

Diocese of Helena
Youth Ministry Advisory Council (YMAC)
2:00-5:00pm on Thursday, September 7, 2017
Immaculate Conception Parish (St. Mary's Center)
605 Clark St.
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

The purpose of YMAC is to be a visioning body that will help establish and implement a healthy vision for youth and young adult ministry in the Diocese of Helena.

Purpose of This Meeting: This meeting will be focused around how YMAC will be structured, its purpose and scope, and determining which programs/efforts we would like to dedicate our time and resources. Please come prepared with ideas and thoughts about how this council could best contribute to the youth and young adult ministry efforts within the Diocese of Helena.

Agenda:

1:30pm - Lunch/Snacks

2:00pm - Opening Prayer

2:20 - Introductions

2:30pm - Update/Overview of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, including:

- Changes in the office and a brief recap of OYYAM summer events
- Upcoming events:
 - [CYC Kickball](#): Sunday, September 24, 2017 (Batch Fields - Helena, MT)
 - There was a question regarding the change to chaperone policy, namely about the necessity of having gender-specific chaperones. Kevin will find out whether it is necessary for this event to have gender-specific chaperones or just appropriate ratio.
 - [SonLight Celebration](#): Friday, October 6, 2017 (Civic Center - Helena, MT)
 - [CYC Board Meeting #2](#): Friday-Sunday, October 6-8, 2017 (Ss. Cyril & Methodius - East Helena, MT)
 - [Junior High Rally](#): Saturday, November 4, 2017 (Radisson Colonial - Helena, MT)
 - [National Catholic Youth Conference](#): November 16-18, 2017 (Indianapolis, IN)
 - [CYC Board Meeting #3](#): Friday-Sunday, December 1-3, 2017 (St. Francis of Assisi - Hamilton, MT)
- CYC Convention:
 - Location and dates are yet to be determined. Although, it is likely that we will be at Carroll College the weekend of March 9-11, 2018.
- Justice Outreach Project:

- We will be in Browning during Indian Days. Kevin is still working out logistics, including start-end time/dates, but JOP will be the week of July 8-15, 2017.
- This will change how JOP has operated in the past, providing both new opportunities and challenges.
- JOP has been one of our most significant conversion experiences for youth, and we do not want to lose it.
- Two primary concerns that need to be addressed with this move:
 - 1) Logistics:
 - Safety and Security: Most importantly, what does safety and security look like for managing a large group of youth in a town that drastically increases in size during this event?
 - Transportation: How do we move our youth when there will be that much more traffic and people?
 - Food: The resources of Browning are stretched to the max during Indian Days. We will need much more planning and coordination when it comes to providing food and supplies for JOP ahead of time.
 - Timing: We must be mindful of families' lives when determining drop off/pick up times. Starting on a Tuesday, means that parents would have to take a day off of work to get their kids there. If we go over a weekend, our adult chaperones and volunteers will lose a weekend in their Summer.
 - 2) Catholic Identity:
 - We need a clear mission and purpose of JOP, and it must be grounded in the Catholic faith. By moving JOP to Indian Days, we are presented with more opportunities for cultural immersion and exchange. We need to make sure that we are gaining these opportunities without losing a Christ-centered, Catholic experience. Our concern is that our youth will experience Blackfeet culture but lose the fundamental Catholic Social Teaching of what Justice, Outreach, and Project.
 - Kevin is confident that we can work through both of these issues. The locals who are instrumental in making JOP happen are excited about this move. I think we can find some creative ways to maintain what has been done with JOP in the past, while also incorporating the new cultural immersion opportunities.

