



G. S. Youth United

New Beginnings

by Emilie Mendia, Editor/Team Writer



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As graduation just passed us by, it is easy for people to think that seniors know what they are doing. For me, on the other hand, it is a different situation. Right now the most I know about my future for the next year is the college that I will be attending. Other than that, I am unsure of what I want to do with my life.

Some people believe not knowing what you want to do in life as bad. The truth is, the reason why I don't know is because this type of decision is such a crucial part in my life. Deciding what I want to be, how I want to get there, and all the small things in between is a question that shouldn't be taken lightly and answered at a whim. All I know is that God will show me the way. Although I haven't found my answer, I will still continue and pray that I may find the answers I am looking for and that God is giving me.

Seniors may or may not know what they want to do. Hopefully, they will listen to God's call and be fulfilled in the end. Our past teaches us, while the future is unknown to us. The present is to be lived and right now, we are living it.

Looking back, I can see the trail I have left behind and can only dream and hopefully like the path I will make. God will be present and will always be. As my peers separate from classmates, teachers, friends, and family, we will always remember the chapters that we have made in this community, especially this par-

ish. Leaving does not necessarily mean the end, but just a beginning of a new adventure of faith and love.

To the parish community of Good Shepherd Parish:

As this is a last issue, I thank you for reading our newsletters this edition. It has been a true blessing to inform you of youth events as well as inspire you with a few words about what we feel about our faith.

This year has been a tremendous success and we couldn't have asked for a better year. The newsletter team that I am a part of has been one of the most memorable things I have done my senior year. I thank the team for stepping it up and always working hard. A few seniors are leaving the team, including me, but I have no doubt that next year's newsletter will reach the success and maybe even more.

As this edition comes to an end, I want to remind everyone to keep God in your hearts and to live God's word. Thanks once again for reading this edition and supporting the youth this year. Until next year, stay safe, goodbye and God Bless.

Your Editor One Last Time,
Emilie Mendia



Emilie Mendia

Bowling for Cans

by Charity Quijano, Team Writer



Charity Quijano

On Saturday, April 5, 2008, many of the youth from Good Shepherd took the Mira Mesa Bowling Alley by storm. The line to check in reached all the way outside. Students in pre-confirmation class, confirmation class, and some fulfilling their obligation for the Louisiana relief trip were ready to bowl a few strikes. The reason that so many kids went is that it was their last chance to complete their justice and service project, a requirement in both pre-confirmation and confirmation. Not only was it their last opportunity, but it was also a fun one.

Bowling for Cans is an event that took place several times this year in which the youth have a chance to bowl for not only cans but also for money. In this case the money went to the good cause of this summer's relief trip to Louisiana. Each young person had to get a sponsor for each frame he or she bowled. In addition to paying \$.50 a

point, the sponsor agreed to donate one can. There were thirty frames so each young person brought in thirty cans and their money according to their score. We raised \$8,000 and 2,400 cans of food for Brother Benno's Soup Kitchen in Oceanside! The group from Good Shepherd filled up almost the entire bowling alley. Their efforts to bowl perfect games ultimately led to hundreds of cans for St. Vincent de Paul and hundreds of dollars for the Louisiana trip. At first the youth did not like the idea of bowling for a justice and service project, but by the end of the day, many reacted to the experience in the same way, saying it was fun to be able to bowl with friends while raising money and collecting cans for a worthy cause. After all, there really is no better way to have fun than to be with friends doing something recreational and giving back to the community at the same time.



Confirmed Catholics

by Djoannah Miguel, Team Writer



Djoannah Miguel

Confirmation is the sacrament in which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to join us more closely to Jesus and his Church and to seal and strengthen us as Christ's witnesses. It is the completion of baptismal grace. The youth and adult of Good Shepherd Parish are finally confirmed Catholics! In Confirmation our faith is deepened and strengthened, and through this sacrament we are more perfectly bound to Christ and to his Church.

On April 30, 2008, Bishop Chavez confirmed more than 200 students to be followers of Christ. This event started at 6:30 pm and lasted about 2-3 hours. Friends and family attended the event to share with the candidates. Each candidate had a

sponsor to witness their confirmation and have the same duties as a baptismal sponsor or godparent. The laying on of the hands had completed the receiving of the Holy Spirit. How does it feel to be confirmed? "It feels so exhilarating. I feel as if I can expand more into my faith. I feel more complete because of Confirmation," answered Simone Bagalso, a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Candidates were taught that Confirmation is not the end of their journey in faith; rather it's just the beginning. Candidates should feel more complete now that they are binded with the Holy Spirit and are a step closer to God. All they have to do is live up the word of God and share God's word with others.



