

## World Youth Day 2005

### BACKPACKS AND FLAGS ESSENTIAL FOR YOUNG PILGRIMS

Dozens of young people from the Diocese of Hamilton took their backpacks and Canadian flags and joined the pilgrimage to Cologne, Germany, to be part of World Youth Day (WYD) 2005.

A Diocesan group of youth, with adult supervisors, traveled first to Belgium, where they were hosted by a diocese in return for hospitality received in Canada during WYD 2002. The group camped for a week in Army tents and attended pre-WYD rallies and Masses, before traveling to Germany by bus.

Fr. Mark Gatto, who was the chaplain of the expedition, says the group then traveled by bus to get to the site of the enormous August 21 Mass celebrated by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI. "From the bus stop we had to walk about 10 kilometres to get to the site and then we slept outside on the grass in sleeping bags," Fr. Mark says. "There were approximately one million people gathered for the Mass. We had a couple of large Canadian flags and there were flags from dozens of different countries on display in the crowd."

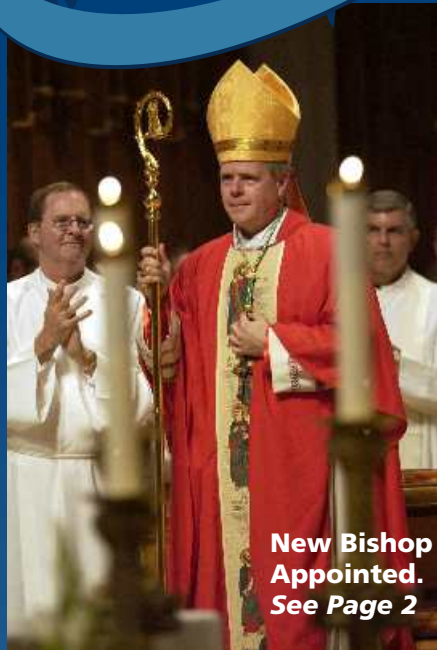
Calling the spectacular event a "day" is a misnomer: WYD is a six-day celebration with rallies, Masses, and other activities, and a full week of pre-World Youth Day events leading up to it in the host city and surrounding area.

For Diocese of Hamilton seminarian Jason Kuntz, a highlight of WYD 2005 was attending a Mass held in the crypt of a German church.

"A bishop from France celebrated the Mass in French – it was a beautiful experience of the universal church. There we were – bishops, priests, seminarians, parents and children and other people – all speaking different languages, yet we were able to celebrate Mass together."

"World Youth Day has a profound effect on the young people who attend," Fr. Mark says. "Their faith is strengthened and they really have a desire to deepen it and share it when they return. For those who may be considering the priesthood or religious life, attending this event would certainly provide encouragement and support."

The next World Youth Day will be held in Sydney, Australia, in 2008.



**New Bishop Appointed.  
See Page 2**

### IN THIS ISSUE



**World Youth Day 2005 in Cologne, Germany 1**



**Rituals and Rites of Passage: Preparing Children for First Communion 3**



**Bringing Leadership and Faith Together 4**



**Catholic Parenting 101 4**

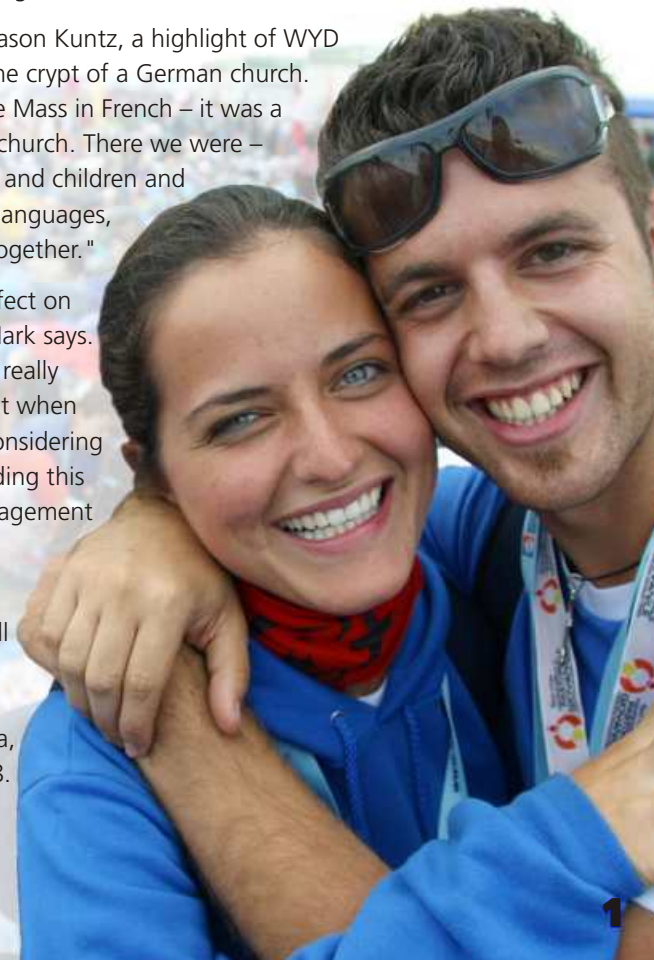
#### PHOTOS:

