

Ministry News for June 11, 2008
Pastoral Services - Diocese of St. Paul

The first part of this year has flown by! Here we are in June, enjoying the first tastes of sunny days, weekend camping, and sprouting gardens. We wish all good things to families celebrating milestones at this time of year, most especially those whose teens are preparing for graduation, summer work, and pursuing further schooling in the Fall. The diocesan e-newsletter highlights some events for the summer, and I encourage you to mark down the Fall dates now, in preparation for the new ministry year! God bless all you do!

***Notez la session française en musique liturgique!**

In this issue of the diocesan newsletter, you will find:

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- International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City
- Diocesan pastoral centre re-organization
- Fall workshop for baptism preparation coordinators - Sept 20, 2008
- NET dates: November 13-27, 2008
- Youth Speak News - journalism internship
- Tekakwitha Conference - Edmonton, July 2008
- Directions in Aboriginal Ministry - Newman Theological College, July 2008
- Ecumenical Institute - Montreal
- Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies
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- **NOUVEAU** - Formation en musique liturgique - Université Laval
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- World Youth Days - theme song available
- Confirmation guidelines
- **SAVE THE DATE** - Catholic Youth Rally - Calgary
- The three S's

Feel free to use this information for your parish bulletins, and spread the word about this e-newsletter. We are happy to add people to our distribution list!

Thank you for all you do for the young Church, and for your continued support of our diocesan staff and pastoral efforts.

Denise

God does not demand that I be successful. God demands that I be faithful. (Blessed Teresa of Calcutta)

Website Update

Thank you for the positive and encouraging feedback on the diocesan website. Our pages are finally becoming complete, and there is lots of helpful information there for parish leaders. Note the new

domain name and save it in your bookmarks bar. Keep your eyes on the ministry spotlight section - your parishioner may be next! www.dioceseofstpaul.ca

International Eucharistic Congress - Quebec City

The 49th International Eucharistic Congress begins this weekend! There are approximately 20 people from the Diocese of St. Paul participating in the Congress in Quebec City from June 15-22, 2008. Bishop Luc is already there participating in the Theological Colloquium this week. We wish to keep these pilgrims in our prayers as they travel, that they might experience Jesus in a new way, in the Eucharist and in their lives.

Diocesan Pastoral Centre Restructuring

We are now planning the new ministry year for 2008-09. While you can expect to see some previous events and gatherings to reappear, our re-organization will also necessitate changes in some areas. The Holy Father has declared the **Year of St. Paul from June 2008 to June 2009**. This will certainly be the focus of much of our diocesan ministry, and some exciting things are being planned.

Just a few highlights to watch for:

- ministry workshop for baptism preparation - September 20, 2008
- youth retreat for Advent - November 29-30, 2008
- diocesan assembly - April 25, 2009
- pilgrimage "in the footsteps of St. Paul" - May 2009 - dates TBD

We continue to discern how we can best serve the pastoral needs of the parishes in the diocese, and appreciate your feedback and input. As we complete the scheduling for diocesan events, we will next place our focus on ongoing resourcing and program support.

We welcome your calls at the Pastoral Centre with questions, program requests, and for more information. Please do not hesitate to call me in the Office of Pastoral Services at the Diocesan Centre (780) 645 3277.

Workshop: Parish Baptismal Preparation

Mark your calendar now for a workshop day for parish coordinators of baptism preparation. We will meet at St. Edouard, Saturday, September 20, 2008 to reflect on the the pastoral needs of parents approaching the church for baptism of their children, including mixed marriages, single parenting, parish hospitality, and the varying degrees of faith practice. A new parish program, "What Do You Ask of God's Church - And What Does God's Church Ask of You?" will be introduced. This program presents baptism as a ritual, as initiation into the Christian community, and as entry into the "domestic church" - the home. It emphasizes the role that parents must play in their child's faith formation. And it provides a format designed for both couples, and single parents. Please call the Office of Pastoral Services for more information on either the program or the workshop.

NET - National Evangelization Teams

NET (National Evangelization Teams) Ministries of Canada is committed to challenging young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. NET Canada recruits and trains teams of young adults to evangelize over 28,000 youth every year. NET's mission is accomplished by:

- Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ through a personal witness of faith
- Inviting young people to live for Christ
- Forming young people in Christian character through the study and practice of our faith
- Equipping youth workers and young adults with the ministry skills needed for evangelization.