Good Shepherd Youth United

by *Gianna Paiva, Team Writer*



Gianna Paiva

As the school year ends, we welcome new members on to our Core Team and say goodbye to our beloved seniors. This year's team has been a pleasure to work with and we have accomplished so much with the help of our faith, perseverance, and community. This group of dedicated youth devoted time out of their busy schedules this year to plan events to benefit their peers as well as those in need. It was our mission to reach out to the community and inspire people's lives with the very light that Christ gave us. We have successfully carried out our goals and have grown closer to God and each other while doing so. Although it saddens me to be leaving a group of such amazing people, I know that what we have worked for will only continue to grow stronger.

Looking back on this past year, The Core Team has made a large impact on the community. Each task group has worked hard to reach out to our youth in many ways. Community Life has planned many events, such as the All Night Party, in order to get youth more involved with the parish and have fun. Prayer and Worship has become a group of talented musicians who have beautifully led many retreats and prayer services, showing others that there are many ways to pray. Justice and Service has taken youth every month to volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul's soup kitchen, and their Bowling 4 Cans fundraiser not only brought in hundreds of

cans of food for homeless people, but also raised enough money to help fire relief efforts last fall. A portion of that money went to the trip to Lake Charles, Louisiana, to help the ongoing recovery from Hurricane Rita. The Web Team has done a great job with our website at www.goodshepherd youth.net. Schedules for Confirmation classes, information about the Core Team, and pictures from recent events are readily available to the community, along with many new features. This is the Newsletter's fourth issue this year, as we try to keep the parish informed about the impact the youth of the church are having on people's lives in our community.

Throughout all our hard work, we always keep God in mind. Many of us came to the Core Team in order to keep our faith alive, and we have grown even more in love with the Lord as we gives opportunities to our peers to keep the light burning inside them. You may have seen us around wearing bright yellow and purple shirts. In case you could not get a closer look, they all say, "Let no one look down upon you because of your youth, but be an example for the believer in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." 1Timothy 4:12. This is the way we choose to live our lives for the Lord. We choose to live in joy by trusting in God. And that joy makes us strong.

"Let no one look down upon you because of your youth, but be an example for the believer in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity."

-1Timothy 4:12





Adrian Bacong

Thinking of You, Whoever You Are: Wisdom and Reflection from the Teenage Mind

by Adrian Bacong, Team Writer

A Reflection on Matthew 9: 9-13

*“Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”
He [Jesus] heard this and said,
“Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.
Go and learn the meaning of the words,
‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’
I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”*

Looking at the world today from my seventeen year old mind, I notice a lot of things that I have never seen during my childhood. After the September 11 attacks, I truly viewed the world for the first time with war, poverty, hate, destruction, famine, promiscuity, and what seemed to me as the breakdown of our values, and immersion into a life of sin. It seemed that as the older I grew, the more I noticed the presence of evil and sin in the world, and the greater I immersed myself into a life of sin with disrespect, lying, and other kinds of evil acts. Sure, my degree of inundation was not as severe as others, but I could definitely feel evil and sin tearing away at me and eating my heart into oblivion. However, it took me until my sophomore year of high school to truly realize my faults and to truly repent for my mistakes. That year was an amazing year because of the openness I felt with my faith when I first became a parishioner here at Good Shepherd.

Prior to my attendance at Good Shepherd, I was truly challenged in my faith and beliefs and still immersed in a life of sin, hurting those whom I cared about the most: my family, my friends, and most importantly, God. Unbeknownst to many people, me, as well as many of my friends and loved ones, we have all lived that life of sin and corruption at one point of their lives. I used to believe that the most kind and beautifully minded individuals were in es-

sence “perfect,” but my innocence was shattered as I learned of their past faults. I became distraught at their “imperfection,” but yet understood truly why they are great people today. I too have had some past faults that I am not proud of, but what makes life great is the ability for people to forgive and alleviate the pain of the path of sin. The people I met and the friends I made here at Good Shepherd made me feel welcome and open in expressing myself and living with my faith. The amazing people I have met at Good Shepherd inspired me in my faith and helped me to realize that I am not alone in this world, but I am always with God no matter what occurs.

