year commitment; but commitment to your virtues, your values, and your dreams, requires you to stay there on the cross.

We can all rationalize with the best of them; but there's no way around the cross.

Then there's the ministry. "Do you like kids?" I usually ask. Do you enjoy working with them? Are you good at telling a story, or walking with a youth that might be in trouble? This often points to your own adolescence. I feel like a deer in the head lights when I think about my own high school experience. But your personal working through of those rough patches, or even abuse will be a compass in your conversations with youth when you least expect it. You have to be ready for a defense of the faith, but also in providing clarity on some point with which the particular youth is struggling. You won't have all the answers but as Father Fred Nickle says, "we try to meet youth right where and who they are." We don't shy away from difficult conversations, and we don't force youth to fit our categories either.

Think of St. Francis reaching out to those on the edge; the first step is accepting the person as they are. Like the persons of the Trinity we try to imitate accepting and giving without depriving or dominating. We each have to wrestle with those relationships that draw us into God. It takes time.

We believe that all ministry is local; it has to start with the parish. We assist families in a parish setting and we wish to work with them coordinating and strengthening their efforts with youth and families. Some candidates may have no experience in working with a youth group. That is to be expected as we have found that most parishes have dropped their traditional youth groups. I invite a candidate to consider what part they might like to play in working with a parish youth group.

Jorge Bergolio, took the name Pope Francis, as a first, to offer us the model of St. Francis, the man who wasn't afraid to see the world upside down, walking on his hands after spending days praying in a cave. Known as "Our Lady's Tumbler" St. Francis chose to see the world as dangling by mercy from the heavens.

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SOMETHING FRANCISCAN

continued from Page 4

(See <http://catholicsaints.info/saint-francis-by-g-k-chesterton-chapter-v/>) He was willing to let go of what seemed like “good sense” to the world, to shake things up a bit, to see things from God’s perspective.

Similarly, for 25 years the friars of the Province of St. Mary of the Capuchin Order have asked young adults to take a year from the usual track, to get their spiritual

lives in order, and to spend themselves in community living and service as Cap Corps Volunteers. (*Formerly lay assistants*)

We depend upon people who in every age are willing to take a chance and try to see the world like St. Francis did to enable the young, beyond encountering, to be transformed by Christ. That only comes when I learn to say not my will but thine be done, oh Lord.

~ Fr. Tomas

FOUND IN THE GARDEN – GIRLS RETREAT

Usually when walking into the conference room for a CYFM retreat, a teen might see 3-5 tables, set up with journals, folders, markers, and a friendly centerpiece. However, walking into the conference room for Found in the Garden was different. We entered to couches set up in a circle, with blankets, set up around a small table with candy and candles. It felt less like a retreat, and more like I was getting ready to hang out with some of my best friends. Found in the Garden is a retreat at CYFM, planned by two of this year’s Cap Corps Volunteers, Katey Santilli and Vanesa Zuleta.

Together, they created a beautifully designed journal for all of the girls there. It contains reflections on everything we talked about, along with tools to use, such as good catholic social media accounts to follow and books to read. We were able to take this journal with us at the end of the retreat, and it has been a helpful tool since then to go back and reflect on what I learned.

The retreat was planned for high school girls, but unlike DDA, this retreat was much more casual. We had no set schedule and no specific discussion questions. We even made our own meals, while simultaneously having a dance party in the kitchen. All that was asked of the seven girls attending the retreat was that we would be open, honest, and perceptive.

We discussed every aspect of being a high school girl and a Christian. We discussed everything from the feminine genius taught by Pope John Paul II, to how to date with Christian values and emotional chastity, to the common temptations that we face everyday in our high school's halls.



Participants of the Girls Retreat enjoying a peaceful weekend

One of my favorite parts of the day was when we went outside and walked the labyrinth. We walked the grassy prayer space, all quietly praying and reflecting, and letting everything we had learned so far sink in. On our way out of the path, we all closed our eyes, placed our hands on the shoulders of the girl in front of us, and followed Katey blindly, trusting that she would lead us out of the labyrinth.

Attending this retreat during some of the last few months of my senior year, I learned valuable lessons that will help me to keep my faith strong and have pride in my feminine genius as I look forward to my future. I'd like to thank Vanesa and Katey for building this retreat from scratch, it was a beautiful day and we all learned so much!