NET will be available for schools and parishes in the **Diocese of St. Paul November 13-27, 2008**. Any parishes interested in booking a team for a school retreat, classroom visits, a parish evening session, or a youth group retreat can call the Office of Pastoral Services to request a date. Information on costs and retreat themes are also available when you call. Book now - NET's time in our area is limited!

Youth Speak News

The Catholic Register is a National Catholic newspaper based out of Toronto, ON. Youth Speak News is a faith-based journalism internship experience that offers young people with an interest in media to develop their skills in a faith context. It offers its team members regular workshops in different aspects of journalism and a weekly forum to display their work in the pages of the Catholic Register. This team also helps create a greater awareness of youth issues within the church in Canada.

Youth Speak News team members DO NOT HAVE TO RESIDE in Toronto to participate! Young people are chosen from across the country and participate in on-line discussion groups and internet-based activities. **If you know a young person in senior high school or college who shows an interest in journalism and could benefit from this type of experience, PLEASE CALL ME AT THE PASTORAL CENTRE (780) 645 3277 for a nomination form.** I would be happy to answer any questions and direct you to the Youth Speak News Coordinator. Nominations are accepted until June 23, 2008.

Tekakwitha Conference 2008

The 69th Annual Tekakwitha Conference will be held in **Edmonton, July 2-6, 2008**. Never before has the Conference been held in Canada! The theme is "One Heart All Nations". The Conference will open at the Mayfield Inn & Conference Centre on Wednesday, July 2 for three days of workshops and prayer, and finish with a pilgrimage to Lac Ste-Anne on Saturday, July 5 (July 6 is a travel day, with no activities planned). Registration forms, including fees and accommodation arrangements, can be downloaded from their website:

www.groups.creighton.edu/tekconf/annual_conference.html. Archbishop Richard Smith (Edmonton), Bishop Murray Chatlain (Mackenzie-Fort Smith), and Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, omi (Keewatin-Le Pas) will be presiding at the liturgies.

Directions in Aboriginal Ministry

The second annual "Directions in Aboriginal Ministry" Seminar will be held at **Newman Theological College in Edmonton, July 16-19, 2008** with Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie, omi (Keewatin-Le Pas), Rev. Daryold Winkler, CSB (who is Ojibway from Manitoulin Island) and Sr. Eva Solomon, CSJ. This year's theme is "Exploring Urban Aboriginal Ministry". Participants will examine various ministry projects that are taking shape across Western Canada that reach out to, and support, aboriginal people living in cities and urban areas, and what challenges still need to be met. Registration is Wednesday from 2:00 pm onward, and the seminar closes Saturday at 11:00 am. Seminar fee is \$100, accommodations \$120, meal plan \$42. A limited number of bursaries are available. Please contact Valerie at 1-800-386-7231 for more information, bursary forms, or to register.

Summer Ecumenical Institute 2008

The Canadian Centre for Ecumenism, located in Montreal, is hosting a three-day Forum, June 4-6, 2008. Forum leaders are Dr. Edouard and Joy Bédard (Interchurch Families), Rev. Dr. Stéphane Bigham (Icons & Christian Art), Rev. Dr. James Christie (Faith in the Public Square), Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton (Ecumenical Dialogue), Rev. Thomas Ryan (Interfaith Prayer) and Rev. Dr. Glenn Smith (Urban Mission). Cost is \$325 for resident, or \$180 for commuter. Brochures can be requested here

at the Pastoral Centre, or call (514) 937 9176, or e-mail info@oikoumene.ca for more information.

Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies

It is not too late to register! Summer Seminar will be held August 15-21, 2008, at Queen's House Retreat and Renewal Centre in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Summer Seminar offers the courses needed to obtain a Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies. The next series of three courses offered will be: Fostering the Faith Growth of Youth through 1. Prayer and Worship; 2. Justice and Service; 3. Evangelization and Catechesis. Discounts are available for members of WCACYM (Western Canadian Association of Catholic Youth Ministers) and for parishes sending two or more persons. Talk to your pastor or call me here at the Office of Pastoral Services for more details.

Catholic Social Teaching for Bulletins

Attached are inserts nine and ten in a series of ten focus statements on Catholic Social Teaching, prepared by Deacon Joe McMorrow of the Social Justice Office. Please consider printing in your bulletin one principle per week over a ten-week period, or run one or two principles per month over five-ten months. Call Deacon Joe at (780) 678 2827 with any questions, or for more information.

