

## What our retreatants are saying



"I have found a deeper understanding of the way the Church works and I actually had fun talking about it!"

"It has helped me realize my relationship with God and I'm glad we went to Confession because I didn't remember how to do it."

"I feel more sure of my choice to become confirmed. It's clear that I want to be a part of the Catholic Church."

"I now know that just because I get confirmed I can't take a break from my faith. I have to continue my Catholic practice after confirmation."

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## TYME OUT

Total Youth Ministry Experience  
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The staff of TYME OUT Youth Center

## NEWSLETTER

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## TYME OUT

Youth Ministry & Retreat Center

Winter / Spring 2011

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## TYME OUT on TV

TYME OUT will be on an upcoming television episode of "Catholic Financial Life presents Living Our Faith with Archbishop Listecki." The episode featuring a video segment on TYME OUT is entitled, "The 40 Days of Lent," and focuses on prayer.

The 30-minute show, currently in its fourth season, airs on WISN 12 and on Time Warner Cable's Wisconsin on Demand Channel 411. Please watch for it on Saturday, Feb. 26 at noon.



## The spirit of retreat

It's 7 p.m. on Friday night. The retreat directors hover at the main door of TYME OUT, eager to greet their retreat group. In file the youth with their sleeping bags and overstuffed duffel bags. The atmosphere is a mixture of excitement, nervousness and even some anxiety. For the youth, the retreat is just beginning. For the retreat directors, we have, in a sense, been on the retreat for weeks already.

The youth often do not realize how much goes into a successful retreat. As the

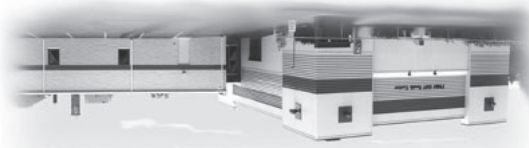
newest retreat director, I too did not realize just how much love and care is involved in planning individual retreats for each and every parish that TYME OUT serves. Here I hope to give you a glimpse of how our team brings a retreat to life.

Approximately six weeks before a retreat, our program administrator, Margie, delivers the parish folder to the retreat director, who reaches out to the parish or school. In addition to gathering details such as head count, the retreat director seeks



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## TYME OUT



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to understand the expectations of the group. For example, confirmation retreats often incorporate reconciliation, liturgy and love letters. If reconciliation or liturgy is requested, it is imperative that at least one priest is available.

With the groundwork laid, it's time to start planning! We schedule each group's activities so that one is not enjoying an interactive ice breaker while another is having quiet discussion. We also are sure to honor our talented cooks by paying attention to our assigned meal times.

Typically, an overnight retreat is led by two directors. We may have as many as five retreats each weekend. Our small staff could not properly direct a retreat without the gifts and wisdom of a backup team and interns, enthusiastic women and men from diverse ministry backgrounds. While we have a set of standard processes and activities, we also constantly research to keep our retreats fresh, active and spiritually invigorating.



### From the director's desk

*"This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke;"*  
- Isaiah 58:6

I often think of the many ways that our teens are "bound unjustly" by worldly trappings that catch them up all too young. I like to remind them that no other group has ever been more heavily marketed to in history. What a frightening reality.

On the one side, our teenagers are hounded by advertisers, pushers, bullies and predators. On the other, they encounter adults who say "What's wrong with our teenagers?" In the midst of it all, many of them look for respite at home and find their families in turmoil.

In light of all this clatter, TYME OUT offers an alternative. A retreat provides holy space where the yokes of homework, text messages, American Idol and chores melt away. One retreatant summed it up this way: "I felt at peace for the first time in a long time." A retreat provides the holy ground on which conversion so often happens. Thank you for helping TYME OUT to make these experiences possible year after year.

In a few weeks, the holy season of Lent will be upon us, a season we observe with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. I

At retreat time, we directors have to leave behind the stresses of the week and create an atmosphere of openness, understanding and trust. "A retreat is taking time to remove yourself from your usual environment, along with the responsibilities, distractions, and stresses related to your environment, in order to focus (or refocus) as a group and become immersed in a particular subject matter."

In all honesty, planning a retreat can be stressful. While we enter into the spirit of the retreat, we still must tend to our responsibilities as directors. However stressful the experience might be, the joy that I get out of a retreat is immeasurable. The connections that are made, the faith that is deepened, the hearts that are opened and the growth in my own spiritual life surpasses all else. We put a lot into a retreat, but we get far more out of it.

