

# SMM Youth Group

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## Thoughts from the Heart

*God calls us all, even in the middle of the night*

**Mike Karrels**

Core Team Member

I read an Article in the middle of last month about an NFL player who decided to retire from football going into his second season. This news shocked the fans, his team and even himself. When he was asked why he was doing this he said that he had found God his senior year of college and since then he no longer had the same passion that he had for the game of football anymore. He felt like God was taking him in a different direction and calling him away from football. I would like to share a few times that I remember that I heard and answered God's call.

The first time was one week before 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation I was a church confirmation retreat and there was a presentation about a Catholic High School and what it had to offer. Up to this point in my life I had always attended public schools. After the presentation was over something came over me and told me to go and grab the brochures about the school and take them home. A few weeks later I addressed the issue with

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## Service Opportunity

*SMM Youth Group Takes on Project*

The teenagers are needed! Our parish's St Vincent de Paul Society has asked us to help with a local resident that is in need of some yard work. We will be helping her our Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am to 2pm. We are in need of several things to make this event a success. We need pick up trucks to load with trash, work gloves, rakes, weed eaters, ladders, trash bags, and bug spray. If you are able to help either by coming out and working or by donating items please contact Susan. Permission slips are available in the Narthex and on the website.

## Our Lady of Mercy Concert

Our local Catholic High School is hosting a concert on Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 8pm. Tickets are \$10. Permission slips and money are due no later than Friday September 10<sup>th</sup>. Drivers and chaperones are needed. Please contact Susan if you can help.

## Parent Night-Say What?

Most of our returning families are familiar with our successful parent nights. For our new families I want to explain it. Twice a year, we have specially planned youth group nights when parents are invited to attend with their teenagers. We pick a topic with the goal of helping teenagers and parents learn to understand each other.

This semester's night will be Sunday October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6 to 8:15pm. We will be focusing on communications. We have several activities planned for you and your teenager if you are unable to make it, you may want to consider keeping your teen home that night. Please contact Susan if you choose to do this. The Youth Ministry Team really looks forward to this night and we hope you do as well. See you then!

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my parents and I told them that I wanted to attend Aurora Central Catholic high school which was 30 min away and not the public school right down the street. Respecting my wishes my parents set up a tour of the school and I started attending that school for the next four years. The first day I was very nervous but I felt at peace.

The second time I felt Gods call was again when I was looking at colleges. I knew I wanted to study aviation and there were very few aviation schools in the Midwest so my choices were limited to University of North Dakota, Mankato state in Minnesota, University of Nebraska in Omaha and Lewis University, a catholic christen brothers school, 20 min from my house. When I started this process I was like any typical teenager and I wanted to go as far away from home as I possibly could. Again my parents respecting my wishes we set off on a week long road trip to visit the universities except for the one that was close to home. Each of the universities had their pros and cons bout nothing really felt right. With some prayer and the strong encouragement from my mother we went to the university that was closest to my house, Lewis University. About 10 min into the campus tour I got a very strong sense of comfort and belonging that this was exactly where I needed to go to college.

The final time that I clearly believe that God touched my heart to do something was the first week of my final semester at Lewis. It was a Thursday night and as usual I was sitting in my dorm room watching TV and typing to my friends on instant messenger. About 8:45 I got a very strong urge or feeling to get out of my room and go and see what was going on with my friends up stairs. And inside note was that upstairs was one of the girl's floors. So I went upstairs and to one of my friend's room to see if she wanted to come down and watch ER. She was talking to a new girl that had just moved in at the start of the semester. My friend was headed out to a school activity but the new girl whose name was Naomi wasn't doing anything. When I invited her down to my room she said she would love to come down because she had nothing else to do. We watched the episode of ER and then we started to talk and talk and talk. Finally it was after 2 AM when we decided it was time for bed. That was the night I met my wife.

These are just a few examples of how God

has called me in my life. Sometimes God calls us in a way that is uncomfortable or strange but if we listen to that call in our life true happiness could be found.

## **Confirmation News**

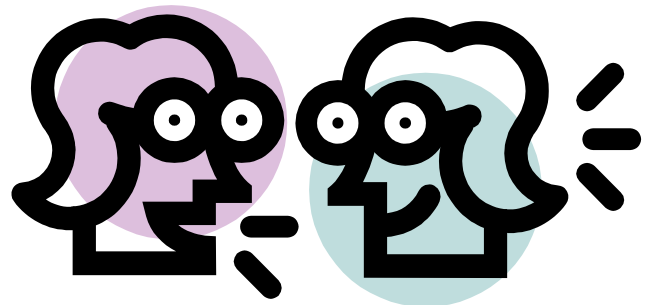
Our first of two meetings is scheduled for Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 5:30pm. This meeting is for the parents of Confirmation Candidates. You may bring your teenager with you, they can hang out with Core Team members and have dinner during the meeting.

The next meeting is Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup> also from 4:30 to 5:30pm. This meeting is for both parents and candidates. Again, dinner will be provided for the teenagers.

You should have received a letter in the mail with information about our Confirmation Program including a registration sheet. Please make sure it is completely filled out and bring it with you to the meeting. Also, have your child's baptism certificate and their sacramental record, or proof they received First Communion with you as well. You may have given this paperwork to us once before, but bringing a copy will help make sure everything is in order for your child. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Classes start on the weekend of September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> with the Saturday classes meeting from 10-11:30am and Sunday from 4-5:30pm.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact Susan.✧



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Below is a list of upcoming PREP nights and events. Permission slips are always available on line when needed at [www.smmcatholic.org](http://www.smmcatholic.org). Click on youth group and the forms are on the left hand side of the page. Please note that all forms must be turned in at least 3 days prior to the event, no late forms will be accepted.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### BIBLE TV-OLD TESTAMENT

SMM PROPERTY

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> FROM 6 TO 8:15 PM

WONDER WHAT TV SHOWS WOULD HAVE BEEN ON DURING THE TIME OF MOSES? WE WONDERED TOO AND CAME UP WITH SOME IDEAS.

### BIBLE TV-NEW TESTAMENT

SMM PROPERTY

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> FROM 6 TO 8:15 PM

SAME THING AS THE WEEKEND BEFORE, JUST ON THE NEW TESTAMENT.

### ROSARY

SMM PROPERTY

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> FROM 6 TO 8:15 PM

LEARN ALL ABOUT THE ROSARY. THIS INCLUDES HOW IT CAME ABOUT, HOW TO PRAY IT, WHY WE SHOULD PRAY IT, AND MUCH MORE. FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN ROSARY

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