

2007 Pueblo Catholic Youth Festival sets date, chooses keynote speaker

By Linda Davis, Youth Director
Our Lady of the Meadows,
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SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

PUEBLO- Last year's Annual Pueblo Catholic Youth Festival set records in attendance for the second straight year in a row with more than 350 gathered. This year organizers are hoping to break that record.

Teens and adults from the cities of Pueblo, Westcliffe, Rye, Florence, Canon City, Alamosa, San Luis, Lamar, Colorado Springs and La Junta are being invited to sing, shout, and laugh on Sunday, January 28. The afternoon event will be held from 1-5 p.m. at CSU Pueblo's Hoag Hall, 2200 Bonforte Blvd. in Pueblo.

The festival is sponsored by the Pueblo Deanery Youth Forum and CSU-Pueblo Catholic Campus Ministry.

The sponsors' mission stems from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' 1997 document, *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*. This identified three goals and eight components, which provide direction for this ministry. Youth

Clockwise: Presenter Steve Angrisano. Last year, group participation was a major part of the day's activities whether singing or praying the youth were involved with the presentations.

ministry, at its best, is characterized by the following five hallmarks: ■ Discipleship ■ Connection ■ Giftedness and growth ■ Comprehensiveness ■ Entire church (parish) involvement.

Subsequently, high school youth from the Pueblo and outlining deaneries are welcome.

Keynote speaker at this year's Pueblo Catholic Youth Festival will be Steve Angrisano who is internationally recognized as one of the most dynamic and effective youth communicators in the church today.

As a musician, composer and storyteller, Angrisano has shared his music and message with thousands of people in parish groups, youth organizations, family settings and with religious educators in more than 200 dioceses.

He has been featured at major conferences and events around the world, including the National Catholic Youth Conference, Los Angeles Religious Education Congress and World Youth Days in Denver, Paris, Rome and Toronto.

Angrisano has been a musician, music director and youth minister for 13 years, and his focus has always been one of honest ministry.

"There is an unmistakable awareness that Steve is not

just a performer. What he shares, both in story and song, is a witness of the love and life of Jesus," said Lynn Cervi, a member of the organizing committee and youth director at the Our Lady of the Meadows and Holy Family in Pueblo.

Mass that afternoon will be celebrated with Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya.

The cost for the afternoon including materials and snacks is \$20. Registrations are available at your parish or on line at pueblcatholicyouth.org

2007 Pueblo Catholic Youth Festival

Sunday, January 28 1-5 p.m.

Colorado State University -

Pueblo's Hoag Hall,

2200 Bonforte Blvd. in Pueblo

\$20 per person

Register at you parish or online at pueblcatholicyouth.org



Youth Ministry reps from diocese attend National Conference in Las Vegas



LAS VEGAS, NV- "In the midst of the desert, a seemingly lifeless landscape, a flower blooms. This living promise of hope also reflects our ministry to, with, and for young people. Over the past few years, those who share in this ministry to youth have been called to walk with faith throughout the challenges and trials of numerous desert experiences. In doing so, we stand as living witnesses to the presence of God, the light of Christ, and the movement of the Holy Spirit at work through this dynamic ministry to the young church."

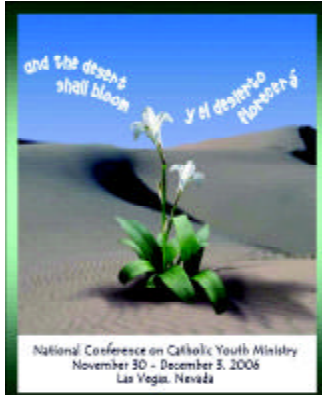
And the desert shall bloom; y el desierto florecera was the title for the 31st biennial National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry. It was sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, NFCYM, and hosted by the Diocese of Las Vegas. The mission of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry is to serve those who serve the young Catholic Church.

Attendance by over 2600 adults made it the largest adult conference ever. Youth Ministers, both paid and volunteer, attended the four-day event held in Las Vegas November 30- December 3.

"Many jokes flew around the conference as why the conference was held in Las Vegas, even t-shirts were sold with the slogan "Yes, I really attended a Church conference in Las Vegas.," noted Linda Davis, youth director from Holy Family in Pueblo.

Nationally known speakers included: Rev. Allan Deck, S.J., Mike Patin, Dr. Jamie Phelps, O.P. and Bishop Richard Malone, STL. Concurrent sessions were six large-group breakouts, each featuring an inspiring and challenging presenter addressing one of the five National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministry or a timely theme of adolescent catechesis. In total, fifty speakers addressed the issues facing our young church today.

Representatives attending from the Diocese of Pueblo included: Scott Yarberry, Tim Collette, Chris Duff from Our Lady of the Meadows in Pueblo; Randy Muniz and Jean-Marie Mondji from Holy Family in Pueblo. Youth ministers also attending from Pueblo were: Toni Muniz from Christ the King; Linda Davis and Lynn Cervi, from Holy Family and Our Lady of the Meadows, respectively. Traveling from Durango to participate in the conference was Kevin Vigil, youth minister for St. Columba.



Scott Yarberry, Randy Muniz, Lynn Cervi, Linda Davis, Jean-Marie Mondji, Tim Collette, Chris Duff and Toni Munoz. Not Pictured: Kevin Vigil

Highlighting this conference were dynamic speakers who challenged participants to personally reflect and professionally develop their knowledge, skills, and abilities to be living witnesses of the Gospel to the young church of today.

"We, the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, participate in the mission of the Catholic Church by advocating for and supporting Catholic youth ministry on the national, diocesan, and local level, reads the NFCYM mission statement.

As a professional organization of affiliated dioceses and collaborating members, the NFCYM: ■ advocate for the role and needs of young people in the Church and in society and promote the role of the Church and the Gospel in the lives of young people. ■ promote a comprehensive approach to youth ministry as articulated in *Renewing the Vision*. n provide leadership, resources, services, and conferences for the education and formation of diocesan leaders, youth ministers, and young people. ■ support diocesan youth ministry leaders and collaborating members. n dialogue and collaborate with the U.S. Catholic Bishops and national leadership organizations for the promotion of youth ministry and the professional development of church leaders.

"Although most of us who are committed to the faith formation of teens have been struggling to find ways to accomplish this mandate. The *National Study of Youth and Religion* has alarmed us with its claim that "On most measures of religious faith, belief, experience and

practice, Catholic teens as a whole show up as fairly weak," said Bishop Richard Malone, STL, adding "We have the message. We have the motivation. We must find the means."

"Evangelization is a challenging process, a framework for accomplishing the church's mission," said Father Deck, laying out some implications for Catholic youth ministry today.

Mike Patin told the attendees they must be "Faith horticulturists who grow and nurture the faith of our youth and young adults, planting in what some would say is a hopeless morass."

He noted that at the same time we are a people of ever-renewing hope, quoting from Ephesians 3:20, "who survive and thrive because of the love of Jesus Christ and the Spirit of God present and manifest in our midst. We are a people who "are able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us."

In addition, \$3500 was raised in the raffling of the Treasure Baskets, a 25th Anniversary fund-raiser for the Catholic Youth Foundation.

Attendees are invited to participate in the online evaluation now through January 15.

In addition, orders for conference General Session DVD's (\$15) and Concurrent Session CD's (\$10) will be accepted now through January 5, 2007. An order form can be downloaded on the evaluation page link. The website is <http://www.nfcym.org>