2:45pm - "Field" Updates (any changes, especially in staff, for local parishes and communities will be shared)

- Fr. Jeff:
 - New Manager of Campus Ministry AND Youth Ministry, Derek Wherley
 - Shai is helping at St. John's in Frenchtown

- October 3 7pm - Initiating a “Newman Lecture Series” with a lecture about Blessed Cardinal Newman
- WelcomeFeast is tomorrow on campus
- Legendary Lodge Retreat for Campus Ministries: Sept. 22-24, 2017
- Kelly Ruby:
 - Kickoff “regular” wednesday gatherings on Sept. 27
 - Fundraising: selling parking spaces to tailgates for MSU football games
 - Awakening Retreat for January 19-21, 2018
 - Confirmation stuff will start soon
 - Helping Hamilton to setup an awakening retreat at end of October
- David Casey:
 - September 25 at 7pm doing a suicide prevention presentation
 - YouCat chat at Helena High during lunch
- Krsitina Larson:
 - Community-wide youth ministry now (we added Holy Spirit)
 - Moving to a small-group ministry model
 - Considering have a SEARCH in Butte that would involve the Confirmation retreat
- Fr. Joe Fleming:
 - New program to offer a scholarship to youth who engage with campus ministry
- Vicki Burgmeier:
 - We have no youth. We are focusing efforts around adults. On October 1 we’re using Bishop Barron’s Catholicism series
- Shai Lafleur:
 - I’m now at St. Anthony’s and St. John’s, officially, but am collaborating with the other parishes.
 - Trying to build a stronger relationship with Catholic schools
 - Sept. 27: school-wide retreat at Loyola
- Dawn Brannman:
 - Kickoff on Sept. 20
 - Junior High Bible Study will start Thursday, September 28
- Fr. Christopher Lebsock:
 - He’s responsible for running youth ministry at the Cathedral, likely for the next year.
 - Once a month adoration on a Wednesday at the Cathedral
 - Training 12 young adults to lead small groups
- Fr. Kirby Longo:
 - K-End of College
 - At Butte Central: may work to get Mass there.
 - Elementary school, trying to just be there (weekly Mass)
 - Adoration every other week at the high school on Fridays
 - Coaching football and trying to start a small group among these youth
 - Moving to a small-group setting. 2 Men’s and 1 women’s small groups at MT Tech
 - Young Adults:
 - Have them host college small groups
 - Engaging with the Highlander Bicycling group

3:00-4:30pm - YMAC Discussion

Discussion Topics/Questions:

- I will bring more questions than answers to this meeting, as I hope you do, too. First and foremost In this first meeting, I hope to set some direction for how YMAC will operate and what we will be doing. This time is really the heart of the meeting.

The following items are things that I hope YMAC can address head-on. They are not listed in any particular order, and there is no way can we address each and every one of these topics in one meeting. Nevertheless, they are the sort of big-picture questions that will help us in our efforts to make life-long disciples of Jesus Christ.

Some overlap and will include discussing various topics simultaneously. We need some flexibility in how much time, if any, we decided to dedicate to these topics. In fact, we may decide to table some of these until later, and you may have other items that you want to discuss. We will likely need to chunk these topics together (or break them apart) and form task-committees that can research and strategize about them between larger YMAC meetings.

We do need to be mindful of how YMAC fits into the “bigger picture,” namely that our role is to *assist with and advise on* the planning and implementing of youth and young adult ministry efforts within our diocese. Our job is not to dictate how youth ministry “should be done.” Of course, any decisions will be subject to the blessing of Bishop Thomas. In all of our endeavors, we seek to work collaboratively with local pastors in their efforts to minister to their flocks, giving proper authority and responsibility where it is due. God willing, we can help set a robust and healthy plan for how to best serve the youth and young adults throughout the Diocese of Helena.

