



G. S. Youth United

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12



Christmastime by Veronica Murray, Editor

Welcome all! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and I hope the holidays have refreshed you spiritually and physically. It's a shame the holidays have passed, but that doesn't mean we cannot keep the holiday spirit alive! When I think about Christmas, I think about our Lord being born into our world, which is just plain amazing. But the other part of Christmas is, of course, the celebration and the PRESENTS! Everyone says, "It's better to give than to receive." Though this is true, let's face it, who doesn't like getting gifts? I personally think that I love getting gifts not simply because I like having the newest and coolest gadgets but because they make me feel loved. I like getting gifts because it means that person took the time to think about me, they sacrificed their

time and money to get me something, even if it is something small. Also, I have heard many people around this time of year saying that they wish the holiday cheer could stay all year and I challenge that. Why can't it?! During Christmastime people are kind and giving, loving and all around in a happier mood. Why? I think it is a domino effect. One person started to get into the Christmas spirit and then so did you, right? So I say I want



loved with a card, a letter, a small gift, a note or even just a short conversation to ask how they are doing. I want to be uplifted all year long and tell people that I am thinking of them and that they are loved. If we kept the Christmas mindset all year, the world would be a better and less stressful place! Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Christ and during the year (except Easter of course) we should rejoice at what He did during His righteous life and for me that is a reason to celebrate! So as the old year goes out and the new year comes in, I say it's the perfect time for change! Let's not let this year pass as the last did with broken resolutions and post-Christmas depression, but with merry feelings of peace and goodwill that will last throughout the year. I hope you all have a very blessed new year.

January 7/8, 2012

Volume 7, Issue 2

Inside this issue:

Pre-Con Orientation	2
St. Vincent de Paul	2
Senior Spotlights	3-4
Talent Showcase	5
'Tis the Season	6
Pre-Con Retreat	6
All Night Party	7
Pre-Con Reunion	7
Upcoming Events	8



Pre-Con Orientation by Austin Ledesma, Writer

Good Shepherd held an orientation on September 11, 2011 for the Pre-Confirmation class run by Patrick Clasby. To start things off Alyssa Marie Yabut held the opening prayer. She gave thanks to God for bringing all those students to us that night and hoped that they came in with open hearts and minds. The students came in looking a bit timid as usual. The adult and junior facilitators expected this to happen and planned a way to get around it and to make the students more comfortable. The team had a few ice breakers ready for the students to sing and dance around. The singers were Janine Baluyot and Jas-

mine Rodriguez, while Arnie Marticio and Carlo Escudero jammed on the guitar. The songs were "Prince of Peace", "Trading My Sorrows", and "Making Melodies". The incoming students really got into it and it was evident that they thought Pre-Con wouldn't be so bad after all. Then our Praise and Worship team put on a skit to show the students what Pre-Con may be like depending on their attitudes. It was entertaining and funny. At around 7 pm, Pat Murray and Mrs. Holloway took the stage to talk about what Pre-con was all about and the events that the students could attend. They gave an insight on how parents could get involved and what an opportunity Pre-Con was for the kids and how they

watched their kids grow in their faith through this program. To finish the night off, Icelle Fidel gave a small witness talk about how Pre-Con has affected her life and what she experienced. It was a way to show the students that if they took the time to stop and listen to God their lives would change for the better. That night we also gave a small moment to stop and reflect in honor of those lives lost during 9/11. Overall, the night was a success and the students started off the year strong by not being afraid to participate. The orientation was a great way to show the students that even though this is completely new to them, that this was a place that they could be totally themselves around us.



St. Vincent de Paul by Franz Manalansan, Writer

Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation students are required to participate in at least one Justice and Service project each year that they are in the Confirmation program. One of the options they have, provided by Core Team's Justice and Service task group, is volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul's soup kitchen. St. Vincent de Paul is a partner of Father Joe's Villages, which is dedicated to helping break the cy-

cle of homelessness through multiple services and programs they offer. Volunteering at the soup kitchen is just one of many volunteer options they have. Once there, the kids get volunteer badges and assigned to a kitchen. After washing their hands, putting on hair nets, aprons, and gloves, the students are assigned which food they'll be serving. The tray will be passed down the line, and each compartment will be filled with the assigned food.