~ Kelsey Baron





I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to be a part of the teen team of DDA 250. Each leader was willing to do anything and everything they could to make the weekend successful. The adult team was fantastic. Carolyn Lapham, the rector for the weekend was spectacular, going above and beyond what was expected of her to help make the new three-day DDA run smoothly and without a hitch. She was also my mentor for my Fourth Day Witness Talk and she provided me with excellent feedback to help make my talk even better.

Carolyn would randomly text us during our formation weeks to check in on us and she still checks in with us today. Her kindness and willingness to help others was one of the most important reasons why this weekend was so wonderful.



Each member of the DDA team worked perfectly together and every person's unique traits blended greatly. Through the formation meetings before the weekend, I was able to grow really close to all the girls and adults. Everyone was so supportive. Each girl was so open and honest in their talks, admitting their flaws and showing what they have done to grow as a person and in their faith life.

I had such an amazing experience on DDA 250 and I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to play a role in it. Not only was I able to make new friends and grow closer to older ones, I was able to exponentially strengthen my relationship with God. Thank you to everyone who did palanca and helped make this weekend occur without a hitch. It was truly spectacular and amazing.



DDA #250 participants enjoying a faith filled weekend

~ Sam Musso



Last Thursday was not my favorite day this year. I was on retreat with about sixty confirmandi who did not really want to be confirmed or be at CYFM. So I was in a bad mood. And even though I know that we, as a society, struggle with recognizing the good, the true, and the beautiful as they are occurring in the moment, I was still letting these teenagers affect me. It is easy to overlook the good and get caught up in the bad because it seems more important, like someone talking over me at Evening Prayer. Falling prey to this negative mindset, however, excludes the real joy that comes from passing on the Sacraments.

In the short ten months I have been a Cap Corps Volunteer, I have been challenged the most to share this joy, gratitude, and love in my actions and find it in the people I serve. In fact, what I will take away most from this year is the overwhelming need, not just to see the good in all people, but to see God in all people. And not just to do this passively, but instead, to acknowledge God in all things in as many moments as I can remember to.

In doing this, I have received an innumerable amount of what I would call “moments of a lifetime.” You know what I’m talking about. When, by some miracle, you

find yourself at the center of something truly special, and you know it. The world around you slows down, people’s voices get muffled like the parents in Charlie Brown, the sun is hitting your face just the right way, and you are given a moment to step back and be grateful for what is happening right now. On Thursday, it was sitting under the stars looking at the Big Dipper.

With God, these moments are limitless. Whether it be a group of girls making a breakthrough on a retreat, a guy telling me he doesn’t “really care” about his Confirmation, or sharing Christ in the sacraments, all of these moments, good and bad, are special because they are all of God. God is working in every moment of all of our lives and I am determined to shout it from the rooftops every time I am present enough to recognize it happening. The people I serve have helped me to recognize and cultivate this relationship with God, based in prayer and sustained in gratitude, to see God in all people.

~ Katey Santilli



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

11/7/16

A daughter, Katarzyna Leja, born to Jennifer (Jenn) Owens Leja (LA2007/2008 DDA 203 & 207) and Andrew Leja

1/23/17

A son, James Phineas Sclafani, born to Jason Sclafani (LA2003/2004, DDA LI 13, 15 and DDA 185, 187, 190, 199, 204 & 247) and Kerry Durkin Sclafani (LA2003/2004, DDA 184, 188 and 207).

2/10/17

A daughter, Emma Joanna Murphy, born to Diana Caporaso Murphy (LA 2006/2007 DDA 198 & 202) and Patrick Murphy.

DEATHS

2-2-17

Thomas M. Bell, brother of Dave Bell (DDAs: 165, 168, 171, 174, 183, 186, 189, 202, 208, 217, 226, 240); brother-in-law of Kathy Bell (DDAs: 162, 168, 174, 179, 183, 186, 193, 202, 217, 241).

4-4-17

Frank J. Magliaccio, father of Lucia Gold (DDA 222, 228, 236, 241, 244 & 250; CAM 2016); father-in-law of C. Zbynek Gold (DDA 231, 233 & 238; CAM 2014, 2015 & 2016); Grandfather of Catherine (DDA 207); Kristen (DDA 217 & 225; CAM 2011 & 2012; CCOP 2013 & 2016); Jennifer (DDA 225, 228, 234 & 237; COP 2012; CAM 2014 & 2015; CCOP 2016); Zbynek (DDA 233, 238 & 242; CAM 2015 & 2016); Faith (DDA 246 & 250; COP 2016).

