

St Brendan's Youth Apostolate
Bellingham, MA

Dear Parents,

This newsletter is for you...to let you know what's going on at Life Teen...to provide you with articles on teen culture that we come across... to keep you up to date with St. Brendan's Youth Apostolate.

In the DECLARATION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Pope Paul VI teaches that "Parents...have the primary and inalienable right and duty to educate their children". He also says that "in a special way, the duty of educating belongs to the Church, not merely because she must be recognized as a human society capable of educating, but especially because she has the responsibility of announcing the way of salvation to all men, of communicating the life of Christ to those who believe..."

You can read the whole document here:

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651028_gravissimum-educationis_en.html

We are here to work with you as you guide your teens through these sometimes difficult years toward adulthood.

Life Teen is an international model of youth ministry which seeks to lead teens into a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church. For more information on Life Teen visit <http://www.lifeteen.com/>

Please feel free to join us for any event or Life Night!

Events and Activities for February

Fri, Feb 4

LaSalette eXtreme w/ Fr. Jose! ☺
LaSalette Shrine, Attleborough, MA
Meet @ St. B's 5:30 / return around 11:00 pm
COST: \$10.00

download permission slip here:

<http://stbrendanteenpage.org/home.html>

Fri, Feb 11

"R" Father Sharing/Prayer Group
7:00-9:00 pm in Choir Loft

Fri, Feb 18

Ice Skating @ Kennedy Plaza in Providence
Meet @ St. B's 6:30 pm, return around 11:00
COST: \$10.00 for skating and skate rentals

<http://www.kennedyplaza.org/skating-information/>

download permission slip here:

<http://stbrendanteenpage.org/home.html>

Sat, Feb 19

Pro Life Mass & Rosary
St. Stephen's, Framingham
Meet at St. B's at 7:00 am
Return around 10:00 am

download permission slip here:

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Fri, Feb 25

"R" Father Sharing/Prayer Group
7:00-9:00 pm in Choir Loft

Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions at St. Brendan's every Saturday from 2:00-3:30...this is something we often attend; the teens love Adoration and Confession ☺

Parents are always welcome to join us ☺

Pilgrimage for Life Report

We left St. Brendan's close to 5pm on **Fri, Jan 21**. We arrived at the Marriott in Rockville, MD around 1:30 am.

On **Sat, Jan 22** we celebrated Mass with Father Mullen in his hotel room. This was a very awesome experience for the teens. We then headed to DC for a tour of the Franciscan Monastery.

On **Sun, Jan 23** we attended the Students for Life of America training Conference with 1800 other young people from high schools and colleges around the country where we heard fantastic speakers.

On **Mon, Jan 23** we left the hotel at 5 am to go to the Youth Rally and Mass for life with 10,000 other teens! It was amazing. We then headed down to the National Mall to attend the March with somewhere between 300-400 thousand people...many high schools, youth groups, and colleges were there!

We had lunch in the National Gallery of Arts and then looked at some of the holy art before the March began. It was a fantastic, blessed trip!

Upcoming Life Nights

Sunday, February 6

Topic TBD

Sunday, February 13

"Veni Sancte Spiritus"

Life Teen 2011 Theme - Come Holy Spirit!

Sunday, February 20

"Re-Gifted"

The Universal Call to Holiness

Sunday, February 27

"Now Hiring"

God's Unique Call for Each of Us

Coat Collection Report

Thanks to everyone who donated coats, hats, mittens, and scarves! We had bags and bags of stuff that we brought to a homeless shelter for addicts in Worcester.

The children's items went to **Coat of Many Colors** in Woonsocket. We spent some time listening as the people who run this ministry told us about the people they serve. We learned that in Woonsocket there are people who live in the woods because there is minimal shelter for the homeless. Please remember to keep those who are homeless, hungry, cold, and lonely in your prayers. And remember to thank God for your many blessings ☺

St. Brendan's Youth Apostolate exists by the Grace of God to lead teens closer to Christ through catechesis, service, and the sharing of our lives. Prayer and the Sacraments are at the heart of this ministry.

All teens in grades 8 through 12 are welcome.

Youth Mass – Sundays @ 5:30

Life Night – Sundays 6:30-8:45

Social and Service activities as announced. Please check our website regularly for posting of events.
<http://stbrendanteenpage.org/>

For more info call:

Cheryl Duran 508-954-9109-cell

Jim Duran 508-954-9134-cell

We also have a dedicated group of young adults on our core team who work with us to share the love of God with teens.

