

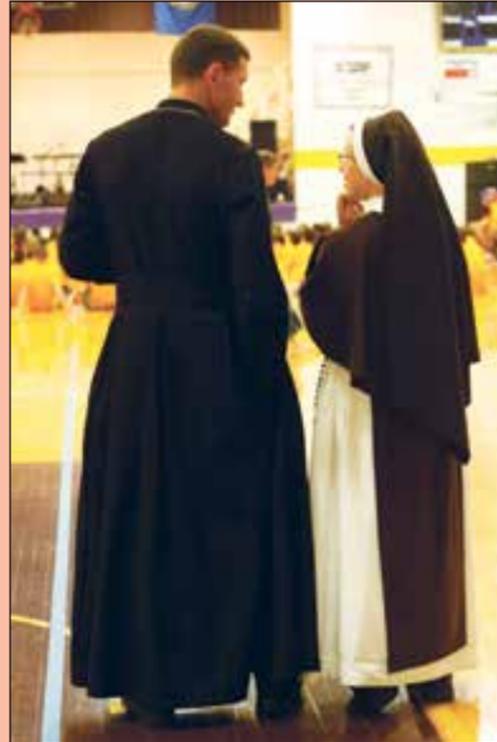
Thank you for your continued support of the Ignite Your Torch Catholic Youth Conference!

Without you, Ignite would not continue to reach the youth!

The past three years of IYT that Amanda Kipp (cited earlier) has participated in have deepened her love of the Church, and she encourages every young Catholic to consider coming to IYT.

“When I came with my parish two years ago, I didn’t even want to go, but you definitely won’t regret it,” Kipp said. “It’s different than what you think—it’s a great surprise. I love it.”

Fr. Tony Stephens, CPM, has been coming to IYT for seven years, and said that this conference helps him connect more deeply with his vocation.



“The Ignite Your Torch conferences are a direct result of St. John Paul II’s call for a new evangelization,” Fr. Stephens said. “It includes an excellent blend of the laity working with the religious for the building up of the Mystical Body of Christ, and as a priest I have a responsibility to make sure that these opportunities for the deepening of people’s faith are available. I keep coming back to Ignite Your Torch because I have been blessed to meet some of these young people and help them grow deeper in their faith, and that motivates me to better myself as a spiritual father.”

IYT wasn’t a time of growth only for the youth. The spirit of IYT is so infectious and penetrating that even the adults involved notice a deepening in their knowledge and appreciation of their faith. Bishop Rice, auxiliary bishop of St. Louis, MO, who attended most of the conference, spoke in his homily for the closing Mass about how IYT had touched him.

“We have all been changed by this conference...I have been changed by this conference. I will not go home the same as I came here.”



Article by Kristen Stearns. Photos by Gianna and Tamara Cesare

**IGNITE – a project of Catholics United for Life and St. Martin’s Dominican Community
PO Box 10 • New Hope, KY**

Fall 2014

10 Years of IGNITE!

Catholics United for Life • PO Box 10 • New Hope, KY

“Ignite has encouraged me to speak my mind on faith issues and has strengthened my resolve to live as a pure Catholic example to the world.”



“This conference is a great mix of learning about your faith and fun. You get to meet good religious and priests, meet good people and learn. You just have to come – it’s a great time!”

Youth Want Truth, Authenticity, and Goodness!

by Kristen Stearns

The Ignite Your Torch Catholic Youth Conference celebrated its tenth year in Kentucky and its second year in Washington State this summer, once again welcoming high school-aged youth from around the country to encounter Christ through the sacraments, soak in authentic Catholic teaching, interact with the ever-present young priests and religious, and be challenged and motivated by other Catholic teens.

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Youth Want Truth, Authenticity and Goodness!

(cont. from front page)

IYT participants enjoy choosing from among the numerous in-depth workshops led by the religious and educated laity on subjects close to the Church's heart as well as on controversial issues in society.

Fr. Paul Schenck, who has been a featured speaker at IYT for the past two years, directs the Respect Life Office for the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA, and works on Capitol Hill. He said the conference is "exciting and inspirational," especially with regard to workshop selections.

"I attend quite a few conferences, both Catholic and non-Catholic, and the schedule

Our Lord gives deeper meaning to what we know is true!

