

---

---

# ◆ Youth Ministry: In Touch ◆

---

---

Volume 14 Issue 4

Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Summer 2007

---

---

## 'Murakoze' from Rwanda!

by Leigh E Sterten

And thank you from me as well. I want to acknowledge the many people who were so instrumental in welcoming Fr. Salvain Ndayizeye on his first visit to the U.S. in April.

First, thank you to Fr. Mike McDevitt for opening the rectory at St. Agnes Cathedral to Fr. Salvain. Monsignor Westhues, Fr. Rodolph, and Fr. Mike were gracious hosts to our visitor, including him in parish celebrations of liturgy each day and providing fabulous hospitality.

I was Instant Messaging (IMing) with Fr. Salvain yesterday, and he told me he is busy telling the stories of his visit here and to Arlington, Va to all the people he serves back home. He also said that he "continues to dream of the USA."

Fr. Salvain felt right at home in southwest Missouri (we will work on getting him east next time he visits) not long after he had arrived. When I asked him why the Springfield area reminded him of home, he said, "there are not many hills and there are many cows!" He literally took pictures of the cows as we would speed by fields on the Interstate!

Which takes me to additional thanks: to Fr. Jarek in Neosho, who was the first to read the last issue of this newsletter, announcing Fr. Salvain's visit, and invite us to his parish.

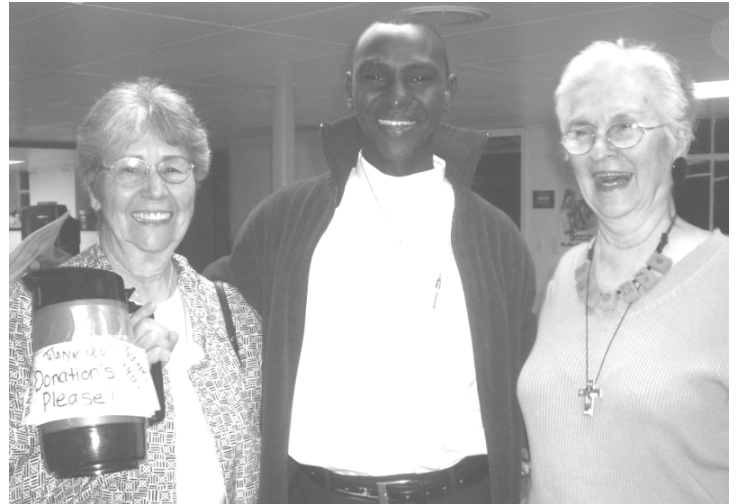
In Neosho, we were treated to dinner before we had an

opportunity with members of the parish to experience the children performing their "stick ministry" presentation of Jesus' death and resurrection. Fr. Salvain then told his

story, with the help of interpreter Miryam Palmer. A reception followed, during which the parish presented a generous donation, in addition to money collected that evening, followed by a beautiful chalice from the Knights of Columbus and a copy of the diocesan history book.

The next morning, we celebrated liturgy with students from McAuley High School, St. Peter Middle School, and St. Peter parishioners. Father Salvain spoke briefly after Mass (aided by another volunteer translator) and then was treated to a beautiful reception in McAuley. Special thanks to Principal Gene Koester for his hospitality, and especially teachers Lola Wade and Jane Fethers. Ms. Fethers has been collecting money for Rwanda for several years now, each year inviting me to speak to her classes about my experience in Rwanda.

He also was invited to



Fr. Salvain with friends in Neosho

Fr. Salvain with friends in Neosho

speak to the theology and French classes in Springfield High School by teacher Laura Richardson. And Fr. Rick Jones invited Father to concelebrate Mass in Branson, along with Bishop Leibrecht.

The St. Peter PCCW featured Fr. Salvain as speaker for its meeting and pledged to donate money, as did the DCCW, which happened to be having its convention. Dorothy Dees, International Commission chair, invited Father to be part of a workshop presentation. Several PCCW chapters have donated money to Father in the past.

And lastly, thanks to Fr. J. Friedel, who donated a suitcase full of chasubles for the new parish Father is starting, as well as a ciborium for Mass. The overwhelming generosity of our people was evident everywhere. I am grateful to all, as is Fr. Salvain.

## From the Director . . .

Dear Friends:

Greetings! As I write, spring showers have made their way to us, reminding me that summer is not far off. I know that I have featured a story related to our visitor from Rwanda on the front page these past two issues, but it really was an amazing opportunity and experience. Thanks to any others whom I've failed to remember and especially to Fr. Rodolph, who was a great friend and occasional interpreter for Fr. Salvain.