- **YMAC:**
 - What is the purpose of YMAC and how will we operate?
 - Meeting times, locations, virtual meetings, task-groups, etc.
- **Analysis of Current Diocesan Youth Ministry Events/Activities:**
 - Are our current diocesan youth ministry events/activities successful? How do we measure “success”? What is the purpose(s) and learning outcome(s) of each of our events?
 - How do Diocesan events add value to local parishes, specifically local parish youth ministry?
 - Are our current diocesan youth ministry events/activities serving the needs of youth and young adults in our Diocese? If so, are they the *best* way to serve the needs of our youth and young adults in our Diocese? Are there changes that need to be made or new efforts/events/programs/models that need to be considered?
- **Environmental Analysis**

- What are the biggest challenges in youth and young adult ministry today? How do we best address them?
- What are the cultural and demographic changes that have occurred recently that we can and should address?
- **OYYAM:**
 - What is the purpose of diocesan youth ministry, more specifically, the Office of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry?
 - What do you expect from OYYAM? What sorts of services could we provide that would best serve local youth ministers, pastors, parents, and youth?
- **Communication:**
 - Best practices for communicating between/among all of the following:
 - Youth, Parents, Diocese, Parish, Youth Ministers, Pastors, Young Adults, Community and/or other Church organizations (e.g. public schools and Knights of Columbus), Catholic schools (administrators, educators, campus ministers, etc.)
- **Calendaring:**
 - Does the current timing of our youth ministry events still make sense? Do they need to change?
- **Youth Ministers**
 - What are appropriate expectations for youth ministers when participating in OYYAM events?
 - Fees for youth ministers: does it make sense to charge full price for youth ministers to participate? Is that something the parish should cover?
- **Bridges:**
 - How do we help youth and young adults transition into/out of age-appropriate ministry? (e.g. from K-6 RE to Junior High; Junior High to High School; High School to Campus/Parish; Campus Ministry to Young Adult; Young Adult to Parish)
 - How do we invite youth into active participation in the Life and Mission of the Church through their local parish?
- **Young Adult Ministry:**
 - What is this and how do we do it?

Here's what was decided regarding YMAC:

- There was a consensus that this Council is needed and mutually beneficial, both for the respective youth ministers, parents, pastors, etc., in their local communities as well as for OYYAM hearing from those "in the field" about how resources could best be focused.
- We agreed to meet 3-4 times a year.
 - We discussed moving these meetings to coincide with CYC Board meetings. There were pros and cons listed and we came to the conclusion that it is best to meet separately.
 - Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 9 at 10am in Deer Lodge.
- In order to address the overwhelming number of issues and questions, we decided it was best to break into small groups to do some research and work on particular areas/themes that individuals can self-select according to their own interests, skills, and knowledge. The expectations for these small groups are:
 - Pray, reflect, and research about the respective theme. Consider:
 - What is currently happening in local parishes? In the Diocese? The nation?

- Talk to key stakeholders and those with specific experience and knowledge about the respective theme, with a special emphasis on reaching out to those who are not represented in YMAC.
 - What are the best practices that individuals, parishes, dioceses, etc., are doing? Which of these will work best for us in our respective local parishes and our Diocese as a whole?
 - Meet as a small group to discuss the issues and assign tasks/responsibilities, including who will organize and make a report to share with YMAC at the next meeting on November 9.
- Below are the Small Groups and who is on each. We invite others to join these groups. Please invite others to join and participate.:

Small Groups:

1. Diocesan Youth Ministry Event Learning Outcomes
 - Kelly Ruby
 - Vicki Burgmeier
 - Kristina Larson
 - Kathy James
 - David Casey
2. Young Adult Best Practices
 - Fr. Kirby Longo
 - Joan Sewell
 - Fr. Christopher
3. Bridging Gaps Ministry
 - Mandy Bell
 - Shai Lafleur
 - Fr. Jeff Fleming
4. Needs from OYYAM
 - Dawn Brannman
 - Fr. Joe Fleming

Small Group Description

1. Diocesan Youth Ministry Event Learning Outcomes.
 - This group is tasked with analyzing and evaluating current diocesan youth ministry events with the goal to create specific learning outcomes and/or identify a clear and concise purpose(s) that can be communicated effectively. In other words, we want to be able to tell youth, parents, and pastors *why* they should participate (or encourage their youth to participate) and *what* they will learn/experience at the event. Having clearly defined language for each of our activities will help us do several things:
 - i. OYYAM, youth ministers, pastors, youth, and other key stakeholders will be better able to market and advertise these events.
 - ii. Having a defined purpose for an event will help with choosing content for each program (e.g. themes, speakers, presentations, activities, etc.) and help guide leaders in making decisions about adapting programs to meet needs. For example, if we have a clearly defined purpose(s) of Justice Outreach Project, then OYYAM can better evaluate whether or not moving the event to coincide

with Indian Days is a good decision. Without a clear purpose, we cannot know if what we are doing is meeting the purpose.

