



Escanaba Catholic Faith Formation

St. Joseph & St. Patrick, St. Thomas, St. Anthony

409 South 22nd Street
Escanaba, MI 49829
WWW.ESCANABACATHOLIC.COM

“faith seeking understanding”

Volume 2, Issue 1

August 2009

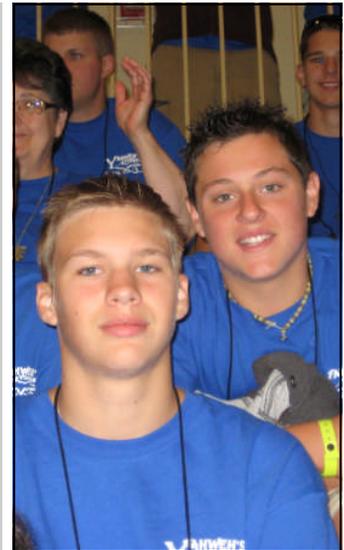
Interesting Facts about Steubenville North

- 1976—First Conference held in Steubenville, OH. 500 attended.
- 2001—Conference expanded to 10 satellite conferences including St. Paul, MN
- 2009—19 conferences attended by 40,000 students
- 3,000—number of students that attended the St. Paul conference this year
- I Chronicles 29:11—Scripture that this year’s theme, “Above All”, is based upon
- Learn more at: franciscanyouth.com

Steubenville North 2009: “Above All”

Have you ever seen 2,000 high-school students all come together for a single cause... willingly and happily? Well, if you’ve been to a Steubenville Conference, you have. It’s pretty amazing. Stepping into the gym you would have thought you were at a typical rock concert, with one major exception: the band was off to the side and in the middle of the gym hung Jesus on a cross. The students were not there for the band, they were there for God. Their youthfulness shone through in their loud cheers, energy and dancing. The weekend was filled with loud music, talks on conversion from sin and a call to holiness; Mass, Reconciliation, priests, youth ministers, parents and tons and tons of high-school students. All of these elements were brought together for a common person: Jesus. The hunger for truth and goodness was evident in every person at the conference, espe-

cially when Father Jose brought the Blessed Sacrament around the room on Saturday night during adoration. Challenging the students that they are not the future of the church, a speaker called them to holiness now by encouraging them that *they are the church of today!* In their call to holiness now, the students were asked to live out this call in their school, jobs, families and youth groups and to say, “Adios, Baby!” to their sins of today. Our students from the Escanaba area did not miss this point. One girl shared with me that she really felt a call to step it up in her prayer life. She felt like she is being called to be a prayer warrior! “It is important,” she said, “to take time everyday and to specifically pray for people and I think God is calling me to be strong in my prayer.” Another student said, “During adoration, I really felt like God wants me to comfort the sorrowing. I think I’m going



Jacob Loveless & Casey DeShambo

to be a priest someday.” He started to get choked up and then in a strong and sure voice way beyond his age he said again, (con’t on pg. 2)

DTS—A Weekly Gathering of Senior High Youth



Beginning Thursday, September 24th at 6:00 PM in the basement of St.

Joseph & St. Patrick church Kate Swanson and Hans Whitmer will be convening the first meeting of the Dead Theologians

Society. The Dead Theologians Society is a Catholic apostolate for high school age teens. Through the Saints of yesterday, the Dead Theologians Society inspires the youth of today to become the saints of tomorrow. A special charism of the Dead Theologians Society is to pray for the release of the Souls in Purgatory. Its motto is, “Dead

to the World, alive in Christ!” This is inspired by Romans 6:11 where St. Paul tells us to be dead to sin but alive in Christ Jesus. If you are a senior high student, please join us. If you know a senior high student please tell him or her about this fantastic opportunity to grow in faith together with other students. Each week dinner will be served.



409 South 22nd Street
Escanaba, MI 49827

We're on the web:
www.escanabacatholic.com

Upcoming Events:

- August 19th, Wednesday Night Faith Formation early registration is due
- September 14th, RCIA and Catholic Inquirer's Class Begins
- September 16th, Wednesday Night Faith Formation Begins/Parent's Night
- September 24th, Dead Theologians Society Begins
- October 3rd, Holy Hill Youth Conference
- November 6-8th, P2K Diocesan Youth Rally in Marquette

The purpose of the Escanaba Catholic Faith Formation Office (ECFF) is to bring people to Jesus and membership in his family the Roman Catholic Church, develop them to Christian maturity, and equip them for their apostolate in the Church and vocation in the world, in order to bring glory to God's name. ECFF was founded in 2004 as a central hub of religious education for St. Joseph and St. Patrick Parish, St. Thomas Parish, and St. Anthony Parish, all of Escanaba, Michigan. ECFF provides religious education and sacramental preparation for all age groups.

For more information please contact Director Hans Whitmer.



Lauren Kleiman, Michelle Wood, Laura Swanson, Rachelle Levielle

Steubenville (con't)



Laura & Kate Swanson

"I'm going to be a priest someday!" A young lady from St. Anthony Parish, realized, "If God can move mountains He can forgive me and help me to forgive or to do anything!" She was overwhelmingly encouraged by this realization and was comforted knowing Jesus loved her this much. Two freshmen guys, after touching the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament

looked at each other, overwhelmed with joy and shouted, "We just touched JESUS!" Have faith those of you sitting in the pews! Have faith those of you discouraged by sin! Have faith those of you frustrated with your state in life! Christ has a plan and is making it manifest in our young people! To anyone who says, "The Catholic church is dying": Let them be informed that an entire stage filled with over a hundred Catholic men who are considering the priesthood were showered with applause by



Megan Thomma & Emily Whitmer

2,000 young Catholics standing in salute to them. These young people are standing up to the world and saying "Yes, Lord!" to the priesthood and to holiness! This, ladies and gentleman is not a sign of a dying Church. No, this is a sign of a Church that is young, strong and vibrant!



Jacquelyn & Victoria Chailier