

March 11, 2010

Dear friends in Catholic education:

With the boom in recent years of youth ministries and related pilgrimages, conferences and more, youth are speaking out through their actions and involvement with the Church. The Catholic Register has a great program to help them articulate their thoughts and tell the country about their events, issues and celebrations. Imagine what stories lie ahead to be told. The Register hopes to involve your youth in telling them.

Now in its tenth year, Youth Speak News with The Catholic Register continues to help young people with an interest in media to develop their skills in a faith context. As a faith-based media ministry, YSN 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 has become an important outreach for The Catholic Register and has helped create a greater awareness of youth issues within the church in Canada.

Through the YSN program, youth will:

- * Receive hands-on training in Catholic news media through monthly newsletters, online discussion groups and internet-based activities; we'll provide information on news, feature and opinion writing, photography and newspaper design, as well as the issues of Catholic journalism;
- * Gain an understanding of news production for newspaper, television and web. YSN stories will be published both in paper and online. And in collaboration with Salt + Light Television, Canada's only Catholic television station, YSN members may even have the opportunity to assist in the broadcast and editing process;
- * Produce high quality articles and opinion pieces suitable for portfolios. YSN members will provide stories (one per month) and columns (on a rotational basis) based on events, issues, people and places that affect and influence their faith;
- * Meet in Toronto for fellowship and fun: a weekend retreat in Toronto offers YSN members a chance to meet fellow journalists, participate in seminars, pray together and visit the offices of both The Catholic Register and Salt + Light Television;
- * Help people in youth ministry by sharing their own stories or ministry practices, either through the pages of The Register or online discussion groups.

We invite you to nominate one young person (senior high school to university age) from your diocese or ministry who has a demonstrated interest in media and communications to serve on our new YSN team for 2010/11. As such, the individual will be responsible for submitting an allotted number of stories and columns for publication in The Catholic Register and/or the newspaper's web site.

In nominating an individual, please include:

- * the young person's name and age

* your e-mail address and phone number

Have them send:

* resume (indicating journalism experience: e.g. school/campus newspaper, yearbook, photography, relevant courses)

* completed application form (available at catholicregister.org under the "Youth Speak News" tab)

Nominations will be accepted until June 30, 2010, after which we will be in contact with the individual for further discussion. The 2010/11 program will begin in mid-September.

Nominations can be sent to Carolyn Girard through e-mail at carolyng@catholicregister.org, sent to 1155 Yonge St., Suite 401, Toronto, ON, M4T 1W2, or faxed to (416) 934-3409.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this project.

We are excited to plan for and execute our new year of YSN and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Girard

Youth Speak News Editor