

Dear Friends:

I just want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all of their hard work with Trifesta. To Lynn our chairperson and all of her crew, Tom, Ann, Dan and the maintenance staff, and the hundreds of volunteers – we couldn't have done it without you. A special thanks to all of our sponsors and local businesses who supported us and cooperated with us in so many different ways. To all of our entertainment as well – it added a great dimension to our celebration. As I said in a few of my letters – block parties bring friends, family and neighbors together. I hope this is a new beginning of all of us continuing to come together as friends, families and neighbors to support one another, care for one another and celebrate with one another the gift of our Faith.

Many people are still asking me about my trip to Australia. It was an incredible experience to witness so many young people celebrating their faith. Besides the Vigil and Mass with the Pope, I know a highlight for our group was a small, simple Mass Bishop Kaffer celebrated for the 20 people of our group. He was truly an inspiration to our teens as he shared his stories from his past 6 World Youth Days. This one obviously took a bigger toll on him, but it was amazing to see his enthusiasm and zeal for the Faith and for the Holy Father. The Holy Father had some great things to share with our young people. If you would like to read the texts of his homilies and talks, they can be found at <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/sydney08/speeches.php> . They are much easier to read than to listen to. David and I have already spoken about making plans for the next World Youth Day to be held in Madrid, Spain in 2011. So all you high school and college students, start saving your money now – it is an event of a lifetime.

I would like to welcome David Heimann to our staff as Director of Youth Ministry. David comes to us after 9 years at St. Augustine Parish in Chicago. He brings with him a wealth of experience and an incredible enthusiasm for setting our young people on fire with their faith. In the coming weeks we will be doing a more formal introduction of David to the community and he will be presenting his vision for Youth Ministry.

I also want to welcome Lisa Podraza to the parish staff. Lisa is a member of Resurrection Parish in Wayne and participates in the Music Ministry there. Lisa has been an accompanist here since last fall and in addition is now serving as Karen's Assistant in the Music Office. We are grateful to have Lisa in this expanded role.

Finally, I want to wish all of our college students the best of luck as they return to school or begin university. For those of you at state schools, be sure to connect with the Newman Club on campus. They are your continued connection to the Catholic Faith. If you can't find them, then get connected through FCA or other Campus Ministry Programs. If we can be of service while you are away, don't hesitate to give us a call or shoot us an e-mail.

Well, that's about all for now. Enjoy the last few days of summer break.

Peace,