Another piece of this mailing is a form asking you to update your information for our mailing list. We used to do this quite frequently, but have gotten out of the habit. Fortunately, a youth ministry leader gently reminded me—such ownership! The outcome of this will be an updated list that we will send to you, most likely in the fall.

I also hope that many of you will opt to receive this newsletter electronically with that update form. It would save us considerable amounts on paper, printing, and postage. And

thanks to those “early adopters” who have been electronic from the start. Those who receive mailings electronically get the information many days ahead of those who wait on snail mail.

As you will read below, we have been honored with hosting TEC's 2007 Congress, in Cape Girardeau. As Tom, the local volunteer coordinating the event, writes, all involved in ministry with young people are welcome—no prior TEC involvement is required. I do hope to see many of you there for this event.

As I write, we have ten parishes planning on taking over 200 youth and adults to Columbus, Ohio for the National Catholic Youth Conference in November. All signs point to the 2009 NCYC taking place in Kansas City, so surely we can add to this year's number substantially!

And do read Fr. J.'s piece on our Resource Page. I think you will enjoy and be challenged by his words. Peace!

*Leigh E Sterten, Director of Youth Ministry*

## Cape Girardeau to host TEC Congress 2007

by Tom Schumer, River of Life TEC

Perfection rarely comes at first; however, the most perfect disciple of Jesus was also the first disciple of Jesus. Pope Paul VI said, “In her earthly life, Mary was the perfect figure of Christ's disciple, mirror of all the virtues, and she incarnated the beatitudes proclaimed by Christ.”



The presence of Mary in our own faith life parallels her presence in the life of Jesus. Wherever a tabernacle of Jesus has been erected, in its shadow we always find a shrine to His

mother, Mary. She is our quiet, reassuring companion on the journey to the heart of Christ.

This perfect discipleship of Mary will be placed on center stage during the Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) Congress 2007, an event sanctioned by the National TEC Conference. The Diocese of Springfield–Cape Girardeau is privileged to be hosting the TEC Congress, through the ministry of our own River of Life TEC Community in Southeast Missouri.

Each year the 67 TEC faith communities are invited to



come together for a weekend of prayer, formation, discernment, and action. The TEC Family seeks to discern with “one heart and one mind” God's will for the movement.

*All who are interested in Catholic youth ministry and the spiritual well-being our young people are invited to participate; prior involvement with TEC is not required.* More information about TEC is available online at [www.tecconference.org](http://www.tecconference.org).

The venue for this year's Congress is Notre Dame Regional High School in Cape Girardeau, and the event will take place July 13–15. Registration information is available by emailing Tom Schumer at [tjschumer@hotmail.com](mailto:tjschumer@hotmail.com) or online at [www.tecconference.org/2007Congress.htm](http://www.tecconference.org/2007Congress.htm). We hope that you can join us.

## RESOURCE PAGE

## Changing the Way We Think: Creating a Culture for Discerning (Why Youth Ministry is Vocation Ministry)

by Fr. J. Friedel, Director of Vocations and Seminarians

*Editor's note: This article is an adaptation of an earlier piece written by Fr. J. for The Gospel On Campus: A Handbook for Campus Ministry Programs and Resources, published by the USCCB.*

***“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!”***

***Luke 12:49***

**T**he dreams of our young people are poised for greatness—the dream to master a field of study; to have the perfect, fulfilling job; to make a difference in the world; to be a phenomenal teacher, doctor, mother, or artist. Some of these dreams have been minutely detailed, intricate with tiny features; others have been painted with only the broadest of strokes, waiting for more to unfold. Where do the dreams come from, and how do they become clearer for the dreamer? What is the particular dream that sets an individual's passions ablaze? What special fire burns in the soul of each believer?

The task of ministry is the naming of the mystery as it plays itself out in our lives. Each dream, which comes from God and ends in God, is a mysterious call that invites our response. God calls each of us to greatness in fulfilling our own unique dream. Many of our youth are still searching for the particular dream that will set their hearts on fire. Others are trying to make sense of the dreams they think they've been given. As youth ministers, we are vocation ministers, for part of our task is assisting our young people in discerning the ways in which they are called to respond to their individual dreams from God.

How then do we go about the business of

helping people to discern their dreams? How do we invite the younger members of our parish communities to consider all of the various options available to them as members of the Body of Christ—religious life and holy orders, as well as single life and marriage? How do we maintain the awareness of the equal dignity of each particular vocation, yet make sure that we give adequate exposure to the often less chosen vocations of service in the church? What enflames the heart and soul within a person to serve God?

