

The St. Vivian Times

SPRING 2009

For Teens

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE NOW!

It seems like every summer there are awesome opportunities available for high school students to serve others, to develop leadership skills, to grow in faith, and to explore the world. Unfortunately, those awesome opportunities often come with equally awesome price tags.

St. Vivian Parish wants to help our teen parishioners take advantage of these events. Therefore, **the Office of Youth Ministry will pay up to \$100 toward the cost of registration for any event rooted in the Catholic faith that focuses on service work, ministry development, and faith formation.**

Those events include high school service trips, the mission trip to New Orleans, the National Catholic Youth Conference, TACKLE (a social justice camp led by the Archdiocese), Laudate (a music ministry training), and many more. All you have to do is fill out an application form and write a short essay. To download the application form, go to www.stvivian.org/youthministry.

To learn more about the scholarship or any of these events contact Ms. Schaefer at 728-4332.



St. Vivian teens pose with their NCYC hats and a corny new friend.

NCYC 2009: KANSAS CITY

This coming November over 20,000 Catholic teens from around the country will converge on Kansas City to rock the Sprint Center Arena with music, prayer, comedy, story telling, inspirational speakers, and funny hats. The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), is a high-energy three-day event that celebrates teens for who they are while challenging them to live fully as dis-

ciples of Christ in today's world. It invites teens to worship, play, party, and relax with others just like them.

NCYC is held every two years. Seven St. Vivian parishioners attended NCYC 2007, which was held in Columbus, Ohio. This year's conference will be November 19 - 22 in Kansas City, Missouri.

To read more about NCYC, turn to page 3.



The Times for Teens is looking for material to be published in future editions. We welcome poems, movie reviews, commentaries, articles, etc. If you have an idea for our next issue, send it to jeanne.schaefer@stvivian.org.

For more information about St. Vivian Youth Ministry
Contact: *Jeanne Schaefer, Director of Youth Ministry, 728-4332*

**To receive text message reminders
about youth ministry events**

E-mail your name and cell phone number to:
jeanne.schaefer@stvivian.org



CHRIST THE PIG: CHRIST THE REDEEMER

Before I came to St. Vivian, I spent some time as a first-grade teacher. One day I was talking about Lent when a boy named Fidel raised his hand and asked, "Why did Jesus die for us?"

I should have had an easy answer, I mean, it's pretty fundamental to Christianity. But I over thought the question and, in the course of 15 seconds, my brain flooded with theological debates: Jesus had to die to open the gates of heaven – but couldn't he have done that after dying of old age? Jesus was put to death in order for Roman sympathizers to quash a growing movement within Israel – Oh come on, Jeanne! You really want to explain the politics of occupational government to six-year-olds? Jesus died to save us from sin – but how exactly? And anyway, we still sin, so if that's the reason, did it work?

The class looked at me in anticipation, waiting for the wisdom that would surely spring forth from their teacher's lips. Instead, the wisdom came from the same boy who had asked the question. He raised his hand again and said, triumphantly, "Oh, I know! It's because he loves us!"

The other students nodded with happy smiles that said, "Of course! Why didn't I think of that?" And in my best sure-of-the-answer teacher voice, I replied, "That's right, Fidel, Jesus died for us because he loves us! Any other questions?"

I felt like a fraud.

At that moment, I resolved to myself that I was going to find an answer that would be complete and solid enough to satisfy my adult theology,

but simple and practical enough to make sense to kids. And find it, I did, but in the most unlikely of places – a joke about a pig and a chicken:

A pig and a chicken are walking down a road. The chicken looks at the pig and says, "Hey, why don't we open a restaurant?" The pig looks back at the chicken and says, "Good idea, what do you want to serve?" The chicken thinks about it and says, "Why don't we serve ham and eggs?" "I don't think so," says the pig, "I'd be committed but you'd only be involved."

You see, for a chicken, ham and eggs mean she can make her contribution and get on with her life. But for the pig, ham and eggs require the ultimate sacrifice. Jesus' mission required the ultimate sacrifice, too. He came into the world to set the captives free.

In his life on earth, he met people

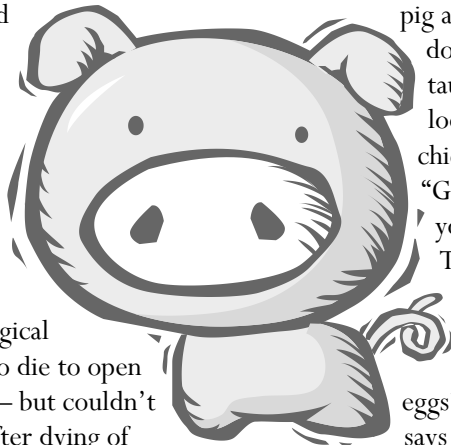
who were held captive by blindness, paralysis or disease, so he healed them. He met people who were held captive by sin, so he forgave them. He met people who were held captive by social ostracism, so he called them his friends.

But, as long as the world continued, there would be more people who were held captive by sin and temptation and by suffering and death. Jesus died to free them. By his life, death and resurrection, Christ redeemed the world. He gave us – and continues to give us – the strength to triumph over sin and demonstrates that our life on earth ends, not in death, but in resurrection.

To achieve all this, it wasn't enough for Jesus to be like the chicken, doing his part and getting on with his life. He had to be like the pig, making the ultimate sacrifice.

But why would Jesus do that, when it would require his own death? Fidel was right all along. It's because he loves us.