The History and Development of Youth Culture – Part II of IV by Everett Fritz **

My wife and I were channel surfing a few weeks ago and we came across a television show called *Criminal Minds*. The television show is about a group of detectives who solve crimes simply by “profiling” the criminal mind. They study a crime scene and determine who the criminal is that they are looking for simply by looking at what the evidence of the crime can tell them about the person that committed the crime.

This technique is applicable to youth ministry. The more we study youth culture, the more we will be able to determine how to effectively reach that disengaged teen that stands in the back at youth group and won’t participate. This article will look at the history and development of youth culture and the impact it has on youth in our ministry.

The Beginning Stages of Youth Culture

In the Jan 2011 newsletter you read that youth culture has not always existed. It is a development of the modern world. There has not always been a stage of development known as adolescence. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, children would go straight from their parent’s lap into the workforce. Higher education was for a minority of people and it served to prepare children for adulthood. As the Industrial Revolution made work more complicated, children needed more education to prepare them to work. There became a wider and wider gap between children and adults. A new stage of human development was born. It is known as “adolescence.”

Climate for Change: World War II

The Industrial Revolution did not immediately create youth culture. Youth culture did not begin to develop until after the Second World War. It is really important to know how big of an impact this war had on the culture. The vast majority of men fought in the war. When they returned to their families, they were ready to begin a new life. The depression was over, America was prosperous again and, because of the GI Bill, soldiers could receive higher education for free. Almost overnight, the majority of American men were college educated and their children pursued the same goals. High school was no longer about preparing a child for adulthood. The purpose of secondary education was to prepare a child for college. This kept young men and women in the adolescent period for a longer period of time.

The Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and the Birth of Youth Culture

A major cultural revolution occurred in the 1960’s and youth culture declared its independence from the adult world. The decade saw great triumphs like the Civil Rights movement, the moon landing and Vatican Council II. It also saw the Vietnam War, protests, Rock and Roll, and the Sexual and Drug Revolutions.

The youth culture was born out of this decade. For the first time, adults became enemies of youth and anti-authority and rebellion became the norm for the family unit. Teenagers turned to drugs and sexual promiscuity for meaning. Atheistic humanism became the norm for academic expression in the university. The media took hold of the youth culture – particularly in music. The music of this decade became a rallying cry for the youth culture and revolution that developed. The youth literally revolted against the experience and wisdom of their parents. Youth were rebelling against their post-war upbringing – an upbringing that was characterized by wounded father who could not relate to his children.

Why This Is Important for Understanding Youth Culture

So why is this important to understand? What can we pull out of the history of youth culture? Take a closer look. Youth culture developed out of the cultural revolution of the 1960s. This decade was characterized by rebellion and anti-authoritarianism. In particular, youth no longer trusted adults. They rebelled against them. The decade saw drugs, sex, and violence become widely accepted in the culture. This decade saw confusion in the Church after Vatican II. This decade saw liberalism take over higher education. The Cultural Revolution was driven by media that was intentional about undermining Christianity. All of these symptoms can be linked to the breakdown in the family that occurred when the patriarch of the family was suffering from the fallout of the Second World War.

Look at this above paragraph again. Drugs, sex, lack of trust in adults, breakdown of family, poor witness in fatherhood, media undermining Christianity, violence, religious confusion, liberalism in the schools. Does this sound familiar? It’s the same problems we are currently facing in youth culture in 2011. These problems are not afflicting youth culture. They ARE youth culture. Youth culture is born out of and rooted into these problems. This is the climate that we, as youth ministers and parents, are facing when we seek to bring the Gospel to youth. This is why we cannot evangelize and catechize our youth as we have always done. The problems in youth culture are too great for us to conquer without an entirely new and proactive plan. We need to evangelize the youth culture the way we would evangelize in missionary territory. We need a new evangelization.

* Everett Fritz is the Director of Youth Ministry at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Jensen Beach, FL. He’s been working in ministry for four years after graduating with a B.A. in Theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is currently working on his Master’s in Theological Studies from the Augustine Institute in Denver, CO. He enjoys both Notre Dame Football and the Chicago Cubs. "I discovered a relationship with Jesus Christ as a teenager and I gave my life to Jesus Christ to mold as He wishes. God has led me to youth ministry in the Church and a vocation as a husband and a father."

**Part I of this series can be found in the January 2011 Parent Newsletter on the Life Teen Website at Stbrendanteenpage.org