



PAX YOUTH NEWS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

WINTER 2009

Greetings from the ROCK...

Citywide Middle School Lock-in

When: Friday, January 29-30th
9pm-6:30am

Where: Church of Saint John the Evangelist

Registration opens January 1st!

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY
SHINE Catholic WorkCamp
www.paxchristiayouth.org

**LOOKING FOR A GETAWAY THIS
WINTER?** Come on the
GS Winter Vacation @ Wisconsin Dells
Feb. 12-15th, 2010

Registration opens Dec. 14th



Confirmation Retreat 2009 Continued

This year at the Confirmation retreat, I felt that I had become closer to God than ever. At the camp, I saw God through the retreat staff and the camp setting. We got a ton of people to sing in the youth choir. It was really fun to sing together. After the retreat, we received cards from people. When I read them, I felt very good and knew God was sending me these positive messages through the great people who sent me the notes. I also learned to take time for yourself everyday. Our lives are very chaotic, and we need to take time to relax and be free from distractions to focus on our relationship with God.

Paul Sherman, 10th Grade

Confirmation Retreat 2009

I thought that the Confirmation Retreat would just be a boring weekend. What I discovered about myself was something that I was happy about; I discovered the true me, the person that I want to be. When I was on the retreat, my focus was on God and the topics we were talking about (love, relationship with God, trust, friendship, living in the present). Those topics were great and allowed me to see God in places that I didn't look before. He helps me all the time. I wish that I could be the person I was on the retreat, but I find it difficult because my friends won't get it. Since the retreat, I've been living the way my friends want me to. I hope that I can soon change that.

Hannah Schwieters, 10th grade



Are you distracted studying at home? Do you need a quiet place but tired of studying alone?

Come Tuesday nights for a power study time from 7:30-9pm at the Church.

Open to High school students .

Sponsored by Gioventu Studentesca (GS)

What is Love?



*I was asked to write a poem for my religion class about a book we read called **The Secret of Staying in Love**, by John Powell. The book focuses on relationships and a need for love. Although I didn't really follow the book in the poem, I began with the first three lines according to a theme from the first chapter. Forty minutes later, I was looking down at what you see now, messily scribbled in pencil on two sheets of notebook paper. I don't know what happened, it just came out, it came from my heart. This is my experience about the process of knowing that God exists through the facts of Love, beginning with a discussion about love without God in the equation, a love for possessions or people that never satisfies, and ending with how Love points to something greater, something undeniable.*

The Method

One may wisely say that the essence of mankind
Is relationship without even a muttering to the contrary
From my soul. But from my nature
A challenge comes forth
Over the question of the greatest clamoring,
The most violent longing in the heart of humanity.
Love. Love, which, granted power over man
By the writer of the world, compels him, drives him
To a life not survived, but a life lived,
A life loved. Love? What is Love
But the most cruel deceiver, most violent abuser,
Most mournable tragedy that falls upon the heart of man?
Love, the anticlimax of existence. For nothing
That man loves lasts, and nothing
That loves man lives eternal. Love,
The founder of relationship? Nothingness. For Love,
Forever recipient of man's ever beating call for purpose,
Gives a smile that teases the soul, that draws man to it,
Ever hopeful, as it fades away to nonsatisfaction
Before beginning the ceaseless taunt once more
Through the voice of something else, someone else.
Love: the dog's chase for its tail that can never be caught,
That, when finally grasped in the jaws of eternal hope,
Refuses to satisfy, until it is let go, only to begin again
The chase continued. Love: the unachievable.

Yet man is born, created, with Love in mind.
For what is man born incapable of loving, unwanted
Of Love's tender embrace?
Love, so powerful, defines man, as one is defined
By one's quests. And what is greater in life
Than the quest for Love. Love, the *need*.
But what is a question without an answer? A life
Without Love? A need without something to satisfy?
All share in common their nonexistence. For no question,
No matter how difficult, exists without an answer.
Likewise, a need needs fulfillment as the fish,
Needing water, cannot exist without.

Now contradiction resonates in the mind:
Love, the unattainable, the need that lacks what it must attain.
So why, in life, does Love cease to last? To fade away,
To not sustain, to move on, to let down, this is Love.
Man's love for things, person or possession, is an impossible lie.
For no thing is infinite to satisfy an infinite need,
No person's heart big enough to ease the hunger
Of another man's heart. One tastes Love, one encounters Love,
But never is it enough. Here arises the fundamental question
Of the meaning of life, of existence, the purpose of man.
Man receives a gift and asks where it came from.
So too with Love.
For who made love so desirable, so necessary, yet
So powerful, so deceitful? Who?
Man does not give himself Love, man does not create in himself
Such a cruel desire. Who then?
Love the infinite, in need of a maker; a maker so infinite
To control such a menace, such a beauty, such a force.
An infinite maker? Ah, at last man recognizes
How Love so fleeting, so impossible to grasp,
Points to fulfillment; fulfillment at last!

So why must this maker, this infinite, this God,
Instill such a hope for infinite potential that can be seen
In finite things alone? Things that have
No capacity for infinite love.
Oh, the brilliance of such a God! Who, by Himself,
Cannot be touched, gives something infinite for man to want
Within the confines of worldly existence. Something encounterable,
Something real! Love, which man can grasp,
If only for a second,
That draws man to a thing, a Presence, a God
That satisfies this unsatisfiable. What a gift love is!
A portal between finite and infinite, the earth and the heavens.
By the light of discovery in this inspiration, Love the menace becomes
Love: the method; the method of God.

Mark Painter, 12th Grade

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 PROOF	3	4	5 GS Gathering.
6	7	8 GS SOC GS Study Day	9 PROOF MS Parent Party	10	11	12 GS Gathering.
13 Confirmation in homes	14	13 GS SOC GS Study Day	16 Caroling & Angel Tree Party	17	18 GS Advent Retreat	19 GS Advent Retreat
20	21	22 GS SOC GS Study Day	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 <i>Christmas</i>	26
	28	29 GS SOC GS Study Day	30 Citywide Ski Trip	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>		

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2
3	4	5 GS SOC GS Study Day	6 PROOF	7	8	9
10 Confirmation in homes	11	12 GS SOC GS Study Day	13 PROOF	14	15	16
17	18 GIFT	19 GS SOC GS Study Day	20	21	22	23
24 GIFT Workcamp meeting 31 Confirmation in homes	25	26 GS SOC GS Study Day	27 PROOF	28	29 Citywide MS Lock-in	30 Citywide MS Lock-in

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 S SOC GS Study Day	3 PROOF	4	5	6
7	8	9 GS SOC GS Study Day	10 Valentine's Day Fundraiser	11	12 GS Winter Vacation	13.. GS Winter Vacation
14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> GS Winter Vacation	15 <i>President's Day</i> GIFT GS Winter Vac	16	17 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	18	19	20
21 GIFT	22	23 GS SOC GS Study Day	24 PROOF	25	26	27
28 Confirmation in homes						

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Are you interested in receiving Pax Youth Ministry Updates weekly?

Email us at paxyouthministry@charterinternet.com with your email address today. You'll receive the latest news before anyone else.

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