

G.S. Youth United

The Events and Happenings of the Youth of Good Shepherd

Pat's Corner

Hello Good Shepherd! I hope you are all doing well. Sorry it's been so long since we've chatted together. As you will see in this newsletter, we have had an incredible summer here at G.S. We did a number of activities and over 100 youth participated, but for me the highlight was our trip to Louisiana.

The first is our trip to Louisiana. On Saturday, June 24th, 16 youth and adults loaded up into three vans and departed for a two day trip to Louisiana. Many of the youth were apprehensive about spending two days on the road but to a person, it was one of the highlights of the trip. Much bonding and growing in faith took place during the initial two day car ride. On the way out (and subsequently on the way back) we stayed in a little town called Van Horn, Texas. The travel out was fairly non-eventful except for one flat tire that cost us a couple of hours time. As we crossed into

Louisiana there was great cheering and excitement as we neared our destination. Little did we know the extent of the bugs that we would encounter. The closer we got to Pecan Island, the more bugs rained on our vehicles. Big bugs that you could hear pelting the vehicle much as rain would. On our first full day in Pecan Island we awoke, ate, covered ourselves in bug spray and went to work. The next four days were much of the same. I couldn't have been more proud of the work our young people did. Not once did anyone complain about the work they were doing. Each of us were in awe of what Mother Nature had done to that part of our country. We all got an opportunity to learn a little bit about life in Louisiana. Most of all, each person came back more appreciative of what they have back here in San Diego. The last night of our trip, we had an emotional prayer service where each person talked

about how they had changed and grown from their experience. That was followed by two more days of driving home. We would like to give the parishioners of Good Shepherd a chance to come and see what work we performed while in Louisiana. We will be having a dinner that is open to the parish in the near future. Please contact me if you would like to attend so that we could save a spot for you. We will make sure to advertise in the bulletin and newsletter. In addition to the dinner there will be a video, presentations, and a question and answer period. In the meantime, I hope you'll join me in saluting Aldrine "Nikko" Budomo, Olivia Kanu, Krista Closs, Kristine Tran, Kristine Del Mundo, Alex Trahan, Shelby Watson, Christina Brown, Kimmy Oberle, Edison Salvador, Daryl Obdinaela, Autrey Porter, Concha, Patti Salvador, and Chad Closs. Each demonstrated what it was to be a disciple in Christ.

Special points of interest:

- Reviews of the hurricane relief trip to Louisiana
- High School Core Team attends Camp Emmaus
- Welcome Fr. Javier
- Get involved by checking out the October calendar

Inside this issue:

Pat's Corner	1
Louisiana Trip	1
Young Leaders In Christ	2
Catholic to the Core	3
Six Flags Trip	3
Wild Rivers Trip	4
Fr. Javier	4

Louisiana Trip An Amazing Experience by Rachele Miguel

As we all know, the destruction of Hurricane Katrina put many people through difficult suffering. The people affected lost most if not all their valuable possessions including their homes, and many even their lives. To this day, the hurricane victims are still in need of any help possible.

From June 24 to July 1st, a group of 16 youth and adults

from Good Shepherd spent their summer helping the people affected by Hurricane Katrina. The Justice and Service task group of Good Shepherd's core team with the help of Pat Clasby planned this successful event. By car, the parishioners traveled for two days stopping only once to stay over night in a hotel in Van Horn, Texas to get a good night's

sleep before continuing on.

They reached Pecan Island, Louisiana on June 26th and began their task of restoring a home. On their first day in Pecan Island, they were split into groups and were sent to different locations for other work to be done. The first group tore down the rotting house; the second group dug a trench for a water line. On the

Louisiana Continued



From Left to Right: Christina Brown, Shelby Watson, Kimmy Oberle, Pat Clasby & Alex Trahan

second day, both groups worked together on the trench. Others painted the house and helped on things that needed to get fixed. The third and fourth day, one of the groups went to a newly built house owned by a couple to lend a hand.