As ministers to the youth of our church, we must take our responsibility as vocation ministers seriously. We have an obligation to raise awareness of the necessary search for the dream in each member of the faithful, and actively recruit individuals to seriously consider service in the church as lay ministers, deacons, priests, brothers, and sisters.

### RAISING AWARENESS

Whether we speak of our actions as inviting, proactive, intentional, or purposeful, the bottom line is that vocation exploration must be explicitly and implicitly woven into the fabric of our youth ministry programs. We need to acknowledge and promote awareness that the search for an individual's personal response to God's call to holiness is a necessary step in becoming a mature Catholic man or woman of faith.

We also need to recognize that this process never takes place in a vacuum; it takes place within the community of the church. The church, then, has an obligation to support the discernment process of each individual and uphold the dignity of each vocation discerned.

The first step to heightening our awareness is to change the way we think. We must stop equating vocation ministry with religious life and

priesthood only. We must speak openly and regularly about all the ways a person can fulfill his/her dream. It is vital that all the different options be placed before our young people in a consistent manner, lest we give the impression that any one vocation is superior to any other.

Once we begin to change the way we think, additions and adjustments to our programs should follow naturally. If we talk about holy orders one evening, we can examine single life on another. If we invite married couples to speak about the joys and challenges of their vocation, we might also take another opportunity to invite vowed religious men and women to do the same.

It is critical to remember that relationships and example are essential to our life as church. If we want to model good marriages, we need to ensure the presence of happy, healthy couples to interact with our youth. If we want to model various forms of religious life, we need to invite dedicated, life-filled religious to take part in our programs on a regular basis. This principle holds true for singles and clergy, as well.

Because some of these individuals are fewer in number and spread very thin, it makes the need for advanced planning and developing those relationships a necessity. It would be rare that a young person would dream about a vocation to which they have never been exposed. If we do not model all of the possibilities, how can we say that we have helped our youth to dream of the fullness of God's options for them? How can our young people know what particular fire burns in their souls if they have only been allowed one or two examples of the many possibilities?

## ACTIVE RECRUITMENT

Only if we have done honest and adequate work in raising awareness of the dignity of all

vocations do we dare begin the process of actively recruiting those who might be called to a life of service in the church. It will be interpreted by our young people that these are the only dreams we care about supporting, however, unless we have laid the necessary groundwork. We can actively recruit for priests and vowed religious only if we have likewise promoted marriage and the single life.

Without doubt, I have a vested interest in recruiting candidates for priesthood! I love my life and my ministry as a priest, and I have known for most of my life that proclaiming the Gospel and presiding at Eucharist and the other

sacraments is the dream that would set my soul on fire and keep it burning for the rest of my life.

I want to invite all young men (and even a few older ones) to see if that same fire will burn in their souls, and I make no apologies for doing so. Still, I would be unwise not to acknowledge the fire that burns in the souls of my married friends, my single friends, and my vowed religious friends—different, passionate dreams, that all burn for the glory of the same God.

There are many dreamers out there longing to discover what will set them ablaze. As youth ministers, we need to ensure that all members of our parishes and youth groups are invited to consider the possibility of a role of service in any of its varied forms. If we encounter a student that shows an aptitude for ministry, we have an obligation as vocation ministers to encourage that student to consider all of the options.

The church needs good ministers. Our youth programs are staffed with dedicated lay ministers, both single and married, religious, deacons, and priests. Do we find our lives and our ministry rewarding enough to invite others to do the same? Hopefully, like those we serve, our dreams are poised for greatness. What fire burns your soul?



# IN TOUCH . . . WITH RESOURCES

***Never Too Young to Lead: Developing Leadership in Young Adolescents***, Maureen P. Provencher. Saint Mary’s Press, 2006. \$21.95

(from the catalog) “*Never Too Young to Lead* offers faith communities resources and strategies to develop leadership qualities and skills in young adolescents.

“This manual includes six themes on Christian leadership: leadership styles, listening skills, conflict resolution, trust and responsibility, leadership and discipleship, and planning and strategy.

“The sessions provide a broad overview of leadership with the aid of scriptural images.... The manual also offers strategies for using the sessions to create daylong, weekend, or weeklong training programs for young adolescents.”

***Gather Faithfully: Inviting Teens into Liturgical Ministries***, Laure L. Krupp. Saint Mary’s Press, 2006. \$26.95 (participant’s booklet: \$4.95)

(from the catalog) “Touch both the hearts and the minds of young people by training them—spiritually and practically—to be confident, skilled servants committed to Jesus Christ, to the Eucharistic liturgy, and to the Church.