- iii. Evaluation: by defining outcomes for each event, we can begin evaluating events on their efficacy for achieving these outcomes, which will help guide us in adapting the event in the future. For example, if one of the learning outcomes of CYC Board is an increase in Mass attendance in the youth's respective parish, then we can actually measure whether or not that happens. If it is an objective and if we find that we're not achieving it, then we can adapt Board appropriately to achieve this outcome.
- o Here are the events that this group needs to analyze (in no particular order):
 - i. Catholic Youth Coalition (CYC) Board
 - ii. CYC Convention
 - iii. Junior High Rally
 - iv. Justice Outreach Project
 - v. CYC Kickball Tournament
 - vi. Leadership Camp
- o Resources: Below are some resources that could be researched:
 - i. [Handbooks](#) (This Google folder contains all of the handbooks that Kevin has been able to track down.)
 - ii. People with specific knowledge/skills about the programs:
 1. Doug Tooke: dtooke1@gmail.com
 2. Toni Running Fisher (JOP): trunningfisher@hotmail.com
 3. Dan Bartleson (Leadership Camp): dbartleson@diocesehelena.org
 4. Rachael Schwaller (Leadership Camp): 406.459.3214

2. Young Adult Best Practices:

- This group is tasked with identifying best practices for young adult ministry that could be implemented in our Diocese. Ultimately, the goal is to determine how OYYAM could best serve and engage young adults in living the faith. The first step is just to determine what is currently happening throughout the Diocese. Just doing this will be beneficial because it will help us to network young adult communities. Please make sure to gather contact information! Then, we would like to look outside of our Diocese for what is working (or not) and how we might incorporate the best ideas into our ministry.
- Questions: Here are some of the questions that we are trying to answer or address. You can use these to help guide your conversations.
 - o Current events/activities:
 - What events or activities are currently happening?
 - Which are seeing the best attendance? Why?
 - Which are getting new people to participate? Why?
 - Who is involved?
 - Who is organizing?
 - o What are young adults looking for from the Church? What sorts of things could their local parish, OYYAM, and/or the Diocese provide to affirm and support them in practicing the faith?
 - o For those who are already leading and/or participating, why are they leading and participating? What experiences have they had throughout their lives, but specifically during their young adulthood, that they consider important for their current level of

participation in the faith? What do they think the Church could do to attract more young adults to participate actively in the life and mission of the Church?

- Resources: These are some resources that could be researched
 - [“Sons and Daughters of Light”](#) USCCB pastoral plan for young adult ministry
 - [“Connecting Young Adults to Catholic Parishes”](#) by USCCB
 - [“Forming Intentional Disciples”](#) by Sherry Weddell
 - [“Reinventing the Vision of Young Adult Ministry”](#) webinar by Doug Tooke
 - [“Why are Youth and Young Adults Leaving the Church”](#) webinar by Robert Feduccia
 - [“Creative Answers and Specific Approaches to Young Adult Faith Formation”](#) webinar
 - [“The Catholic 20s/30s Group: A Model for Parish-Based Ministry for Young Adults in their 20s and 30s”](#) by Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph
 - [Denver Catholic Young Adults](#)
 - [Idaho Catholic Young Adult ministry](#)
 - Helena-area Catholic Young Adult Ministry: Fr. Christopher Lebsock - 406.672.2262
 - Helena-area Young Adult:
 - [Ignite Missoula](#) (Missoula-area Catholic Young Adult Ministry): Sean King - 406.531.6111
 - [Flathead Valley Catholic Young Adults](#): Katie Neis - 406.207.8186