Newly ordained Bishop Bergie.  
Young pilgrims at World Youth Day.

(Photo courtesy World Youth Day Office Cologne, photographer David Boucherie, © WJT gGmbH)

*"Young people must feel loved by the Church."*

**Pope Benedict XVI**



## MESSAGE

### From the Vocation Director

**"Young people must feel loved by the Church."**

This statement from Pope Benedict XVI presents us with a great challenge. All people, and in particular young people, must experience the love and mercy of God embracing them through the Church – a love that is tangible and experienced in a variety of ways.

World Youth Day 2005 in Cologne, Germany, was a universal expression of the love of the Church for young people. Approximately 200 teens and young adults from our Diocese were blessed with the opportunity to be part of that pilgrimage, and shared in the joy of gathering together from around the world.

Most importantly, young people need to feel love in their daily lives – within a caring Christian family, in faith-filled Catholic schools, and through priests and others within their parishes. In this edition of *Reflections* we look at the Church's expression of love for young people through World Youth Day, and through Catholic parents and teachers. Also, we profile a young man who both helped develop, and took part in, the "Chosen and Sent" leadership program offered in the Diocese.

We hope you enjoy our new design for *Reflections*. This edition marks our three-year anniversary of publishing this newsletter. We began with a circulation of 1,000, and now distribute 18,000 copies throughout the Diocese. Your comments about our new look or about any other aspect of this newsletter are welcome.

**Fr. Mark Gatto**



## New Bishop appointed by Holy Father

Following an appointment by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, Father Gerard Bergie was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton on August 24 at the Cathedral of Christ the King.



Bishop Bergie, 46, was born and raised in Hamilton, where his sense of calling was sparked by a suggestion from his high-school chaplain that he should consider the priesthood. He went to St. Peter's Seminary in London and was ordained a priest by Bishop Tonnos in 1984. Bishop Bergie has served at various parishes throughout the Diocese, including Our Lady of Lourdes in Hamilton, St. Francis Xavier in Stoney Creek, St. Patrick in Cambridge, and St. Matthew

in Oakville. Most recently he was pastor at St. Margaret Mary in Hamilton.

"I said yes (to God) 21 years ago and it has brought my life great joy, a great sense of fulfillment, and, at times, heartache," Bishop Bergie said at a news conference announcing his appointment. "But this is what I've always known God called me to do. I accept the position of bishop with humility."

PHOTOS: Newly ordained Bishop Bergie greeting the congregation. Presiding at the ordination from left: Bishop John Sherlock, Bishop Anthony Tonnos, and Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki.

# Rituals and Rites of Passage

## PREPARING CHILDREN FOR FIRST COMMUNION

This month, Linda Zarzour's Grade 2 classroom at St. Joachim School in Ancaster becomes the location for what might be considered basic training in the Catholic faith.

The educational program to prepare her students for their first reconciliation and first communion is underway - both a rite of passage for the children and a beloved ritual for Linda, who has taught elementary school for 26 years.

"We build up to it throughout the year – starting in the fall, we have a friendship party and the children bring in food and share it, eating together. We talk about how Jesus shared food with his friends," Linda explains. "During Easter week last year, one of the teacher's grandmothers showed the children how to make bread. The students lined up, holding out their hands for the bread just as they would when receiving Holy Communion.

"Somehow it all jells by the time of the first communion in spring. I think they understand that they are receiving Jesus in their hearts."

Father Dan Miehm at St. Ann Parish in Ancaster, welcomes Grade 2 students from St. Joachim, St. Ann and Holy Name of Mary schools, and their parents, to a "church tour" as part of reconciliation and first communion preparation.

"I think it's a very important task to prepare kids for first communion. Ideally the family, school and parish should try to work in concert," Fr. Dan says. "At the tour, we allow the kids to ask all sorts of questions and I think the parents learn things too."

