

✠J.M.J.✠

August 21, 2009 – Memorial of St. Pius X

Dear Parents,

Our summer is winding down, and it's time to start thinking ahead to the school year and all it holds. We've had a great summer here at the youth groups: a Mustangs game, discussion nights, city scavenger hunts, a lock-in, prayer night on the Rims, and each of the youth group nights.

This year we are continuing with our program "*Total Faith Initiative*" for both youth groups. This program was such a success last year when it was implemented. Some of the topics covered for **junior high** included: Christian Morality, Introduction to Prayer, Catholic Social Justice, and the Liturgical Year. Some of the topics for **high school youth group** included: Praying with Music, On Voting & Conscience, Respecting Life, and Theology of the Body.

Your teen can look forward to many great discussion nights about life as a Catholic through the Sacraments, prayer, worship, culture, society, and serving; also look forward to guest speakers, and fun nights. The youth ministry team and myself look forward to teaching and discussing with your teenager this upcoming year.

Upcoming events for youth group this year include:

- Annual kick off for **junior high** will be **September 15, 6:30 – 8:15 p.m.** Junior high youth group meets on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m.
- Annual kick off for **high school** will be **September 16, 7-9 p.m.** High school youth group meets on Wednesday nights. High school youth group eats dinner from 6:30-7, and then meets from 7 to 9.
- Our youth group will have the opportunity to be a part of the Second Annual Cardboard Box City, a fundraiser for the Interfaith Hospitality Network on **October 3**. Look for more information on this coming soon.
- Interfaith Hospitality Network hosting will be **October 18-24**, and again after the holidays. Youth Groups will be held off-campus during this week.
- The Sixth Annual Catholic Montanans in Prayer Conference will be held this year at St. Matthew's Parish in Sidney, Montana, **October 24-25, 2009**. This year's conference theme is "WHZ N YOR CRCLE", and guest presenter is Sara Hart. Look for more information on this coming soon!

We will be having several service projects during the year as well. We ask that junior high students complete at least two service projects, high school students to complete at least three service projects. Past projects include:

- Sorting food at the Montana Food Bank
- Sorting clothing and food items at Family Services
- Filling donated backpacks with items for the homeless
- Helping the parish with several different projects

The registration materials included with this letter are due back the week of kick-offs, either **September 15** for junior high, or **September 16** for high school. The registration fee is \$15 per student, \$30 per family (if more than one student). This fee goes towards materials and other items that will be handed out to your youth throughout the year. Please fill out all forms and sign where appropriate.

If you have any questions, please call me at 406-656-5430 (office), or 406-670-2425 (cell). May God bless you and your family richly this year!

Jessica Westberg, Director of Youth Ministry
St. Pius X Catholic Church