

August 3, 2010

Dear Youth Contact:

Recently, Pope Benedict made a one-day trip to Sulmona, an area that was devastated by an earthquake in 2009. He addressed the young people in the cathedral of Sulmona by reminding them that:

Faith and prayer do not resolve problems, but enable one to address them with a new light and strength, in a way fitting to man, and also more serenely and effectively. If we look at the history of the Church, we will see that it is rich in figures of saints and blessed who, precisely beginning with an intense and constant dialogue with God, illumined by faith, were always able to find new, creative solutions to respond to concrete human needs in every century.

Change continues to be a part of our lives as well as within the field of Catholic Youth Ministry. Research and innovations abound as we all seek new, creative solutions towards how best to serve the Lord. In times of shifting grounds, we know that we can constantly find our strength in the Lord as well as in the support and comfort of each other.

There are two events where the Archdiocese expects parish attendance and representation so that we can be in relationship as a field – the first is at the Archbishop’s Youth and Young Adult Pilgrimage (April 16, 2011), the second is by sending a representative to one of the annual Youth Contact Meetings.

The Division of Youth and Young Adult Ministry annually gathers Youth Ministry Contacts for this meeting to set a collaborative direction for our field. In the past we have unpacked issues regarding Family, Evangelization, Volunteers, and Adolescent Catechesis. Last year’s presentations on exploring “Beyond Youth Ministry” and “Beyond our own Perspectives” remain available on-line at <http://www.archbalt.org/youngchurch/youth-contact.cfm>

At this meeting we hope to primarily engage *in conversation* regarding change... Where are we seeking change within our ministry? How can we engage in change both personally and as an “agent of change” within our communities?

The Youth Ministry Contact Meetings dates are set for:

September 11th at St. Joseph Church in Hagerstown, 9:30AM – 12:30PM

September 18th at St. Agnes Church in Baltimore, 9:30AM – 12:30PM

The Youth Ministry Contact from every parish is expected to attend or send a representative to one of these two meetings. Please RSVP via e-mail to ssmith@archbalt.org by **Tuesday, September 7, 2010.**

We look forward to being with you on one of our most important days of the year.

Peace,

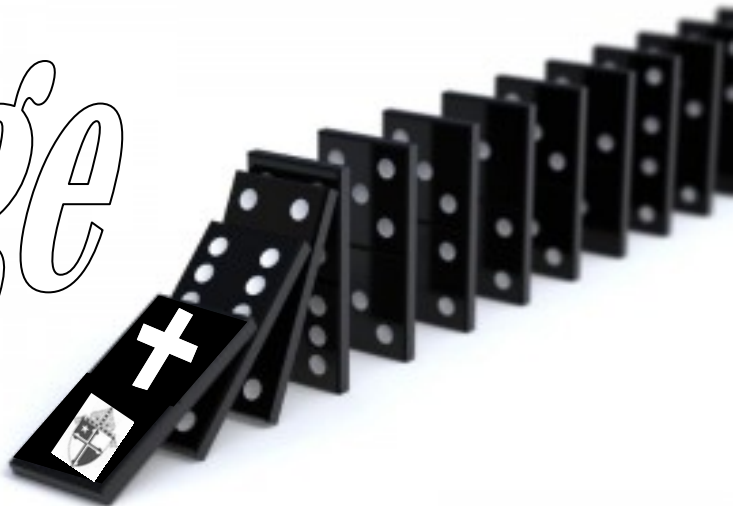


Margaret Brogden



YOUTH MINISTRY CONTACT MEETING

Change



*September 11th
at St. Joseph, Hagerstown*

&

*September 18th
at St. Agnes, Baltimore*

*Registration 9:30 am
Program 10 am - 12:30 pm*

- A meeting for every parish youth contact.
- Focusing on ***Change***. Youth Ministry is meant to be transformative. This is an opportunity to discuss how to serve as an “agent of change” within your own community and life.
- The Youth Contact Meetings are a special time to gather those who serve the *youngchurch* together for prayer, community, and visioning.

RSVP — ASAP by email or phone to
ssmith@archbalt.org or 410-547-5372.