Marriage Preparation

Louise is available to meet individually with couples still planning for summer/fall weddings. For those couples planning winter and spring weddings, tentative dates for the next weekend set are September 26-27 and October 24-25, pending sufficient registrations. While we prefer to direct couples to fully experience the weekend workshops, Louise Lavoie remains flexible to work with individual couples when needed. Couples preparing for marriage should be directed to contact either the Office of Pastoral Services at (780) 645 3277, or Louise directly at (780) 826 4250. Additional brochures are available upon request.

Louise is also available for parish workshops/presentations on "The Church's Definition of Marriage". Please contact Louise directly for information and arrangements.

Catholic Family Life Conference

The 13th Annual Catholic Family Life Conference is being held June 27-30, 2008 at Lac Ste-Anne, AB. This year's theme is "Amazing Grace: A Personal Encounter with Christ in the Holy Eucharist". Keynote speakers include Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak, and Fr, Mark Goring, CC. For more information, call (780) 418 4280 or go to www.catholicfamilyministries.com.

Formation en musique liturgique

Du 18 au 22 août 2008, l'Université Laval offrira une semaine de formation intensive dans le domaine de chant et de la musique liturgique. Animée par Robert Mager, la démarche comportera des exposés, des mises en situation, des échanges, et des lectures. Ceci est une formation universitaire créditée. Pour des renseignements supplémentaires, contactez Paul Cadrin au (418) 656 3792, ou par courriel à musiqueliturgique@mus.ulaval.ca.

Spiritual Direction and Formation

Sr. MaryAnne Olekszyk, CSSF, continues to offer Spiritual Direction in the Diocese. This is due to the generosity of her congregation, and while they are supportive of her ministry, there continue to be costs incurred for Sr. MaryAnne's travel and accommodations. A minimal stipend for the time spent in spiritual direction allows Sr. MaryAnne to remain available to parishioners across the diocese. Spiritual direction helps a person be more open to the calls of the Spirit and to grow in their relationship with God. The spiritual director is seen as a companion on one's faith journey. Call the

Diocesan Pastoral Centre (780) 645 3277 for more information, or to inquire about Sr. MaryAnne's availability and travel itinerary.

Sr. MaryAnne is also available for parish groups seeking workshops or sessions on spirituality and prayer. Please contact Sr. MaryAnne directly, here at the Pastoral Centre for information and arrangements.

Jean Vanier Event - Calgary

Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche, is in Calgary for a young adults event next week, Thursday, June 19, 2008. He will be speaking with young adults in leadership (youth ministers, teachers, and social service providers ages 18-35) from 12:30-6:00 pm, and then will be making a public address to all young adults from 6:30-10:00 pm. This event is hosted at St. Mary's University College, 14500 Bannister Road SE, Calgary.

Vocation Resource

Copies of "It's Your Call", aimed at teens aged 12 to 17 years, have been sent to all parish pastors and youth ministry leaders for review. The full-colour magazine-style resource offers teens an exciting collection of calls to respond to... priest, sister, monk, wife, husband, deacon, brother. Designed to get young Catholics to tune in and think about their vocation, it's based on interviews with real Canadians who talk candidly about how they answered God's call. It reminds young people who may feel lost and aimless that God has a call for each of them. Contents: Called to... Single Life; Consecrated Life; Married Life; Diocesan Life; Contemplative Life; Lay Life. Ask your pastor, youth minister, catechism coordinator or religion coordinator about ordering multiple copies to make available to the youth of your parish. Call the Office of Pastoral Services at (780) 645 3277 for more details and to order.

Lectionary Resources for Children's Liturgy of the Word

Please check the diocesan website for recommended resources. Go to www.dioceseofstpaul.ca, then click on "pastoral", and click on "liturgy".

World Youth Day 2008 - Sydney, Australia

We are happy to announce that two groups from the Diocese will be participating in World Youth Days in Australia this summer. Groups from the "Two Forts": Fort Kent and Fort McMurray are preparing to make their pilgrimage from July 15-20. Over 220,000 pilgrims are currently registered worldwide for the event. Please keep our young adults and their coordinators in your prayers.

The WYD theme song is available for download at www.wyd2008.org/index.php/en/pilgrims_registration/song.