“Rooted in the gifts of self and prayer, *Gather Faithfully* will help transform young people into more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

“...The leader’s guide provides clear direction for involving the young people, with three training sessions each for six ministries: reader, holy communion, altar server, hospitality, sacristan, and cantor.” You can find out more about these and other books by visiting [www.smp.org](http://www.smp.org).

## Idea Corner

by Leigh E Sterten

I heard this idea while at the Region 3 youth ministry leaders’ meeting. Unfortunately, school is out for summer—as the song goes—but you could plan ahead for next fall if you want to try this out.

Pat and Steve Munsey, along with the other adult leaders, “begin” their meetings an hour early. The hour is for young people to work on their homework and help each other out with tutoring. The adults bring food to feed the youth, so all the bases are covered.

As I recall, they meet twice a month, and may only do this one of the two times, but they say the reception has

been great. Many youth participate and they appreciate not only the time to devote to homework, but the assistance, if needed from a peer or an adult.

This is a great idea for meeting the kids where they are; many say they cannot attend youth ministry meetings because of homework, so in Marshfield, that excuse is taken away!

Providing a healthy meal also relieves parents for one evening and ensures that the youth are on time for the meeting and that their brains are energized and ready to go.

You may consider this idea throughout the school year, or even around the time of finals and other big exams for the students in your parish.

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS:  
THE PASTORAL  
LEADERSHIP TRAINING  
SERIES CONTINUES,  
OCT 16 AND 17,  
WITH THE TOPIC OF  
DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP  
WATCH *THE MIRROR*  
AND PARISH BULLETINS  
FOR REGISTRATION**

Youth Ministry: In Touch is a publication of the Office of Youth Ministry, 601 S Jefferson Ave, Springfield, MO 65806. (417) 866-0841. Email: [lsterten@dioscg.org](mailto:lsterten@dioscg.org). The purpose of this publication is to serve as a means of communication between the OYM and the youth ministry community in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Letters to the editor are welcome; letters must be signed and are published at the discretion of the editor. Ms. Leigh E Sterten, Director and Editor  
Mrs. Rosie Francka, Administrative Assistant



# Keeping In Touch



Important Dates, Programs, Meetings, and Events

**JUNE 3**

Godparents' Day—who knew? What a great opportunity to reconnect and remember the purpose of godparents.

**JUNE 4**

Region 2 youth ministry leaders' meeting, Aurora, 7—8:30 p.m. Special Guest: Karen Pesek. Please RSVP if not attending and bring snacks to share.

**JUNE 11-15**

St. Meinrad hosts their Youth Liturgical Leadership Conference. Pray for our (and all) participants.

**JUNE 17**

Our chance to remember and thank dad for all he does. And the chance to let someone else grill out for him!

**JUNE 18-22**

It's the start of Camp Re-NEW-All season in southern Missouri! Session 1F takes place in Fredericktown. Thanks to all our volunteers and staff!

**JUNE 25-29**

Camp continues with session 2F. Thanks also to all the priests who give their time for confessions and as spiritual directors.

**JUNE 25-29**

St. Meinrad hosts its second week of the Youth Liturgical Leadership Conference. If you would like to take youth next year, contact the OYM.

**JUNE 30-JULY 1**

IF it happens, dates for the Catholic Youth at Celebration City weekend. Knights of Columbus in Kimberling City have taken the lead.

**JULY 2-6**

Camp continues, kicking off in Cassville with Session 1C. Four more weeks to go after this one!

**JULY 6-10**

Final week for St. Meinrad's Youth Liturgical Leadership Conference. Thanks to our participants, especially chaperons.

**JULY 6-8**

The Archdiocese of St. Louis hosts weekend one of its Steubenville Youth Conference in Springfield. We welcome you all to southern Missouri.

**JULY 9-13**

Simultaneous sessions of camp, 2C in the west and 3F—the last one in the east for the year. Thanks, Virginia and Brenda!

**JULY 13-15**

TEC holds its 2007 Congress in Cape Girardeau. See the article on page 2 by Tom Schumer for more information. All youth ministry leaders are welcome.

**JULY 13-15**

St. Louis hosts its second Steubenville weekend in Springfield. For more information, visit [www.stlyouth.org](http://www.stlyouth.org).

**JULY 16-20**

Camp hits the midpoint in the west with session 3C. Thanks to all the groups who donate to camp each year.

**JULY 23-27**

Camp session 4C in Cassville. Did you know that the Knights arrange for a different council to come and provide dinner one night each week?

**JULY 30-AUG 3**

Camp season concludes with session 5C in Cassville. Thanks, Mandy and Bobbi, for all your hard work this summer!