

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 March

Fri, Mar 4

LaSalette eXtreme
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>

It has become a youth group tradition to attend Mass and Stations of the Cross on Friday nights during Lent...after we go to Papa Gino's in Medway for cheese pizza ☺

Fri, Mar 11

Mass / Stations of the Cross @ St. B's
Pizza @ Papa Gino's after (\$3.00)
7:00 – 10:00

Thu, Mar 17

St. Patrick's Day Prayer Vigil 7:00-8:00 pm
@ St. Brendan's

Fri, Mar 18

Mass / Stations of the Cross @ St. B's
Pizza @ Papa Gino's after (\$3.00)
7:00 – 10:00

Sat, Mar 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:
<http://stbrendanteenpage.org/home.html>

Fri, Mar 25

Mass / Stations of the Cross @ St. B's
Pizza @ Papa Gino's after (\$3.00)
7:00 – 10:00

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 ☺

Lent begins on Wed, Mar 9

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and praying, being tempted but denying himself.

How will we spend the 40 days of Lent?

What can we remove from our life that is keeping us from getting closer to God?

Where can we add prayer time to deepen our relationship with our Lord?

Lord, give us the grace to walk more closely with you during this Lenten season. Amen

Upcoming Life Nights

Sunday, March 6

"Come to the Desert"

Let's talk about Lent

Sunday, March 13

"Top of the Mornin'"

A Life Night on St. Patrick

Sunday, March 20

Topic TBD

Sunday, March 27

"For Better or Worse"

The Vocation of Marriage



**veni
sancte
spiritus!**

Come Holy Spirit!
This is Life Teen's theme
for 2011.
Come Holy Spirit, fill the
hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the
fire of your love.

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.

Principles of Youth Culture – Part III of IV by Everett Fritz **

If you have been following along with previous newsletters, Everett has discussed why it is important to study youth culture and what we can learn from the history and development of youth culture. In studying the current youth culture that we live in, here are 10 principles that can be observed:

1. **Youth are driven by a false sense of reality.** The most popular movie series among teenagers today (as of 2010) is the Twilight Saga. This is a story about a girl who is in love with a vampire and a werewolf. She cannot choose between the two and her love for them drives her to take ridiculous risks like jumping off a cliff or giving up her soul to become a vampire herself. While this story is imaginative and compelling, it also reveals that teenagers have no idea what real love is. Their reality and entertainment reflects a false reality.
2. **More than anything else, family life shapes youth environment.** Despite the fact that we think teenagers don't listen to their parents, studies consistently prove that the family life is the unit that forms the youth. We see this all the time in youth ministry. Families that are faithful – particularly families with a patriarch who is faithful – tend to have teenagers that are more fertile soil. The Church is losing her grip on youth culture and does not have the impact in shaping youth environment that she once had. Schools also greatly affect the youth environment.
3. **Peers are considered a greater source of wisdom than adults.** There is a lack of trust in adults among the youth culture. In the youth culture, there is a phenomenon that youth trust their peers more than they trust wisdom in adults. For example, if Suzy is having relationship struggles with her boyfriend, she would sooner trust the advice of her friend who has had fourteen boyfriends than the advice of an adult.
4. **Media Culture drives the values of youth culture.** Today, teenagers spend more time in front of media than they do sleeping. Between internet, Facebook, cell phones, television and music, the teens are almost always plugged into the media. Media has significant influence over the formation of youth culture. The media culture can be dangerous because it provides adults with a way to communicate to youth without permission slips or chaperones. The media culture is not interested in raising young people in virtue and character. Rather, the media exploits youth in order to make money at the expense of their moral character. To see an excellent documentary on how the media exploits youth culture, see the PBS Frontline documentary, Merchant's of Cool.
5. **Youth Culture is profoundly self-centered.** Most teachers, parents and youth ministers will not argue with the idea that teenagers are turned in on themselves. This presents a challenge when trying to teach a teenager how to love, because love and Christianity are supposed to bring us out of ourselves.
6. **With regards to a moral code, dualism exists in youth culture.** Most teenagers live a double life. Teenagers will live one way with friends and an entirely different way with parents. This presents a problem for a number of reasons. First, a teenager never has a real identity living two different lifestyles. An identity crisis occurs when a person lives a double life. Second, a teenager has two different moral codes for two different worlds. The truth becomes relative when there is more than one moral code for life.
7. **The highest virtue in youth culture is not ratting out your friends.** Teens will lie to adults to protect their friends, regardless of whether their friend is wrong. They will do this in almost any circumstance. Adults are seen as untrustworthy and not capable of handling difficult situations. The media culture constantly plays into this by portraying adults and parents as incompetent and by casting them as the enemies of youth culture.
8. **The 3 highest ideals in youth culture are physical beauty, athletic ability and intelligence** – and intelligence is secondary to the first two. Christian tradition has always spoken of these as the least valuable things in life. For a Christian, the highest value of life is virtue. For a teenager, their identity is found in the things they have instead of who they are created to be.
9. **Youth Culture thrives on false promises of happiness.** For a teenager, happiness is driven by the desire for fun. Teenagers even have to prove their "fun-ness" to their peers (think about statements like, "we had so much fun this weekend.>"). However, statistics reveal that teenagers are not happy. Fun is not completing them. In a Christian world, fun is not an end in itself.
10. **Youth are looking for someone to talk to.** Think about all of the social networking among teenagers. Because teenagers spend so much time in virtual relationships (facebook, texting, etc) they are starving for real interpersonal relationships. Teenagers want advice and they want someone to talk to. In our current youth culture, teenagers are more responsive to adults than previous generations. Deep inside they really crave advice from the adults in their lives, even when they don't realize it.

Having observed these principles of youth culture, next month we will look at how we can transform youth culture into a Christian culture.

* 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."