



December 2008

Dear NACYML Members,

This coming year marks the fifth anniversary of the National Association of Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders. These have been years of building a foundation, growing membership, and establishing a presence and identity within the youth ministry community. Moments of challenge and frustration have been greatly outnumbered by the generosity and giftedness of NACYML members in responding to the requests we have made to build this professional network.

NACYML highlights from 2008 include:

- membership growth to include 550+ members
- attendance of 150 at the biennial membership meeting
- member presenters at this meeting included Ann Marie Eckert (CMD), Frank Mercadante (Cultivation Ministries) and Sister Eileen McCann (USCCB)
- a grant from the Catholic Youth Foundation, USA to provide online training to new NACYML members
- two online courses and two retreat offerings, as requested by membership, were offered in collaboration with Ministry Training Source through the OnCourse program
- completion of the writing of Certification Competencies for Volunteers
- discounted registration to NCCYM in Cleveland.
- five new members were added to the leadership team
- members of NACYML were represented in the youth ministry and lay ecclesial ministry community through participation in the Called to Witness program, World Youth Day, and the National Initiative on Adolescent Catechesis Symposium

In 2009, members will continue to have the opportunity of participating in the OnCourse training and retreat sessions with Ministry Training Source. In the coming year, we have plans to update the member webpage, and the quarterly newsletter will continue to offer insights and possibilities from the field.

By working together, the membership of NACYML is making a significant contribution to the field of Catholic Youth Ministry. Each member brings unique talents to the organization; talents and gifts that are needed to promote the practice and profession of Catholic youth ministry.

Enclosed you will find your membership renewal form for 2009. Please ensure that all information is correct and return with payment by either credit card or check. Please renew your membership by February 1st, as this is the date when non-renewals will have access to the NACYML members' website removed. Membership is based on a calendar year, expiring on December 31st of each year. You may also renew your membership online via the NACYML web site (<http://www.nacyml.org/>).

As we look back on the first five years of NACYML's work and ministry, we are grateful for your membership and contributions to this member driven organization. We look forward to your continued membership and your ongoing assistance in building and growing the important ministry we share.

With Thanks and Blessings,

Mary Mueller
Chair, NACYML Leadership Team