Confirmation Retreats

In his pastoral letter of December 2006, Bishop Luc has instructed our diocesan parishes to **restore the order of the Sacraments of Initiation**. The new diocesan policy is that *"in the Diocese of St. Paul, all who have been baptized should appropriately prepare for and receive the sacrament of Confirmation before their First Communion. This norm is effective immediately"* (page 6). Bishop Luc is allowing for a transition period for this new policy, and expects that by 2009, the order of the Sacraments of Initiation will be realigned in all diocesan parishes.

This new policy means that changes have been made to the delivery of confirmation retreats by diocesan staff. The previous Offices of Catechetics, and Youth Ministry, have created a new retreat

format more suitable for the age of those celebrating Confirmation under the bishop's new guidelines. This material is now available. In this first year of implementation we will be counting on your participation and feedback to fine-tune the format and materials. **However**, please contact me to discuss the ministry needs for **older children and teens** who may not have celebrated Confirmation for various pastoral reasons (moved from another diocese, lapse in family practice, inquiry from youth group participation, etc.).

Catholic Youth Rally - Save The Date

The Annual Catholic Youth Rally in the Diocese of Calgary will be held October 18, 2008. Keynote speaker is Steve Angrisano, Catholic musician and composer, whose liturgical music is found in Spirit & Song, and includes "Go Make A Difference" and the Mass of a Joyful Heart.

Three S's: Social - Spiritual - Service

Social: Mad Relay

In this relay, each team member does something different. Teams line up single file behind a line. Opposite each team, place on a chair a bag containing slips of paper on which you have written instructions. The teams' instructions need not be identical, but make them comparable. At a signal, the first person of each team runs to their chair, draws a slip of paper, reads it, and follows the instructions on it as quickly as possible. Before returning to the team, the contestant must tag the chair. The contestant then runs back and tags the next runner.. The team that uses all its instructions first is the winner (some players may have to do more than one activity...) Here are a few sample instructions, feel free to create your own!

1. Run around the chair five times while continuously yelling, "The British are coming! The British are coming!"
2. Stand on one foot while holding the other in your hand, tilt your head back, and count, "10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, Blast off!"
3. Take your shoes off, put them back on on the wrong feet, and tag your nearest opponent.
4. Sit on the floor, cross your legs, and sing one verse of "Mary Had A Little Lamb".
5. Go to an adult and make three funny-face expressions.
6. Put your hands over your eyes and meow like a cat five times.
7. Sit in the chair, fold your arms, and laugh loud for five seconds.
8. Run around the chair backwards five times while clapping your hands.
9. Run to someone not on your team, kiss her or his hand, and gently pinch her or his cheek.

from: "Creative Activities for Small Youth Groups", Gcomp. by Wayne Rice and Mike Yaconelli, ed. by Yvette Nelson, Saint Mary's Press, 1991

Spiritual: Prayer Service - "My Soul Is Thirsting" (Psalm 63)

KEY THEMES: thirst for God, trust in God, God's covenant

SUPPLIES: soda crackers, four to six for each person; a DVD of the movie *Castaway*, cued to the segment where Tom Hanks' character is attempting to break coconuts; a DVD player and TV; the CD "Spirit & Song Volume 1" or the CD "Spirit & Song By Request" for the song "My Soul Is Thirsting" by Steve Angrisano; a CD player; walnuts in the shell, one for each person; drinks; a small basket; printed copies of the closing prayer.

PROCEDURE:

The Price of Admission

Arrange the meeting space with a row of tables at the front, allowing only a space wide enough for a person to enter between the tables. (Imagine a row of turnstiles at an amusement park.) As the young people enter, explain that today there is an admission fee - they don't have to pay any money, but must consume soda crackers as the price of admission. (Give them each four to six crackers, depending in your discretion.) Tell everyone that after eating their crackers they must immediately move to the next activity without drinking

anything. (Note: If some young people arrive with a drink, ask them to hand it over to you during the first part of the session.)

Video Clip: Being Thirsty

From the movie *Castaway*, show the segment where Tom Hanks' character is attempting to break the coconuts in order to obtain liquid nourishment. After he is successful, stop the movie and ask the following questions, allowing the participants to first talk in groups of two or three, before leading the large-group discussion:

1. What were you thinking as you watched the character trying to quench his thirst?
2. Name a situation in which you wanted something so badly and were frustrated in your attempts to get it.