3. Bridging Gaps:

- This group is tasked with analyzing and exploring how we can best help people maintain and grow in their commitment to the faith during significant life transitions. In other words, we seek to identify the best practices for helping individuals successfully transition into the “next” ministry, namely: K-5 to Junior High Ministry to High School Ministry to College/Young Adult Ministry to Adult ministry. The particular areas of focus should be from high school to college/young adult ministry. The idea here is that we want to keep individuals active in the faith. We have many faithful high school students who are active in both local and diocesan ministries, yet we often lose them after they have graduated from high school. We want to identify the factors and best practices that help individuals maintain a commitment to the faith during significant life transitions.
- Current practices:
 - This committee should look at and consider what is currently being done and what could be done to help people successfully transition into the next ministry. We want to identify best practices that could work well in our communities, either in the local parish or at the diocesan level. Much of the “work” will be done through conversations. The small group should reach out to a variety of individuals to get some answers about what they think works best. This should include current youth, college students/young adults who recently experienced one of the major life transitions, as well as parents, pastors, and ministry leaders who have personally witnessed or experienced guiding people during the life transitions.
 - Some key people to chat with in our diocese:
 - [MSU Campus Ministry](#): Fr. Val Zdilla -[vzdilla@resurrectionbozeman.org]
 - MSU Campus Ministry: MaryShaun Mize - 406.539.0179
 - [MT Tech Campus Ministry](#): Fr. Patrick Baretta: (406) 723-5407
 - Some questions to ask:
 - What most helped you remain active in the faith when you transitioned from (insert ministry here)?
 - Where do you think the Church should put its resources in helping people during life transitions?

- What were your biggest challenges in remaining committed to the faith after leaving the previous ministry?
- Resources: Here are some resources that could be researched:
 - [Sticky Faith Project](#)
 - “[Matt Zerrusen of the Newman Connection on linking 12th graders with Catholic campus ministries and The Upper Room](#)” Catholic Campus Ministry Association podcast ([newmanconnection.com](#))

4. Needs from OYYAM

- This small group is tasked with identifying what “those in the field”(e.g. Youth ministers, pastors, parents, youth, etc.) need and desire from OYYAM. A lot of direct-services and resources were lost during bankruptcy. Now that OYYAM has been re-instituted as a full office, as opposed to having a part-time “events coordinator,” we want to find out how OYYAM can best serve local parishes and families. This is a great opportunity to determine where and how we can focus our resources in ways that are most useful. Much of the work for this small group will be done through conversations with current youth ministers and pastors. Here are some questions that could help guide your conversation:
 - What services or resources do you expect from a diocesan office of youth and young adult ministry?
 - In a world of unlimited resources, what resources would you need to be most effective at your job?
 - What services or resources did you receive before bankruptcy that were lost that you would like to see come back?
 - What services or resources did you receive or have seen in other dioceses that you would like to see OYYAM provide?
 - Please rank in order, from most to least important, these services/resources that could be provided by OYYAM:
 - Face-to-face professional trainings/in-services
 - Library of catechetical and/or faith formation resources (e.g. books, videos, articles, webinars, bible study curriculums, etc.)
 - Grants
 - Virtual professional trainings/in-services (e.g. webinars)
 - Faith items for distribution (e.g. rosaries, bibles, crucifixes, saint cards, etc.)
 - Diocesan calendar of events
 - Diocesan events planning
- Resources: These are some resources that could be researched to identify some best practices and/or what’s currently happening:
 - Neighboring Dioceses:
 - [Idaho](#)
 - [Spokane](#)
 - [Yakima](#)
 - [Billings-Great Falls](#)
 - [Wyoming](#)

4:30pm - Closing Prayer

Notes:

- Kevin asked: What did you expect when asked to participate in this group?
 - Sharing best practices of what's working in local communities
 - Defining OYYAM events
 - Young Adult Ministry: what is working
 - Coordinating local parish events
 - Especially coordinating resources
 - Having a voice at the table for making decisions.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 9 at 10am in Deer Lodge