At Ignite we believe that no knowledge is truly efficacious without a conversation with God. We want the youth to come to the sacraments as the basis of their relationship with the Almighty, especially focusing on the Holy Eucharist and confession.

"The holy hours are my favorite part of the conference," said Br. Victor Moratin, who was experiencing his first IYT. A seminarian with the Fathers of Mercy, Br. Victor was particularly impressed with Friday's holy hour in which the priest processes and gives an individual benediction to every participant. "You just know that God's grace is here when you see the reaction of the youth as Fr. Brent goes around blessing all of them with the Eucharist."



We all start life as pro-life, an attitude that needs to be preserved!

On Saturday, the participants woke up very early and boarded eight buses, traveling an hour and a half each way to pray outside of an abortion clinic in Louisville. Tamara Cesare, president of Catholics United for Life and the main organizer of IYT, has been sidewalk counseling for over three decades.

"Being present on the sidewalk, watching the mothers go in and knowing that their children will not come out with them, is a tragic and brutally honest experience. It is an experience that creates a special love in our hearts for children as individual people, an experience that tears away the veil of indifference."

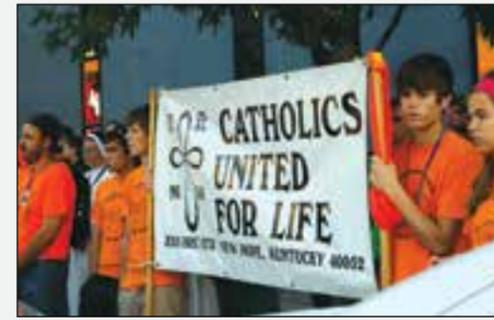
here is fantastic. The depth and breadth are wonderful," Fr. Schenck said. "They don't treat the youth like airheads. They treat them with respect for their capacity to recognize truth, rather than with a bunch of superficial fluff designed to keep them entertained. That's critical."



Amanda Kipp, 17, from Bremerton, WA, has attended three Ignite conferences – two here in Kentucky and one in her home state.

"I learned a lot about Catholic teachings, and the workshops were really helpful. The workshops are

my favorite part," Kipp said. "Everyone was so welcoming and sweet and has a good Christian attitude."



Participants also have the opportunity to join the Angelic Warfare Confraternity, which is a centuries-old spiritual fraternity that, with the prayers of our brothers and sisters in Christ and the saints, helps people remain chaste in their vocation.

"The confraternity is a gift to the Church, a means of help and grace to remain chaste and pure," Br. Justin Bolger, a Dominican student brother, explained. "In a society like ours, there are so many forces working against purity. We can't rest on our laurels and hope temptations will go away. We have to be proactive. If you don't respect your own chastity, you won't respect others' chastity or see it as something worth saving. That leads to a devaluing of the gift of our sexuality, which leads to contraception, infidelity and abortion. If sex is just reduced to pleasure, then we won't understand the fruit of sex, which is life. All the life issues are interconnected. This conference is good because it links all those issues."

"Going to the abortion clinic is pure spiritual warfare," Br. Victor said. "It's amazing to see how we can be witnesses for Christ in the streets. The teens see that it's important to be out there."

Chastity: the challenge of love at the heart of pro-life victory and personal sanctity!

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A culture of faithful friendships!

After the emotional intensity of Saturday morning at the abortion mill and then an afternoon of more talks and prayer, Saturday evening is an opportunity for the teens to kick back and connect with one another during social time. This year, the social included an "Ignite's Got Talent" contest, complete with a 3-judge panel. The different religious communities offered songs, skits, and dances.

"Coming to this conference is so exciting for me," Nigerian Sr. Maria Chinelo, IHM, said. "All the youth are so welcoming and lovely. You see God in their faces and working through

them. We will be coming back next year." Sr. Chinelo, together



with Sr. Maria Immaculata and Sr. Maria Eche, two other members of her community, won the contest with their performance of a traditional Nigerian dance.

Two other special guests graced the "Ignite's Got Talent" stage: Jonny and Maddy Curtis, a brother and sister team who love singing and performing together. Maddy, who was a contestant on Season Nine of *American Idol*, and Jonny, who has Down Syndrome, shared their view of the dignity of all human life through amazing music and humorous performances.

"It's incredible fun," Br. Victor said. "This conference is a great mix of learning about the faith and fun. You get to witness good religious and priests, meet good people and learn. You just have to come—it's a great time!"