Christina Brown experienced "...Probably every emotion. Just the people, after so much that they have gone through, they were still wonderful and kind. You learn that you do not need any material goods to be happy. The friendly and helpful people around you are

what make life enjoyable. This trip helped me get closer to those who went and share our faith. The digging, painting, and tearing down walls in the 100 degree heat definitely made the work hard to accomplish in four days. But knowing that I have helped a family get a home again, it makes it all worth it. It was utterly the most amazing rollercoaster experience of my life. And in the end, I truly enjoyed it."

Every night of their trip, our parish troupers had prayer services for the innocent people who lost everything in the

misfortunate event. It was wonderfully uplifting experience for those who volunteered to go and for the people in Louisiana.

Young Leaders in Christ by Emmeline Domingo; Editor

In today's world, people seem to hold a negative view on teenagers like ourselves. Well this group of young people is determined to dispute the negative stereotype as our team is complete with mature, hardworking, and loving teenagers.

Hello everyone! The Newsletter task group of Good Shepherd's core team as well as the rest of core team would like to welcome you to another year of continuing in the love of Christ with us. This first issue of the year is bustling with information on the past summer's activities and new endeavors which the team plans on pursuing, as well as a great highlight on one of the newest member's of our parish, Father Javier.

As you have read, this past summer was filled with great experiences for the youth. So if anyone thought we laid dormant during the summers, you could never be more wrong! Enjoying the love of God is a year round thing; this past summer we learned that we must revel in being Catholic 24/7. If core team was asked what the best experience of summer was, many of us would respond with "leadership camp!" We can definitely say that we all returned as a much closer unit, and as stronger leaders in Christ, filled with even more resolve to follow and set the Lord's examples for others. Every Christian has a

calling from God and we are happy to say that we have heard ours and are excited about carrying it through starting so early in our lives. In today's world, people seem to hold a negative view on teenagers like ourselves. Well this group of young people is determined to dispute the negative stereotype as our team is complete with mature, hardworking, and loving teenagers. So get ready everyone! Wait until you see what wonderful things we youngsters can do.

There is a job for each individual on the team to accomplish. This year we continue with our task groups: web team, community life team, prayer and worship team, justice and service team, and newsletter team. The entire core team will continue to grow, bond, and work closely together with our adult facilitators and Pat Clasby as our head director. There is an array of activities we plan on holding this upcoming year which we invite all of you to look out for. This is going to be a great year for the youth of Good Shepherd Parish.

We hope you have all enjoyed this first issue of Good Shepherd's Youth Unit. And please do not hesitate to contact us about any questions or suggestions regarding this newsletter or other tasks the team is involved in throughout the year. We look forward to sharing more of the Lord's good news with you all in the months to come. Look out for more of our monthly issues! God Bless!

Catholic to the Core by Stephanie Perillo

After attending the diocesan leadership camp entitled "Camp Emmaus," the high school youth of Good Shepherd are prepared to be Catholic to the Core! This year's leadership camp took place August 6-10 at Whispering Winds in Julian. Over one hundred youth from all over the diocese attended Camp Emmaus including Most Precious Blood, Our Lady of Grace, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, San Luis Rey, San Rafael, St. Luke and others. A team of hardworking adults and youth ministers had been planning the camp for months.

"Catholic to the Core" was the theme of Camp Emmaus. The first afternoon was spent breaking the ice with a few songs performed by a band of youth and adults. Pat Clasby gave a presentation on how to plan a prayer.

The theme of the second day was "Catholic 24/7." K.C. from OLG and John Clark (STL) shared their own experiences on being Catholic 24/7. That afternoon, Pat gave an insightful workshop concerning what it means to be a leader.

