



Fall 2015

Volume 1, Issue 2

UPCOMING EVENTS



- **NCYC**
Nov. 18th—
21st
- **Year of Mercy
Begins**
Dec. 8th
- **AYAC Meeting**
Jan. 17th
- **Youth Rally
and March for
Life**
Jan. 22nd

AYAC—What's It All About?

The beginning of a new school year brings new classes and new extra-curriculars for high school students, but also a new year for the Archdiocesan Youth Advisory Council, or AYAC.

High school students from the Archdiocese of Baltimore meet once a month to communicate with other fellow students to act as a bridge between the Church and her youth. Although not an actual youth group, AYAC aims to connect Catholic high school students to spark ideas that they can bring to their parish or school. It fosters leadership skills as well, enabling AYAC members to not only hear new ideas but to actually carry them out.

AYAC members can be found at many diocesan wide and even national events including Pilgrimage, Baltimore Youth Catholic Conference

(BYCC) during the even years, the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) during the odd years, and the March for Life every year.

Each member joins an AYAC committee: Newsletter, Recruitment, NCYC, Pilgrimage or March for Life. These committees are an integral part of making sure each of the events run smoothly.

If you know any junior or senior who would be interested in AYAC, instruct them to contact their youth or campus minister. It is never too late to join the AYAC.



Respect Life Month



To Christians, October is known as Respect Life Month. During this time, we are told to reflect on who we are in this world. We are reminded that we all are created equally in the image of God and deserve equal respect. As humans, none of us are perfect, but we all have our own qualities that make us special in our own way. No one deserves to be put down or degraded; every human being deserves dignity and respect.

Throughout this month, many dioceses participate in certain projects that promote life. Others reach out to teach teenagers and younger children and help them understand what it means to love and respect one another. They encourage us to help those that are suffering in their lives so that they might find love in them. Young people are now taught what it means to respect their life and the lives of others. With help, a person can realize that they are a special gift of God to the whole world.

***The Steubenville National Youth Conferences-** Teens across the nation celebrated the Catholic faith by participating in group prayer that strengthened their relationships with God.



***Catholic Heart Work Camps-** Youth reached out to those that are marginalized by providing service and compassion to them.



***Habitat for Humanity's Service Trip-** A number of Catholic school took a



"What's the Noise" Writers:

- Darby Nisbett
- Lexi Hegeman
- Vincent Maria
- Abby Pressley
- Lauren McLaughlin



Parish and School Updates: Institute of Notre Dame

The Institute of Notre Dame, rooted in the heart of Baltimore, has been up to so much good.

On September 30th, IND girls responded to Pope Francis' call to serve. They collected clothing, food, and toiletries for TurnAround Inc., My Sister's Place, Power Inside, Asylee Women Enterprise, The Samaritan Women, and Marian House. All of these organizations provide important resources to people in need, the

majority of whom are women and children.

The girls will be welcoming back some of these same organizations, in addition to others, for their Community Day on October 23rd. This day will be spent celebrating SSND founder's day and coming together as a community. The girls will attend numerous breakout sessions on topics ranging from education and women empowerment to violence and human trafficking.

The day will end with a brainstorming session about what they can do to reach out and help those around them- both locally and globally



HANGING WITH POPE FRANCIS

Many young people traveled to D.C., New York or Philadelphia to witness the Pope celebrate mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul. "It was a powerful experience and really humbling" to unite with all kinds of people to celebrate the Pope's visit to the United States."

"It was amazing to be united for one person—the Pope," said Monique, a member of Saint Mary's Parish in Annapolis. She and a few other youth from her parish traveled to Phila-

delphia to witness the Pope celebrate mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul. "It was a powerful experience and really humbling" to unite with all kinds of people to celebrate the Pope's visit to the United States."

emma, from St. Mark's in Catonsville, also traveled with a group of young people to Philadelphia. She says, "There was a sense of community when everyone was cheering together: I love Francis, yes I do!"

The Pope is and will continue to be a role model for youth of all faiths as he lives the message of Jesus and exemplifies a life of humility and service to God and others.