According to one youth who has participated twice before, she was nervous at first, but grew more comfortable. "It's nice knowing that I helped someone. It's a really good feeling, knowing that I became a part of someone's life through a small good deed. And they always say thank you," she says. The upcoming dates for the Saint Vincent de Paul trips are: Friday, January 13; Wednesday, February 15; Monday, March 26; and Saturday, April 7.

Senior Spotlights

We asked graduating seniors from the **Class of 2012** a few questions about their faith. Read their inspirational responses! As each young person transitions to the world of adulthood, we pray for continued blessings for all of them!



Name: Frank Ningala
High School: Mira Mesa HS
Task Group: Community Life

What song inspires your faith?
"Our God is Greater" by Chris Tomlin

Do you have a favorite Bible verse or inspirational quote?
1 Tim. 4:12 is just something that can really describe me and one that I live by every day.



Name: Linda Oberle
High School: Mira Mesa H S
Task Group: Justice and Service

What song inspires your faith?
"I Am" by Mark Schultz, "Amazing Grace" by Chris Tomlin, & Hungry (Falling on My Knees) by Hillsong

Do you have a favorite Bible verse or inspirational quote?
Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. -1 Peter 4:10 (TNIV)



Name: Trisha Maatubang
High School: Cathedral Catholic HS
Task Group: Hospitality - Chair

What song inspires your faith? "Ave Maria" by Beyoncé. "Ave Maria" is definitely a worship song. And when I heard it at retreat, I think it was something that I really needed to listen to - it entered my life at the right time.

Do you have a favorite Bible verse or inspirational quote?
Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you a good future and a hope." This verse especially stands out to me because it illustrates God as a Father, Caretaker, and Guide.



Name: Jasmine Bituin
High School: Mira Mesa H S
Task Group: Hospitality

What song inspires your faith? My favorite song that inspires my faith is How Great Thou Art written by Carl Boberg.

Do you have a favorite Bible verse or inspirational quote?
One of my favorite Bible Verses that is very inspirational to me is

Phillipians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
I find this bible verse very inspirational because as life brings upon many obstacles and hardships, it is a constant reminder and pick me up that I should never lose hope because through God I can overcome whatever life throws at me. Through God, anything is possible. :)

Senior Spotlights

We asked graduating seniors from the **Class of 2012** a few questions about their faith. Read their inspirational responses! As each young person transitions to the world of adulthood, we pray for continued blessings for all of them!



Name: Carlo Escudero
High School: Mira Mesa H S
Task Group: Praise and Worship - Chair

What song inspires your faith?

Who Am I - Casting Crowns, Everything – Lifehouse, You Found Me - The Fray
I Will Be Here - Steven Curtis Chapman, At the Foot of the Cross - Kathryn Scott
Lean on Me - Bill Withers, Living on a Prayer - Bon Jovi, Ave Maria - Beyonce
Breathe – Vineyard, Here I Am to Worship - Michael W. Smith
Mighty to Save - Hillsong United



Name: Jever Apon
Task Group: Community Life
What song inspires your faith? I do not have a favorite.

Do you have a favorite Bible verse or inspirational quote?
" I tried my best "



Name: Icelle Marie Fidel
High School: Mira Mesa H S
Task Group: Praise and Worship

What song inspires your faith?
"Open My Eyes Lord" and
"He Heals Me" by India.Arie

Do you have a favorite Bible verse or inspirational quote?
1 Tim. 4:12 - This is my favorite bible verse because it helps me to stand strong for what I believe in. It gives me the motivation to do great things in my life and my community. This bible verse also inspires me to be a role model for my peers and the youth in Pre-Con and Conformation.



Name: Nathan Tu
Task Group: Community Life
What song inspires your faith? Everything - Lifehouse

Do you have a favorite Bible verse or inspirational quote?
I don't have a favorite bible verse or inspirational saying, but my favorite parable is the Parable of the Lost Sheep. I believe this is a parable that every one of us here experienced one time or another. It portrays that although we may be lost in faith, God will always be there waiting for us, trying to pull us back to him.