On the third day, the theme was "Catholic Past, Present, and Future." Jane Alfano (STL) gave a workshop to tune up everyone's communication skills. Joyce Mendez (MPB) and Gilbert Rodriguez from St. Pe-

ter's, also gave a talk about making choices. That night, the youth participated in a very emotional Reconciliation. Afterward, there was an ice cream social to celebrate forgiveness and renewal, which had everyone merrily and energetically singing and dancing.

"Party at JC's House: Bring Only Yourself, He Has Everything Else" was the theme of the fourth day of leadership camp. Emmeline Domingo (GS) and Iah Masqueranhas (Our Mother of Confidence) shared their own stories about having enough faith to trust in God's provisions and resisting societal pressure. The last night of camp was a very memorable one.

That night, the annual talent show allowed everyone to showcase their God-given gifts. The last small group meeting and night prayer also took place. "I liked when we did affirmations and then went in a big circle and sang," said Michael Rafanan (GS). Affirmations gave everyone a chance to share something good about their fellow small group members. When all the groups finished, everyone gathered in a circle in the middle of the grass field to share one last night prayer together and reflect on their faith. While singing a song, everyone linked up side by side, and swayed back and

forth, together as one.

The last day of camp was all about going "Back to Life, Back to Reality". Pat gave a talk about facing the challenges of returning home and reality where Catholicism is not always welcomed. Next, mass was celebrated.

Everyday the youth were given free time and FLOB (Flat Lying on your Back, Butt, or Belly). There was also a recreation room and tree house on the campgrounds. Other activities included basketball and a slip n slide. In addition, the youth met in small groups after presentations to write about and discuss the themes of the days. Each group was assigned prayers to plan and meals to set up.

Much was gained from this amazing week including great friendships, leadership skills, once-in-a-lifetime experiences, and stronger relationships with God. All the youth would agree with Stephanie Zizzo (STL) that camp was "a wonderful opportunity for the youth in the Catholic church to learn more and become the leaders in our church that God wanted us to be." The youth came home prepared and excited to take charge in their own communities, but most of all, returned Catholic to the Core.

All the youth would agree with Stephanie Zizzo (STL) that camp was "a wonderful opportunity for the youth in the Catholic church to learn more and become the leaders in our church that God wanted us to be."

Six Flags Trip by Stephanie Perillo

One of the many sizzling summer events for the youth of Good Shepherd was a trip to Six Flags Magic Mountain. The youth met at the church at 7 a. m. on Tuesday, July 11 to depart on the bus ride to Valencia, California.

Once there, the youth were free to ride as many of the 17 crazy rollercoasters as they pleased at Magic Mountain. A few of the rides were X,

Goliath, Superman the Escape, Scream, Riddler's Revenge, and Tatsu, the longest, tallest, fastest flying coaster on Earth, and newest attraction at Six Flags. One of the special events during the fun-packed day was a superhero parade celebrating the park's 45th anniversary. "The festival was my favorite part because I got to see all my favorite Looney Tunes friends," said Phillip

Ruiz-Soewito. There were also opportunities to take photos with Bugs Bunny and other characters.

Everyone met back at the bus at 5 p.m. to leave for Good Shepherd Parish. To pass the time on the bus, some watched the film, "Remember the Titans", while others slept and rested after a long, hot day at the park. Although there were long lines for the roller

coasters, it was all well worth the wait. "My favorite part was waiting for three hours just for a ride because in the line I actually got to know my friends a lot better," commented Brian Carranza. The trip to Six Flags was just one part of the many very successful, fun, and unforgettable activities from this past summer.

The Events and Happenings of the Youth of Good Shepherd

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Adult Leader: Chad Closs

Editor/Chairman: Emmeline Domingo

Team Writers:

Alison Labuton

Stephanie Perillo

Rachelle Miguel

Vy Mai

Emilie Mendia

Patrick Clasby
Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Office#: (858) 271-4128
Email: PCLASBY@san.rr.com

Now that you have a preview of Good Shepherd's youth life, we would like to invite all parishioners to become more involved with us as well as the rest of the church.

