**Reports submitted to Campus Ministry/Young Adult Committee**

as of November 3 for November 11, 2015 meeting

BPR at University of Chicago submitted by Fr. Harold Fisher

The Busy Persons Retreat for the University of Chicago took place between October 11 and October 15, 2015. 7 people signed up for the retreat but only 5 actually participated.

Liz Weigel, the associate director for Calvert House remarked that this was the lowest turnout at a Busy Persons Retreat in years. She remarked that one of the reasons for the turn out may have been that classes started three weeks ago and students were already involved with midterm exams and papers. Maureen Fagan and I attended the mass and it didn’t seem as though there was a big push for the retreat as in previous years. The retreat was presented as one of many announcements by the one giving the announcements.

Chicago’s Got Sisters submitted by Sr. Theresa Sullivan

Four Discerners participated in Chicago’s Got Sisters Oct 30-Nov 1, 2015.    Another 6 women inquired about the event.    Two of these inquirers plan to come to the one April 15-16.   They learned about the event from a variety of ways including:  University Newsletter, Relevant Radio, Online Search, and Flier at Newman Center.   On a scale of 1-5, all the participants graded every category a “5”.   One said, “I just really enjoyed hearing everyone’s personal story of how they came to understand their vocations and discern which order to join. “

The discerners jelled as a group as they traveled to six different religious communities:  Carmelites, Benedictines, Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Sisters of the Living Word, Franciscans of the Eucharist, and Daughters of Charity.  Five sisters participated on the vocation panel:  Sr. Lovina Pammit, OSF; Sister Mary Mathew, LSP; Sr. Mary Paul Asoegwu, DDL; Sr. Agathe Bramkamp, SSpS. and Sr. Chioma Ahanihu, SLW.   Discerners joined sisters from a variety of communities as they gathered for “Storm the Monastery”, a holy hour at the Carmelites for the Year of Consecrated Life.

Catholics on Call submitted by Birgit Oberhofer

While thousands of Catholics tried to catch a glimpse of Pope Francis in Washington, New York or Philadelphia, sixty of our partners came to CTU for our annual Partner Conference under the title: "Walking Together as Disciples - Exploring a Vocation to Ministry with Young Adults." Our keynote speaker, Dr. Kathleen Cahalan from St. John's University in Collegeville, MN, challenged our understanding of vocation, ministry and discipleship. She asked the questions: What does it mean to have a vocation to ministry? How do young people know if they have a calling to do ministry? and How can they find out if they  have the gifts to practice ministry?    
In her animated and engaging presentations, Dr. Cahalan introduced us to the seven practices of discipleship as a follower, worshipper, witness, neighbor, forgiver, prophet and steward. According to Dr. Cahalan, "ministry is the vocation of leading disciples in the life of discipleship for the sake of God's mission in the world." The distinction between discipleship and ministry proved to be helpful when talking with young adults about their calling in life. Like all baptized Christians, young Catholics have to understand that all vocations have their root in this basic call to discipleship. The question to discern is: Do they have a call to do ministry? To answer that question, Kathleen Cahalan introduced us to several practices of discernment that she discovered in interviewing different people about their sense of calling in life, as a part of the research project "[Collegeville Institute Seminars](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001OQmHNoxrt_cscIjjTqer9-N2Si-IXh_4-sGWKL1gvs0AMzIZrUp7S1r7dVVW0c7A2QvOSadfgLaV5GndmTuu_ir2Q4i4E70iI3xYTgd5_U59pBEslFRW1grXLemob8SWPDjZvmXAE6GbRwAbWw8C2Qa0gTsDtlgJ_4S38tdrv5ah4Nud72r3BEDen9rPs8NxxnixRfR_c3Zd67Eo8fhiKJebgbqxsKR9vgPonCdfI-OdPuyNQjrURLYaNyc80_jeXiKb5AIZjN4k5sUkWz8MPfhyix0I0aSyLMVR-ahFjrzv9tfHTwfnkISUC97cD9edqjdgl7HyRDKy_YQb23IYs6O9dUQo7sN4&c=gq-IxHm2WPYtzYZu4M-TkZUAb3mgzeZSb9zdCGYSiyIQdJc1vbl68Q==&ch=FrGeAAJdaRkmlx6pXoPL7gllsSU_pfCJ8L_SyG_a6N8LMrkmaqr0ng==)." By narrowing the concept of "ministry" and deepening the understanding of "discipleship," Dr. Cahalan opened new doors for engaging young adults in conversations around vocation, by asking questions about dreams, passions, meaning and purpose.   
Here is what some of the participants took away from the conference: "This conference has helped me to hone my discernment skills. It has helped me take my thinking to another level." -- "I feel like I have more - stronger - better language around discernment - vocation - ministry." -- "I felt that the second talk on discernment gave me some good practices for working with young adults on discernment."

On our website is also an article about the Partner Conference from the point of view of one of the participants, who also happens to be a CTU alumna: <http://www.catholicsoncall.org/coc-partner-conference-2015-clarifying-grounding-and-energizing>

 The 2016 young adult conference will take place from August 3-6, 2016.

 We are meeting about funding this week. I will share anything new at next Wednesday’s meeting.

 The other piece of news is that I will be leaving CTU in the beginning of December to move to L.A. for my community. So this will be my last meeting. Hopefully by next Wednesday, I will know more about the future plans for the program and this position. I am sad to leave CTU, CoC, CAVA and all the beautiful relationships built over the last 7 years. But I am also ready for something new and am excited to move on.

 Archdiocesan Young Adult Ministry (YAM) submitted by Darius Villalobos

The Young Adult Ministry Office is sponsoring a pilgrimage from Chicago to World Youth Day (WYD) in Poland, July 24- August 2, 2016. At present over 80 are registered. The needs for our WYD Pilgrimage include spiritual guides and directors for pilgrims through our Spirituality Committee, help with promoting to different young adult communities, and helping young adults reflect on the theme of mercy.

Regions 6 and 7 are planning a local WYD Event for July 30-31, 2016 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Plaines. We would welcome religious to help out in our planning committees and the day of as volunteers for the event. We will need help in a variety of levels, including registration, hospitality, logistics and food.

We are currently working on a Strategic Plan for Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese. We hope to take into consideration the diversity of young adults and young adult communities throughout the Church in Chicago and create a plan to focus on leading and forming people as Missionary Disciples. We would love insights and resources from anyone or any community that would be interested in supporting this effort.

If there are any religious interested in helping our Spanish-language leadership formation program, ESFOR, please contact Pablo Padilla. We are always looking for good facilitators, spiritual accompaniment for participants in the program, and help with hospitality and resources.

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Volunteer Groups in Area submitted by Sr. Kathleen McClelland

I attended the September 28 volunteer fair at Saint Xavier University where volunteer groups recruit students for their programs. Many of the volunteer organizations do not have groups in Chicago. Five seemed receptive to a few of us bringing pizza and visiting with the volunteers: Mercy Home, Maryknoll, Franciscan Outreach, Lasallian volunteers and Amate House. Sister Theresita and I each know someone at the Notre Dame Ace house but so far have not gone there.

I think the next step is to find out who on our committee is interested in pursuing this activity so we can organize and decide who will contact each group. Therefore, I will circulate a signup sheet at the November 11 meeting and then arrange a conference call, depending on how many are interested.