Convey the following in these or similar words:

When someone is very thirsty, starving, or focused on a particular need or desire, they can become very single-minded - as if almost nothing else matters. In some cases it could be a matter of survival, as it was for the character in the movie. In other cases, it could be caused by an obsession or addiction and might be the symptom of a major problem. In still other cases, such single-mindedness could be a positive trait that leads to accomplishing a positive goal.

Christians are called to be single-minded, but single-minded in their pursuit of the Reign of God. In Luke's Gospel, we read, "Do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink... you Father know that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well" (Lk 12:29-31). Identify something in your life about which you are single-minded. For the remainder of our session, think about what it is and how it reflects your thirst for God. Does it lead you closer to or further away from God?

The Walnut

Ask if anyone in the group is feeling particularly thirsty at this time and would like a drink. Inform the group that like Tom Hanks' character, they will have to face an obstacle before they will be able to quench their thirst.

Have everyone return to the row of tables and give them a walnut in the shell to open. They are to open the walnut as best they can, trying not to crush the shell entirely (so they cannot simply crush it with their foot). Suggest that they use anything they think will work - not their teeth, though - and caution them to be careful as they attempt to solve the walnut puzzle. If anyone ASKS to work in teams, allow them to do so.

Play the song "My Soul Is Thirsting" in the background as the group members attempt to solve the puzzle. As each person succeeds, tell him or her to eat the walnut. Collect the shells in the basket. Then allow him or her to re-enter through the opening in the tables and get a drink from a table where drinks have been prepared. After 5 or 6 minutes, call time and invite everyone to take a drink, even those who did not succeed.

Make the following points in your own words:

- our lives are surrounded by so many conveniences that we often take for granted, like getting a drink. And it isn't until these conveniences are gone that we even think about them.
- When we confront an obstacle, we often become very focused and single-minded in overcoming that obstacle, like Tom Hanks in the movie, or all of us just now trying to break that walnut. It is really a wonderful feeling to accomplish something through hard work and a single-minded effort, but it's also good to realize that we are not completely on our own, and that sometimes we have to rely on help to accomplish our goals.
- The same is true with regard to our faith and our relationship with God. Sometimes we can take God for granted or become so focused on all the other things of life that we don't realize what we truly need. Sometimes we lose touch with what really satisfies our hungers and thirst, and we may go after stuff that looks like it might satisfy, but in the long run does not.
- Think back to what you identified earlier as something you are single-minded about. Does this thing lead you closer to God, or does it get in the way of your being single-minded in pursuit of God's Reign? Does it help you recognize your dependence on God, or is it a distraction?

Reflection - Psalm 63

Read aloud Psalm 63 in its entirety from the Scriptures, asking the group to listen and reflect on their need for God. Then play some quiet music as you read the following statements, allowing the group some time for personal reflection:

- Think of a time when you needed God the most. Remember the details.
- What were you feeling in that time of need?
- How was that need met? Was there someone - a parent, a brother or sister, a friend - that you relied on for help?
- What did you learn from the experience about yourself? about God?

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE

Play the song "My Soul Is Thirsting" again, making sure the words are displayed on an overhead transparency or on newsprint. During the song, ask everyone to take a piece of walnut shell from the basket as a reminder of their continuing thirst and need for God. Ask them to take the walnut piece with them and to put it someplace where they will see it once in a while, for example, at the bottom of their sock drawer. When they notice it, they should reflect on what they are most single-minded about and how that reflects their thirst for God and God's Reign.

CLOSING PRAYER

Conclude by saying the following prayer together: God of faithfulness and love, you are always there for us - in both good and bad times. But Lord, it is so easy to forget you when things are going great. Help us to realize that we need you every day of our life. Increase our thirst for you so that we may always be single-minded in seeking your presence in our life. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

from: "Pray Your Heart - Music-Based Sessions and Prayer Experiences for Teenagers", by Tony Tamborino, Saint Mary's Press, 2001, pp 10-11. (Accompanying CD available)

Service: Chocolate Chip Cookie Prayer

Vanilla - adds flavor - Write down the names of the people who add flavor to your life.

God, continue to bless these people with creativity and imagination. Let them use their talent for your glory.

Flour - adding flour thickens the mixture and slows the blending process - Pray for people who are too busy for you. Write down the names of people who you wish would spend more time with you.

Dear Heavenly Father, open the eyes of the people we have written, let them see the value of spending time with me and help me show them the beauty of being together.