With a quick blink of an eye, this summer passed by so quickly. The magic of summer began when a group of youth and adults of our parish ventured across the country to Louisiana to lend a hand in any way possible to areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. Along with that, the parish youth were invited for some fun in the sun with trips to Six Flags Magic Mountain and Wild Rivers. Look out for more activities and events like these throughout the year in the daily bulletin.

The 2006 Oktoberfest is right around the corner! This event will gather together ALL parishioners and visitors to participate in the numerous games, activities, and booths available at the event. It is also a great opportunity for the parish community to enjoy each others company. So come and participate!

These activities/events are a great combination of work and play all the while growing in a strong relationship with God. Parents, we strongly encourage you to influence your children to participate in one or more of the parish upcoming events and become involved with the loving community at our parish. These various activities offer an uplifting and eye opening experience to share with one another, so join us! Look for more details about the events in the weekly bulletin, call the parish office, or contact one of the organizers for more information.

"The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely, or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature."

-Anne Frank

Cooling Off at Wild Rivers

by Rachelle Miguel

This past summer on July 20, about 8 youth and 5 adults from Good Shepherd Parish enjoyed a summer day at Wild Rivers in Irvine.

This water park consists of many fun, super-soaking water rides that the youth and adults were able to enjoy. To name a few, Hurricane Harbor, River Rapids, Bazooka Bowls, Safari River Expedition were only a few of the rides our parishioners were victim to. At 8 a.m., the youth and adults left for Wild Rivers to enjoy about nine hours of fun under the sun. When some went on the water rides, others went to lie and tan under the sun or just took the enjoyment of getting to know one another. This summer activity did not just cool down our fellow parishioners in the heat but also helped in their sharing of faith while having fun.

Welcome to G.S. Fr. Javier by Emilie Mendia

From helping people through hard times and healing the sick, to listening to soft music and playing the guitar, there is nothing you won't love about our new Hispanic priest, Father Javier Escobar. Ever since his birth on December 21, 1971 in Obregon City, Mexico, our new friendly priest, Francisco Javier Escobar Felix, has experienced a wonderful religious life, not surprisingly as his parents named him after the Christian missionary Francis Xavier, which in Spanish translates to San Francisco Javier. So Father Javier was truly destined to live a pious life. Because of his heart of gold, Father Javier can never say no to a person in need.

Throughout his childhood, Father Javier had always been active in the church and his faith; he started altar serving when he was seven years old, and began studying in a Catholic school throughout the rest of his youth. His religious family of four brothers, two sisters, a catechist father and a mother part of the

religious group Legend of Mary, made his childhood full of great memories tied to faith.

As an active member of the church since his youth, Father Javier loved playing with other kids in the church. He especially loved playing hide-and-seek in the pews, hiding under the chairs and chasing the other kids. One time during his youth he was playing outside and accidentally fell down a cliff. Nothing could stop him from rolling down so he kept praying to God, asking for help to keep him safe as he rolled down the rocky dirt hill and to his amazement his prayers were answered as he safely landed on his two feet. He learned from an early age that miracles do happen if you just believe.

As a kid in the church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, he grew up seeing his pastor, Father Ephrain, as a role model. His heroic figure enjoyed playing with kids and was the one who inspired him to become a priest when he sent Father Javier to a

seminary for three days during the summer. As he grew older, Father Javier's passion with the church continued to grow; he still loves helping and serving other people. He especially enjoys healing the sick and guiding other people when they are in need.

As a new pastor at Good Shepherd Parish, he enjoys the new environment full of warm, kind, and welcoming people. Although he is shy, Fr. Javier enjoys many fun activities like listening to music, seeing adventure movies, and eating his favorite Chinese dishes. As a religious man who believes that the meaning of life is to live happily, he truly is a great and fun man to get to know. Don't be a stranger and come and say "Hi!" if you see him around. As he believes and lives by, "En amar y en server se va la vida," meaning "To love and to serve, spend your life."