Talent Showcase by Stephanie Bucao, Writer

Good morrow fellow bulletin readers! I have a question here for you; do you enjoy watching people showcase their talents? If so, then I hope you attended the Good Shepherd Talent Showcase back in early October! If you didn't go, no worries, there's always next year! However, just to fill you in, this article will explain everything you missed out that night. To start things off, the event was held by the Core Team Community Life task group and took place in the

Parish Hall. The night consisted of many acts that included some singing, dancing, and even a bit of poetry here and there. In between each act, the audience laid their attention on the three lovely emcees, Austin Ledesma, Jasmine Olalia, and Veronica Murray. The three would occasionally give bits of commentary and did their best to instill anticipation upon members of the audience for every act. Many of the participants of the showcase were those who attended Good Shepherd themselves. By surprise, however, some of the acts included

those from different parishes, including the musical stylings of Maui, Lani, and friends from Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside. As well as a few original songs by the amazingly talented Hannah Grace from Mission San Diego De Alcalá. From the first act to the last, the audience gave their undivided attention and showed support for each of the performers. As many would agree, the showcase was a great success and the audience really enjoyed themselves.



Various acts in the Talent Showcase



Maui, Lani, and Friends



Good Shepherd



Hannah Grace



'Tis the Season
by Monique Breillatt, Writer

That's right everyone! It's that time again, it's the Christmas Season! Which means it's time

to put up Christmas lights, decorate the Christmas tree, and go Christmas shopping. Lately, Christmas has been an excuse to go shopping and receiving gifts. It has become commercialized and we often forget the true meaning of Christmas. Everyone is always so excited for Christmas because of the shopping, tree decorating, and of course all the presents, but do they really know the meaning of Christmas?

Christmas is the day of Jesus' birth. The true meaning is to celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. We are distracted by all the presents and are often caught up in this materialistic picture of what a perfect Christmas supposedly is. Kids nowadays think Christmas is all about the presents, but at the end of the day when you're surrounded by the people you love who truly make you happy, that is the most precious gift anyone could ever receive. The love we receive from our families is also shown and given by God through Jesus. God, love, and family is the spark that lights up the Christmas spirit in everyone.

The love that God gives to us and the love we share for each other is what makes Christmas bright, which is why this holiday is so wonderful.

This Christmas season, enjoy the time spent with your family and friends, and don't forget the true meaning of Christmas. It is not always about the amount or quality of gifts that everyone receives; it is about enjoying one another's company and appreciating the memories that came along with this past year. And behalf of the Newsletter Team, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Pre-Con Retreat
by Franz Manalansan, Writer

Something all Pre-Confirmation students have to go through is Pre-Con retreat. As an already

Confirmed Catholic, I can honestly say I love going on retreats. On October 28-30, Pre-Con students, junior facilitators, and adult facilitators journeyed to Palomar Christian Conference Center to experience that spiritual high through this year's Pre-Con Retreat. This year's theme was *God's Positioning System*. During the retreat, junior facilitators and adult facilitators alike gave witness talks on the topics Who Am I?, Friendship, Family, and Reconciliation.

According to one Pre-Con student, retreat changed her by

every atom. Her faith has grown stronger because of it, and her relationship with God has flourished as well. She prays more often and enjoys going to church. From multiple



Around the cross during retreat

junior facilitators, their journey was eye opening as well. To experience the other side of what it takes to make a retreat, as well as seeing these kids go through so much for their faith, was life changing for both sides. Some people

are still in that "spiritual high" and have a stronger relationship with God because of Pre-Con retreat. Some junior facilitators are also proud to have changed and influenced these kids and watched them grow into young adults in their faith. Watching them create closer bonds with their small groups and having people really connect with each other made junior facilitators feel accomplished.

Like always, people wish that they could have stayed longer, but it's the one thing that everyone takes back from retreat: you have to live as God wanted you to amongst all the distractions in this world and take what you learned at retreat back into your regular lives.