Butter - saturated fat - unhealthy - Think of the people who tempt you to do devilish things. Write down the names of people you would like to pray for who may be headed down the wrong path.

Dear Lord, As I write these names, please enter their hearts and show them the right path to take. Help me to be a better butter influence on them.

Baking Soda - used for raising - Think of the people who help raise your spirits when you are down. Write the names of people who give you a lift.

Creator Lord, thank you for the people who lift my spirits and raise me up to be a better person. I am so blessed to have these positive people in my life... help me to show my appreciation to them every chance I get.

Sugar - temporary or false satisfaction - Think of people who are fake, the people you can't trust, those who pretend to be sweet but are mean hearted, people who are deceptive and or self-serving. Write the names of people who need this prayer.

Gracious and Almighty Lord, We need you to hear our prayer for the names we bring before you. Wrap your loving arms around these people so that they feel your warmth in order to melt their self-serving ways. Love them and help us to love them too. Give us patience and the ability to find the good inside of all these people.

Eggs - solidifies the batter, brings it all together, makes it whole - Think of people who fill you spiritually. Write down the names of all the good eggs who strengthen your *faith* life.

Dear Loving God, Thank you for bringing these people into my life who make me feel whole. They lift me closer to you and solidify my need for you. Remind me to pray for them often as they also need to have people who strengthen their faith life. Please make me a good egg.

Salt - for seasoning and preserving- Think of people who have authority over you. Write the names of those in authority who you struggle with, those who leave a nasty taste in your mouth..

Hey God, this is a biggie. I need you to soften my heart to those who I have trouble respecting. I wish they

would change but if not, please help me to change my heart to be more accepting of the authority before me. Just as I respect you as the almighty one, help me to respect them as well..

Chocolate Chips - the bonus, the prize inside - Think of the people in your life who make your life extra special. Write down all your chocolate chip people.

Father God, Thank you, *thank you* for surrounding me with these great people. Help me to focus on their great qualities and help me to acquire some of their great features as well. Make me, Lord, a chocolate chip in someone else's life. As you have gifted each of us with special gifts, we praise you for the magnificent *cookie of life* you have baked for me. Amen.

Cookie Prayer Directions

Supplies: Cookie Dough (boughten or homemade prior to kids arriving), stove, cookie sheets, plastic wrap, spatula, hot pads, paper, pencils, cookie prayer.

Time: Approx. 45 min.

Preheat oven so cookies are ready to bake. While baking the cookies hand out paper and pencils to all students. Tell them they are going to create a cookie prayer using the ingredients from the cookie recipe and people in their own lives. Spread out so that you won't be tempted to look on someone else's sheet. This is a personal and private prayer custom made just for you.

Read each ingredient and discuss what it's purpose is. Have the student write the ingredient on their paper and then the names who represent that ingredient. Give them a few minutes to write their names, then read the prayer for that ingredient. Continue with each ingredient. Be sure to give them time to think of names and to process the prayer.

Have the students look at their list of names, then ask them to circle THREE names in which they will deliver a cookie to. I told them at least ONE of the names had to come from the *bad* list of ingredients (thinking back I wish I would have said two of the names). Have the kids tear off squares of foil to wrap their three individual cookies in to take home and deliver to their three names. **the number of people you have them circle can be determined by how many kids you have and how much cookie dough you have. I had 13 kids for one and a half batches of cookie dough (enough for 4 cookies each - after preparing their prayer cookies for others they were able to eat one themselves) My kids didn't know there would be enough for them so that was an added bonus for them.*

Explain to them that when they give their cookie to the person, they should say this, " I prayed for you at youth group while we made cookies so this is for you." (*Of course kids will want to tell some 'you were the bad ingredient' so be sure to stress to them that would defeat the whole purpose of prayer (forgiveness softening of the heart) so they don't need to know 'why' they were prayed for, just that they 'were' prayed for).*

Baked up by Joni Bruhn - 9/26/07 - Reach 4 Others Activity
from: [www.youthministry.com], accessed June 12, 2008

denise wilson paquette, b.ed., cert. y.m.s.
coordinator of pastoral services
coordonnatrice des services de la pastorale
diocèse saint-paul diocese
ph: (780) 645 3277 fx: (780) 645 6099
4410 - 51 avenue, st. paul, ab T0A 3A2

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