### **About reconciliation**

Linda: "Reconciliation is different than it was in the past. Children sit with their parents in the pews and then go up one by one to sit with the priest, off to the side. We teach them simple prayers, a shortened version of the Act of Contrition. I might say, think of three things that you're sorry for. It doesn't have to be a long list."

Fr. Dan: "There's often a lot of nervousness about the first confession, and I find you have to disarm them. I remember a boy who was utterly phobic about making his first confession. The school had noticed it and it was a real problem. I talked to him about it. He said he had seen me at church wearing a wireless microphone, and he knew anything I said could be heard all over the church – so he assumed anything he said to me was going to be broadcast! Once we assured him that wasn't the case, he was fine."

### **The challenges**

Linda: "The biggest challenge might be the children from families that don't practise the faith. The children have no idea what I'm talking about until we take them to church. You can tell that some of them have never been there before. Once I sat with a little boy in the pew, and when the priest came out from the side entrance at the front of the church, the boy said to me, 'Is that God?'"



PHOTOS:  
Father Dan Miehm  
and Linda Zarzour

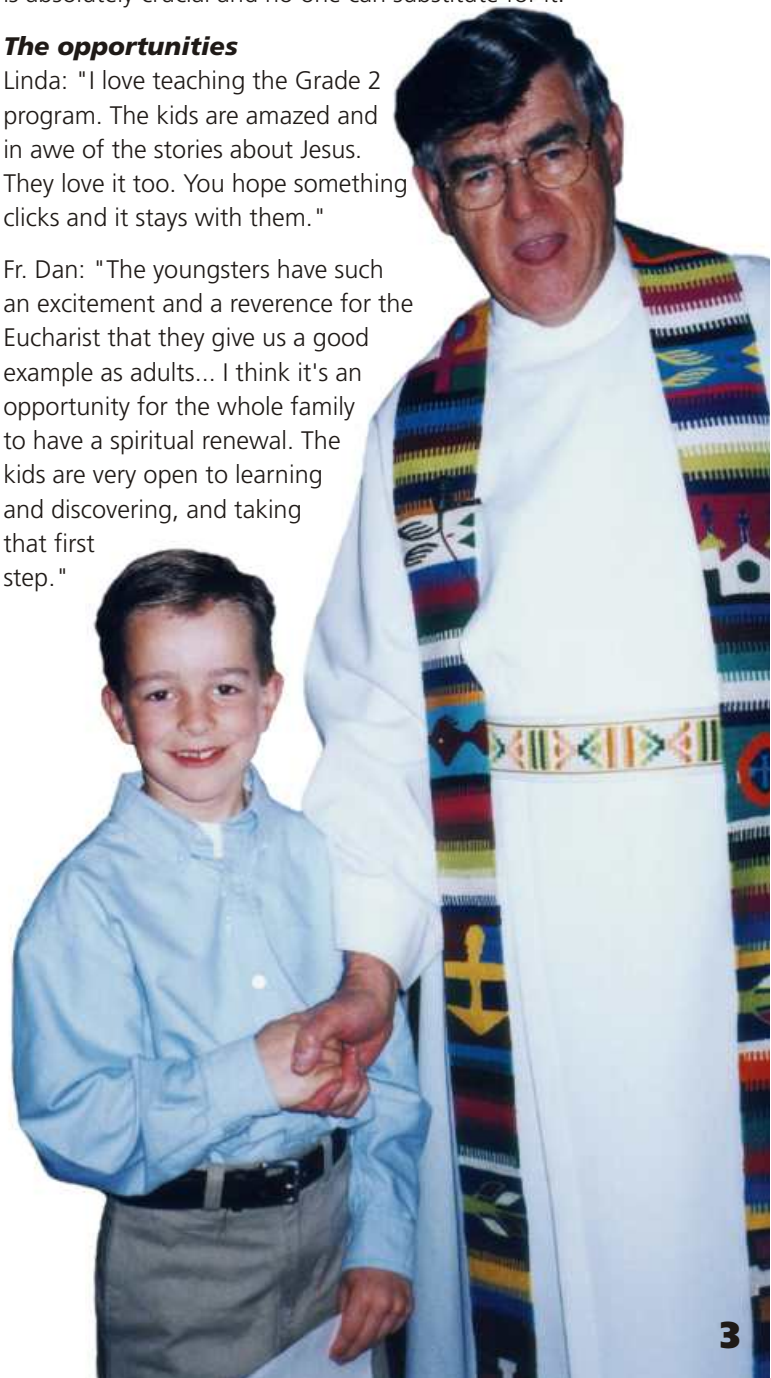


Fr. Dan: "Sometimes the lessons involved with the first communion fall flat because there's no consistent practise at home. I really try to use the opportunity to encourage parents. Parents are the first teachers of the faith... what they do at home is absolutely crucial and no one can substitute for it."