Contact List:

| Parish | First Name | Last Name | Attendance | Email | Phone |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Youth Minister - St. Joseph (Libby) | Mandy | Bell | | mandy.bell59230@gmail.com | 406.263.7485 |
| Youth Minister - St. Mary (Helena) | Dawn | Brannman | | dbrannman@stmaryhelena.org | 406.468.8312 |
| DRE - Flint Creek Catholic Community (Drummond) | Vicki | Burgmeier | | vburgmeier@blackfoot.net | 406.241.3604 |
| Youth Minister - Our Lady of the Valley (Helena) | David | Casey | | thedavidcasey@hotmail.com | 406-443-4750 |
| DRE - Christ the King (Missoula) | Patti | Cassidy | | pcassidy@ctkmsla.org | 406.550.3038 |
| Youth Minister - Blessed Trinity (Missoula) | Judy | Cooney | | judyc@blessedtrinitymissoula.org | (406)880-0372 |
| Parent - St. Matthew (Kalispell) | Kevin | Donahue | | the_donahues@live.com | |
| Pastor - Immaculate Conception & St. Theodore Mission (Deer Lodge) | Fr. Joe | Fleming | | jpflemin@msn.com | 406.846.4114 |

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| Pastor – Christ the King, UMCCM, Drummond, Alberton, Superior, et al. (Missoula) | Fr. Jeff | Fleming | | frjfleming@mac.com | 406.529.3186 |
| Parent - Cathedral of St. Helena (Helena) | Kathy | James | | kmj32@bresnan.net | 406.459.0180 |
| DRE - St. Francis Xavier (Missoula) | Brian | Johnson | | bjohnson@sfxmissoula.org | 406.926.9797 |
| Faith Formation Dir. - St. Mary (Helena) | Deb | Kralicek | | dkralicek@stmaryhelena.org | 439-2319 |
| Youth Minister - St. Anthony's (Missoula) & St. John the Baptist (Frenchtown) | Shai | Lafleur | | shai.lafleur@gmail.com | 406.491.1970 |
| Youth Minister - St. Ann (Butte) | Kristina | Larson | | k4youthgroup@gmail.com | 406.202.3683 |
| Parochial Vicar & Youth Minister - Cathedral of St. Helena (Helena) | Fr. Christopher | Lebsock | | clebsock@sthenas.org | 406-442-5825 |
| Parochial Vicar - St. Ann & Holy Spirit Parishes (Butte) | Fr. Kirby | Longo | | Kirbylongo16@gmail.com | 406.697.5828 |
| Youth Minister - St. Mary (Stevensville) | Rita | Pfau (Hall) | | ritapfau@gmail.com | (406) 546-8916 |
| Youth Ministry Coordinator - Holy Rosary & Resurrection Parishes (Bozeman) | Kelly | Ruby | | kruby18@gmail.com | (406)212-6967 |
| DRE - Anaconda Catholic Community (Anaconda) | Ashley | See | | ashleysee@qwestoffice.net | 406.560.8306 |

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|--|-------|--------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|
| Youth Ministry Coordinator - Immaculate Conception (Deer Lodge) | Joan | Sewell | | jsewell2798@bresnan .net] | 406.560.3 294 |
| DRE - St. Joseph (Choteau) | Laura | Toeck es | | ltoeckes@3rivers.net | 406-459-4 682 |
| Youth Minister - St. Francis of Assisi (Hamilton) | Diane | Tredik | | dianetredik@gmail.co m | 406.381.1 120 |
| Youth Minister and Campus Minister - Christ the King/UMCCM (Missoula) | Derek | Wherl ey | | dwherley@ctkmsla.or g | 406.370.5 927 |
| Youth Minister - CYRO (Flathead Area) | Fred | Woelk ers | | fwoelkers@gmail.com | 837-4846 |
| Youth Minister - St. Richards (Kalispell) | Raven | Woelk ers | | ravendryden@gmail.c om | 406.381.2 420 |