It is in today’s Gospel that we learn why life is great because Jesus will always be there for us, to help us on the path to becoming amazing people. Though we may sin, it is God that helps us to recover, to ease away the pain and anguish of our lives of sin. We all make mistakes and therefore we are all sinners. None of us are perfect, except God. God is perfect; and in his perfection is he able to live with us, and help us with our problems. God will never give up on us. He will always guide us to try to do the right thing, but it is our free will that allows us to stray away from the path to Heaven. Though we may stray from the path, God is always there for us, through the thick and thin, for better or for



“To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.”
-St. Thomas Aquinas

Thinking of You, Whoever You Are: Wisdom and Reflection from the Teenage Mind (cont.)

by Adrian Bacong, Team Writer

worse, in sickness and health, in life and in death. We are all truly bound to God and it is through this union with him that he calls us, sinners, to come with him to paradise. He only requires that we make the effort to become better people, to improve our lives and the lives of others. Jesus does not seek the perfect because no such people exist. The

worst person that can exist is one that cannot admit to their faults, one that admits that they are perfect in an imperfect world. God looks for the weak, the sinners, the unloved, and makes the strong, good, and loved. Remember, everything will always work out in the end. He will always be with us. He will always think of us, whoever we are.



Last Pre-Confirmation Class

by Charity Quijano, Team Writer

Tuesday, April 25, 2008, was the last pre-confirmation class of the year. It was a long year and a new experience for most of the youth, but that extra two hours of "class" after school on Tuesday nights was well worth it. It was a time to speak out, learn new things, and delve deeper into the Catholic faith everyone in the room shared. Energy was high each week, and it was at its peak on the last night. The week before was a time to prepare for the mass. The youth broke into groups of their choice—readings, preparation of the gifts, music—so they were all directly involved in the mass.

Although it was bittersweet, the youth were satisfied with their new insight into the Catholic faith and the bonds they made with their fellow peers with whom they may not have met had it not been for Tuesday nights. The evening started with a skit reflecting the message of the reading. Actors and actresses wore shirts representing different vices, such as violence and drugs. In the skit, a football game was going on, with Free Will as

the MVP. He was able to tackle down all the obstacles in his path, which were those wearing negative shirts. The moral of the skit was that we have free will, or the power to choose what is right and what is wrong. Therefore, it is up to us to overcome temptations. The Gospel of the day was about Jesus and the sharing of his peace, an important theme for the year as well as for life. After the mass the youth enjoyed a dinner of hot dogs, nachos, and fruit prepared by the facilitators. The night ended with one last night prayer and a hope that the youth would continue to strengthen their faith. "I looked forward to Tuesday after school because of pre-confirmation class," recounted young person Yssabel Pangilinan, "but now that it's over, I realize it is really up to me to live my faith out loud." Everyone involved in the pre-confirmation class was truly blessed to be part of something so amazing, knowing that their journeys of faith will continue stronger than ever.



Charity Quijano



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Goodbye for Now

by Cheyenne Paiva, Team Writer

With the beginning of summer comes more time to spend at leisure, so the Core Team has already begun planning events aimed with your participation in mind. The youth and adults going to Louisiana have essentially begun their journey by planning and fundraising for the trip. The annual summer trip to Disneyland will soon take place, and the Core Team has events like bonfires that are already in the making. Keep an eye out for these events on the calendar at www.goodshepherd youth.net.

With our final issue of the newsletter, the Newsletter Team and Core Team would like to thank you for reading and participating in our cause. Each and

every one of us loves to see the youth get involved and be active in their church community, as we try to achieve a greater connection between the youth and adults of our parish. This is just an ending to this issue, but the beginning of a new. With a final thank you, we conclude the last edition of GS Youth United.



Cheyenne Paiva

Calendar

Following is a list of our upcoming activities. Please note that all off-site activities need a signed permission slip.

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Core Team Meeting (returning members)	July 16
Core Team Meeting (all members)	July 17
Leadership Camp: Camp Emmaus (\$50 deposit due now)	August 3-7

For more information, go to our website:
www.goodshepherd youth.net