### **The opportunities**

Linda: "I love teaching the Grade 2 program. The kids are amazed and in awe of the stories about Jesus. They love it too. You hope something clicks and it stays with them."

Fr. Dan: "The youngsters have such an excitement and a reverence for the Eucharist that they give us a good example as adults... I think it's an opportunity for the whole family to have a spiritual renewal. The kids are very open to learning and discovering, and taking that first step."



## BRINGING LEADERSHIP AND FAITH TOGETHER

David Kantor was both reassured and challenged by his participation in "Chosen and Sent," the faith and leadership development program offered by the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO).

"It affirmed my faith and it also affirmed that there are other people like me out there who do practice their faith – I felt less like an island," the 31-year-old civil-environmental engineer says. At the same time, David enjoyed hearing the diversity of views within the group. "It opened my eyes to a lot of different perspectives toward issues of faith and the Church."

David also helped develop the "Chosen and Sent" concept; he was part of a group of young adults who worked with CYO to develop a program incorporating both faith development and leadership training for Catholics aged 18 to 35. The eight-month program began in September 2003, and it's hoped "Chosen and Sent" will run again in the future. The program includes speakers on a variety of topics, with both large and small-group discussion.

Until 2002, David was a professional volleyball player, an environment he calls "very non-Christian... they called me 'Church' because I always found a church to go to when we were away on road trips. At that point I felt different from everyone else and somewhat isolated." Retirement from volleyball gave David the time to get more involved in faith activities, including World Youth Day 2002, and then "Chosen and Sent."

"The 'Chosen and Sent' program was a faith-sharing, intimate atmosphere, and it was also fun. It was an experience that helped my faith grow, and I enjoyed the fellowship with people my own age for whom faith was a very important element in their lives. Both the faith-building and the leadership training helped me in my everyday life, both at work and in my growth as a person."

Today, David sees his work as an environmental engineer as "being a steward of God's creation. For me, my spirituality is very nature-based and I think that led me to the environmental side of engineering. It makes my work more meaningful knowing that I am giving God glory by restoring the earth He created."

### Contact Us

*Reflections* is published by the Vocation Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton  
700 King Street West, Hamilton, ON L8P 1C7  
Editor: Rev. Mark Gatto • T 905-528-7988, ext. 240  
F 905-528-1088 • E-mail: [frmark@vocationinfo.ca](mailto:frmark@vocationinfo.ca)

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Visit our re-designed web site:

[www.vocationinfo.ca](http://www.vocationinfo.ca)



## Catholic Parenting 101



What are Catholic parents doing to encourage faith development in their children? What are the challenges? *Reflections* hears from three parents: Mark Daly, father of four children ages four to nine; Teresa Hartnett (*centre*), mother of four children ages 16 to 22, and Cathy Densmore (*bottom*), mother of three daughters ages 13 to 17.

### ● Daily Life

Cathy: "I think children need to know the 'rules of the house,' and your expectations as parents. For us, we like to sit at the table together for dinner. It's a time to talk and connect as a family."

Mark: "Having your children attend a Catholic school makes things easier. I feel it's a blessing for us to be able to work hand in hand with the teachers at school."

Teresa: "I think the whole basis of Christian parenting is just good parenting... children see and learn from what you do, not just what you say. If you lead by your own words, and by the example of your everyday life, that has the biggest impact on kids and leaves a profound impression."

### ● Rituals

Mark: "We take our kids to church and we have our grace before meals, which is a song. When we visit my parents' cottage in Peterborough, we go to Mass there. More than anything we say to the kids, we have to count our blessings and say thank you to God for what we have."

Teresa: "When our kids go out, we don't expect them to initiate a grace at someone else's house, but we don't change our practices when someone comes to our house."

### ● Challenges

Teresa: "When kids get into the later teen years, it's important to let them know you're open to any question about the faith. I don't react with shock or anger... we have a discussion about their question and I try to give them a reasonable answer."

Cathy: "The society kids live in doesn't seem to have the same values – a lot of the things they see and hear go against what they learn at home. But I think if they have a good foundation they'll sort it out."

Mark: "Things that we struggle with include video games. We debate this all the time. I don't feel you can ban TV, radio and video games, it's not realistic. So we try the best we can, and there are certain things we don't allow."