All Night Party

by Veronica Murray, Editor

On December 2, 2011, the Good Shepherd Parish hall was filled with our high school youth. It was a fun filled

night with 2 movies, a FULL game room, a boys vs. girls sit down volleyball game, A LOT OF FOOD, and midnight bowling. This year's all night party had the highest attendance than ever before! There were many fun things to do throughout the night starting at 7 pm. The hall was opened and there was a full spread of sandwiches for the

youth too munch on, YUM! There was a game room that was quickly filled with kids as they played Xbox, Wii and board games like Scrabble. Outside the hall, chairs were set up for kids to talk and catch up. Inside, tables were set up with groups playing card games. Later, the youth watched the first movie of the night titled *Soul Surfer*, an inspiring story of a young surfer who gets attacked by a shark and loses her arm. After the movie there was a night prayer with a skit inspired by *A Christmas Carol*, which helped us remember what Christmas is real-

ly all about and to be grateful for what we have. Then the youth proceeded to the bowling alley for midnight bowling, where they had the whole bowling alley to themselves! And of course there was pizza there waiting to be consumed! After that they went back to the hall and continued to play games and watched another movie. Finally, around 6 am everyone started going home for some good rest! Overall the night was a huge success, the youth had a blast and we hope to see you there next year.



Card games at the all night party



Board games at the all night party



Bowling at Mira Mesa Lanes



Pre-Con Reunion

by Austin Ledesma, Writer

The Pre-Confirmation reunion was held on November 8, 2011 in the Parish Hall. It was a chance for the

students who went on retreat at the Christian Conference Youth Center in Palomar to gather again and remember the great times they had while there. Their parents were also invited to look at pictures, sing along, and dance. They got just a little taste of what the students experienced while away that weekend. The students were so excited to show their families what it

was like. Two students, Mi Ly and Hans Oropallo, shared their experiences while at retreat and how it changed their lives. Hans Oropallo gave his heartwarming story about his adoption and really opened up to everyone about his life. He shared how retreat showed him that he was truly loved unconditionally by God and by everyone who went on retreat. Mi Ly also told her story on how retreat gave her the drive to want to grow in her faith and to be the best person she could be throughout life. The families got to bond and share each other's lives more

closely. It was clear that after retreat the students' lives had changed. They were more open to activities like singing and dancing. Throughout the room the growth in faith with the students was overwhelming. They wanted to show their parents, the team, and God what they learned and what they wanted to do with it. It was a night full of laughs and memories shared with everyone there. Being a part of an experience like that was something people could truly appreciate. Big thanks to Patrick Clasby and the team for putting it together!



Pat Clasby
Coordinator of Youth Ministry

8200 Gold Coast Drive
San Diego, CA 92126
Phone: (858) 271-4128
Email: pclasby@san.rr.com

For information regarding upcoming events, go to
www.goodshepherd youth.net/events.htm

Please note that all off-site activities need a signed permission slip.

UPCOMING EVENTS	DATE (S)
St. Vincent de Paul Trips	January 13 February 15 March 26 April 7
Ski/Board Trip	January 16
Confirmation Retreat	February 10-12
Confirmation Retreat Mass	February 12
Confirmation Mass of Blessing	February 26
Confirmation Prayer Service	March 7
Synergy	April 21



Upcoming Events by Arin Pena, Writer

There's nothing like a new year with new, upcoming events for everyone. Good Shepherd Parish has new events for 2012 for all of the youth. 2012 is a brand new year for everyone and there will be so much to do.

January is the month for some fun in the snow. On January 16, there is the Ski/Board trip up at Snow Summit. There's nothing like kicking back and enjoying the snow with some friends and other youth.

In February, there are a few events set up for the Confirmation youth. From February 10-12, the Confirmation youth will be going off to their retreat. When the youth come back on Sunday, February 12, there will be a retreat mass. This will give the youth time to reflect on their spiritual weekend. On February 26, there will be a Confirmation Mass of Blessing for the youth.

On March 7, Confirmation youth have a Prayer Service at the church. This'll help the youth get

ready for their own Confirmation.

In April, there is Synergy. On April 21, the Synergy Youth Rally will be open to all youth.

2012 is up for everyone's taking. Now's the time to start new things and enjoy the new year. All of these events are coming up soon so don't waste time and go to them. Everyone, from youth to young adults to adults, is welcome. Come and enjoy the new year! It's bound to be great.