It's 7 p.m. on a Friday night. Won't you join us as we take time out of life to rest and refocus on our faith? ●

am grateful for the way in which our Lenten traditions call us in a special way to a level of awareness that we often miss in our scurrying to shoulder our own yokes.

During a recent presentation for one of our local parishes I engaged the teens in an exercise with Scripture, where they encountered the saying above. The full passage finds Isaiah reminding Israel that a fast is a means to an end and not the end in itself. When asked for a summary of the passage, one of the boys in the group replied, "It's about our intentions... God cares about why we do what we do." Indeed!

Lent is an ideal time to reflect on our own intentions. We might ask ourselves, "To what am I bound? What are the yokes which I need to break in order to know Christ more deeply?" These are questions I anticipate journeying with during my own Lenten observance. I offer them here for your reflection as well.

However you observe Lent this year, remember the wisdom of a teenager who reminds you, "It's about our intentions... God cares about why we do what we do." ●

Yours in the Spirit,

Ben Brzeski,  
Executive Director

## SpringTYME is coming; help needed!

Be sure to mark Friday, May 6 on your calendar and attend the annual Celebrate SpringTYME dinner and auction.

Much work is under way and many more hands will be needed. We are also looking for quality new items for both the silent and live auctions. Items such as dinner certificates, event tickets, gift cards to major retailers, and use of a lake or vacation home are very popular. Please consider whom you might ask for a donation on behalf of TYME OUT or what you may be able to donate to make this the best SpringTYME auction ever.

If you have any questions about a donation, please call Tim Kasza at (262) 966-1800. ●



## Faith-A-Thon volunteers needed

TYME OUT's 11th annual Faith-A-Thon will be held May 13-14. If you'd like to be a game facilitator or lend a helping hand in one of the many other areas of need, please contact Margie Lang at (262) 966-1800. ●



## Retreats January-May 2011

### CONFIRMATION RETREATS

St. Therese, Eagle ● St. Dominic, Brookfield ● St. Charles, Burlington ● St. Mary, Burlington ● St. Roman, Milwaukee ● St. Matthias, Milwaukee ● Sacred Heart, Horicon ● St. Catherine, Oconomowoc ● St. Leonard, Muskego ● St. Joseph, Big Bend ● St. Charles, Hartland ● St. Mary, Mayville ● St. Francis Cabrini, West Bend ● St. Martin of Tours, Franklin ● St. Matthew, Oak Creek ● St. Stephen, Milwaukee ● St. James, Franklin ● St. Bernard, Watertown ● St. Margaret Mary, Milwaukee ● St. Sebastian, Milwaukee ● Mother of Good Counsel, Milwaukee ● St. Bernard, Wauwatosa ● Christ King, Wauwatosa ● St. Pius, Wauwatosa ● Our Lady of Good Hope, Milwaukee ● St. Paul, South Milwaukee ● Immaculate Conception, Milwaukee ● St. Veronica, Milwaukee ● St. Francis Borgia, Cedarburg ● St. Helen, Milwaukee ● St. Alexander, Milwaukee ● St. John Kanty, Milwaukee ● St. Anthony, Pewaukee ● St. Mary, Franklin ● Blessed Savior, Milwaukee

### RELATIONSHIP RETREATS

St. Matthew, Oak Creek ● St. Therese, Eagle ● St. Mary, Waukesha ● Catholic Central, Burlington ● St. Joseph Academy, Kenosha ● Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, North Lake ● Our Lady of Lourdes, Milwaukee

### GROWING UP CATHOLIC/ CHARACTER RETREATS

Our Lady of Good Hope, Milwaukee ● Messmer Prep, Milwaukee ● Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, North Lake ● St. John, Rubicon

### OTHER RETREATS

St. Joseph Middle School, Waukesha ● St. Joan of Arc, Nashotah ● Dominican High School, Whitefish Bay ● St. William, Waukesha ● Tosa Trio, Wauwatosa ● Marian University, Fond du Lac ● Our Lady of Lourdes, Milwaukee ● St. Leonard School, Muskego ● Holy Apostles School, St. Matthias School, Milwaukee ● Holy Angels School, West Bend ● Christ King School, Wauwatosa ● Divine Savior Holy Angels H.S., Milwaukee

### RENTALS

Lake Country Uber Ballers, Oconomowoc ● Lake Country Youth Baseball, Hartland