- Jeanne Schaefer



FROM ARCHBISHOP PILARCZYK

An excerpt from, [Being Catholic: How We Believe, Practice and Think](#)

Once we share in Jesus' life, everything changes. We no longer need to suffer alienation or loneliness, to be enslaved by fear or despair or meaninglessness. Things that turn life into hell on earth for so many people can now be surpassed, transcended, transformed by the life of Christ that goes on in our life. Likewise our human accomplishments, those few things we have to be proud of—our acts of concern for others,

our love for family and friends, our understanding and improvement of the world around us—all these are transformed and elevated because they are not just our accomplishments but also the accomplishments of the life of Christ who lives in us.

The life of Jesus, then, is not over. It goes on in his risen humanity, but also in us. Through his divine humanity, the life of Jesus has come into our life. We no longer live alone. We live with him and in him.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE 2009

WHAT: NCYC is a fun 3-day event for Catholic teens that includes rock concerts, teen-led worship, comedy clubs, coffee shops, service projects, unforgettable speakers, break out sessions, games like rock climbing and sumo wrestling, and down time to reflect on your experience.

WHERE: Kansas City, Missouri - All Cincinnati participants will stay at the Holiday Inn. Activities will be held at the Sprint Center Arena and the Kansas City Convention Center.

WHO: High school students from the graduating classes of 2010 - 2013 and adult chaperones.

WHEN: November 19 - 22, 2009

HOW MUCH: The cost per participant is \$495, this includes registration, transportation by chartered bus, hotel, breakfast, and some little perks such as backpacks, t-shirts, and crazy hats.

WILL THERE BE FUNDRAISING? Absolutely!

WHAT'S UP WITH THE HATS:

Every group that participates in NCYC wears a unique hat - St. Vivian is partial to flying pigs. Once you get to NCYC, you can trade your hat for another. Expect to see pirate hats, cheese hats, jester hats, and so on.

TO REGISTER: Contact Jeanne Schaefer at 728-4332.

PHOTOS (Left to Right): Can you identify the guy in white?, one of the many concerts, taking a break.



SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS



Once again this summer, St. Vivian will be traveling to New Orleans to rebuild houses that were destroyed in Hurricane Katrina.

The trip will be from August 1 - August 8. In addition to helping out with construction and rehab projects, participants will enjoy New Orleans' music, food, and visitor sites.

All high school and college students, including those entering high school in the fall of 2009, are welcome to participate. Adults over age 21 are needed as chaperones. Additionally, responsible students entering the 7th or 8th grade are welcome, so long as they are accompanied by an adult family member. The work will be coordinated by His Hands 2 Go, a volunteer organization that also provides food and housing for the week.

The cost for youth participants is \$300/person, which includes housing, transportation, admission to select tourist destinations, and most meals. Don't forget to apply for the \$100 youth ministry scholarship! Also, special pricing is available for families and chaperones. Call Ms. Schaefer at 728-4332 to register or to find out more.

VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to the St. Vivian youth ministry volleyball team, nicknamed "The Sneaky Green Sunflower Seeds." They finished the season 7-4! This year's MVPs include Kelly Heekin, Rachel Zins, Jason Copenhagen, Sarah Kent, Troy Elsen, Emily Brunsmann, Adam Zust, Corey Meyer, and Briana Vanstone!

CLASS OF 2009

Dear graduating Seniors, Congratulations! You are in our thoughts as you strive to stay focused through your final weeks of senioritis. Best wishes as you get ready for college and life after high school. Stay in touch!

Go forth into the world in peace;

Be of good courage,

Hold fast to that which is good,

Render to no one evil for evil,

Strengthen the fainthearted.

Support the weak,

Help the afflicted,

Honor all people,

Love and serve the Lord,

Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

P.S. If you would like to continue receiving the *Times for Teens*, please contact us with your updated address.

OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thunder Alley Glow Bowling

Saturday, May 2, from 3-5pm

Take on Fr. Paul and all your friends at Colerain Bowl during glow-in-the-dark bowling. Includes unlimited bowling, free drinks, and a live DJ. \$12/person. Registration required

High School Youth Meeting

Sunday, May 3, from 7-10pm

Join us in the Youth Room on the first and third Sunday of every month for games, prayer, movies, and time with friends.

Junior High Spring Dance

Saturday, May 16, at 7:30pm

High school students are needed to help host a Spring Dance Party

for the junior high. Come early to help with decorations and registration, and then enjoy pizza, music, and refreshments for the rest of the evening. All proceeds go toward the summer mission trip to New Orleans.

High School Youth Meeting

Sunday, May 17, from 7-10pm

High School Youth Meeting

Sunday, Jun 7, from 7-10pm

St. Vivian Parish Festival

Friday - Saturday, Jun 19 - 21

Support your parish and have fun with friends during the St. Vivian Parish Festival. Want to participate? Help out in the Kids' Prize Booth - sponsored by the youth ministry.

High School Youth Meeting

Sunday, Jul 5, from 7-10pm

High School Youth Meeting

Sunday, Jul 19, from 7-10pm

Mission Trip to New Orleans

Saturday through Saturday, Aug 1 - 8

Help rebuild New Orleans! See page 3 for more information.

Canoe Trip

Saturday, Aug 15, from 10am-4:30pm

Spend a summer afternoon with friends while paddling down the Little Miami River. \$14/person. Chaperones needed. Registration required.