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Jessica Favorito aka Robinson



When I think back to my Cap Corps experience it feels like both a lifetime ago and just yesterday at the same time. Whenever anyone asks me about it, I always tell them it was the most challenging yet rewarding year of my life thus far. I was pushed outside of my comfort zone more than ever before but was able to learn so much about myself and the person I wanted to be. Not to mention, I formed some of the most significant relationships that have impacted me tremendously.

When I left CYFM in the summer of 2002, I went back to the University of Scranton (where all the good little CCVs go) to complete my Master's in school counseling. As you can see, my time at CYFM influenced me to pursue a career where I could continue to work with teenagers and their families on a regular basis. I graduated in 2004 and immediately started a job at Delaware Valley High School in Milford, PA. I am still there and while I may not be able to mention the word "God" in a public school, I'd like to believe I continue to preach the gospel without using words as much as I can. Some days it's a little tougher than others, but as we all learned (and sang), we take it "Day by Day".

In 2007, I moved back to NY and got involved in CYFM as a young (or mid) adult. What a blessing it has been to see CYFM grow throughout the years as a teen, CCV, and adult but know the mission and the heart remains the

same. For the past 3 years, I have also been working closely with the CCV's as a mentor of sorts (which sounds totally scary, because, well, have you met me?!?) This has become one of my most treasured experiences in the CYFM world so far. I love being a listening ear to those who are giving so much to this great program and (hopefully) helping them to get through this challenging/rewarding year in their lives. The relationships I've formed with the CCV's for the past few "classes" has been invaluable and in the process, I have continued to learn more about myself while being there for them. Funny how this giving thing works, huh?

The past year of my life has yet again been a whirlwind and exciting journey. I married my best friend, Michael Favorito, in November of this past year while many of my lifelong CYFM friends took part in the witnessing and celebrating. And as we settle into our new roles as "Mr. and Mrs.," we are also adjusting to our upcoming titles of "Mom and Dad" with baby boy Favorito coming to a crib near us in September. God is truly so good and while I may not have always understood this path He has carved out for me, I trust and know that HE is in control and HIS plan for me is greater than I could ever imagine.

~ Jessica Favorito

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We are proud to recognize your gifts, which were made between November 30, 2016 and June 1, 2017.

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SAINTS FOR YOUTH



One of my friends from CYFM told me I should go on the Saints for Youth Retreat. Thus I went.

Immediately greeted by all my old friends, I was happy to be at my "home away from home" again.

During the retreat, I enjoyed learning about the life of St. Francis of Assisi, and how it relates to our own lives, especially since that was my confirmation name. Because of this, I knew a little about Saint Francis already, but I was glad I had an opportunity to further my knowledge of the saint. The life of Saint Francis was tied into the lives of various other saints, specifically how their words and actions resembled those of Francis.



One part of the life of Saint Francis I found most interesting is when he met with the Sultan in Egypt in an attempt to make peace during the Crusades. To me, this showed another side of Francis, different from the portrait of the humble man surrounded by birds and deer that is commonly seen today. The courage it must have taken to stand before the enemy, even if it meant dying as a martyr, is something I look up to, and aspire to one day possess.

Reflecting upon the lives of the saints helped me to look inward as well. First, I realized how little I actually knew about all the saints. Luckily, this would soon change. Second, I came to understand what it took others to become saints, and that sainthood is actually attainable for every person, even myself.



Saints for Youth participants enjoying a faith filled weekend

Experiencing this retreat was no doubt beneficial to my life as a Catholic. I am grateful I received this opportunity to grow in my faith and perhaps, begin the path to Sainthood.

~ Anthony Bellino



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That's all you have to do to be in constant contact with CYFM!!!!!!

What's Happening July – November 2017

JULY

Jul 8-16 Capuchin Appalachian Mission
Jul 21 Cap Corps Volunteers Send Off

AUGUST

Aug 25-27 Capuchin Youth Leadership Retreat

SEPTEMBER

Sept 1-3 Renew & Refresh (R&R)
Sept 3 CapCorps Volunteer (CCV) Commissioning

OCTOBER

Oct 6-8 Girls' DDA Retreat Weekend
Oct 13-15 Family Service Retreat

NOVEMBER

Nov 3-4 7th & 8th Grade Overnight Retreat
(Jesus and the Gospel Message)
Nov 4-5 7th & 8th Grade Overnight Retreat
(Jesus and the Gospel Message)
Nov 10-12 Boys' DDA Retreat Weekend

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

PLEASE NOTE that these dates and activities are subject to change.

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Catholic Youth Today

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