

Dear PCLs (DREs) and Youth Ministers,

November 5, 2015

From the Religious Education & Adult Faith Formation Office

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http://www.dnu.org/religious-education/



**TASKS OF CATECHESIS:
PROMOTING THE KNOWLEDGE
OF THE FAITH**

by Bryan Reising

Catechesis promotes the knowledge of the faith. This is a very important task because it deals with the initial encounter with Christ and with the doctrines of the faith.

Kerygma

Our faith first takes place foundationally with the kerygma: the initial proclamation of the Gospel, proclaiming the very person of Jesus Christ, proclaiming his salvific deeds. And this proclamation requires a response of faith and conversion. According to Blessed Paul VI, the content of the kerygma includes the Father's love and salvation in Jesus Christ. According to Saint John Paul II, "the subject of proclamation is Christ who was crucified, died, and is risen: through him is accomplished our full and authentic liberation from evil, sin, and death; through him God bestows 'new life' that is divine and eternal. This is the 'Good News' which changes man and his history, and which all peoples have a right to hear." And according to Pope Francis, the kerygma includes "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen, and free you."

Sacred Scripture

Having this foundation, promoting the knowledge of the faith includes Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. First,

Sacred Scripture and learning, praying and living Sacred Scripture are important aspects of the knowledge of the faith. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, found earlier in *Dei Verbum* from Vatican II, and found even earlier from the Middle Age period, there are two main senses of interpreting Scripture: the literal sense and the spiritual sense.

The literal sense is looking at the facts of the text of Sacred Scripture whereas the spiritual sense is looking at the text spiritually in three ways:

With the allegorical sense, we are looking for what pertains to Christ. With the moral sense, it pertains to right conduct, how to live a moral life inspired by passages of Sacred Scripture, and with the anagogical sense, we are looking at what pertains to our heavenly hope, or eschatology, the study of the end times.

And there are so many other things to learn about Sacred Scripture, from understanding the different genres within Scripture, to looking at the human authors and who is their audience, to looking at the historical milieu and other historical writings of that time. These are all included in the method called historical-critical method.

Even though the Church does promote historical-critical method, it cannot be done faithfully without looking at three key areas, according to *Verbum Domini* by Pope Benedict: 1) the text must be interpreted with attention to the unity of the whole of Scripture, 2) the Tradition of the Church must be taken into account, and 3) the analogy of faith must be respected.

Sacred Tradition

Sacred Tradition refers to the Teachings of the Church. A great reference for these Teachings is our Catechism of the Catholic Church, especially within the first pillar of the Catechism, namely the Creed. Here, you will find what we believe and why, such as the Holy Trinity, each person of the Holy Trinity, the two natures of Christ, Mary and the saints, the Church, and so on. Catholics believe that Sacred Tradition can grow and deepen, but



the truths of the faith are essentially the same. So Church History falls under Sacred tradition as well.

The Nicene Creed

Many elements of Sacred Tradition are contained in the Nicene Creed. This creed came about because of misunderstandings, even heretical statements, of who Christ is that were being taught. The full creed today is a product of both the First Council of Nicea in 325 AD and the First Council of Constantinople in 381 AD. And this creed is a part of our liturgy today so that we can come before our God and profess what we believe together with our friends in Christ.

The Creed starts out with the first person of the Trinity, the Father, and how he is the creator of all, and then shows the relationship between the Father and the Son, and in particular showing that they are consubstantial, or of the same substance. Then it shows the incarnation, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It also states that Jesus ascended into heaven and will come at the end of time to judge the living and the dead. Then it describes the third person, namely the Holy Spirit as the giver of life.

It continues on to describe the Church as the one, holy, apostolic, and catholic church – known as the four marks of the Church.

It then goes on to state that Baptism forgives our sins and at the end of time, we will have the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

It is important to note that each phrase of the Nicene Creed is explained in greater detail in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Doctrine and Dogma

Doctrines are a part of this Sacred Tradition. They are truths or teachings of the faith. They are what St. Thomas Aquinas calls “articles of faith.”

Dogmas are central truths of this body of doctrine. Dogmatic statements are absolutely necessary to believe, like the Dogma of the Holy Trinity, the Dogma of the two natures of Christ, and the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Some of these are proclaimed from an ecumenical council, others by the pope, while others by an ordinary and universal magisterium, the pope united with the bishops of the world .

How to Promote the Knowledge of the Faith

The knowledge of the faith is promoted in dioceses, parishes, Catholic schools, and homes through the means of evangelization and catechesis. So here it is important that as a part of all catechetical formation - whether children, youth, or adults – a well organized plan must be envisaged and implemented so that all people have an opportunity to experience the kerygma, understand Sacred Scripture, learn about the Sacred Tradition, celebrate this faith in the sacraments, live this faith every

day, and proclaim and teach this faith in turn to others. As mentioned last month, well trained catechists together with parents are key people in this enterprise called catechesis for children. And regarding catechesis that is lifelong, adult catechetical opportunities need to be offered in every parish through small Christian communities, neighborhood gatherings, and parish-wide gatherings.

To learn more about the knowledge of the faith, you can refer to the first pillar of the Catechism, check out resources from Bishop Robert Barron’s Word on Fire, take advantage of online courses through University of Dayton’s Virtual Learning Community of Faith Formation (VLCFF), learn about NIKA – more online courses on the Catholic faith as well as many other resources.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Gathers for the Year

9:30 gather; 10 a.m. start – 3 p.m....St. Aloysius Jubilee Center in Olivia - 302 S 10th St. (unless otherwise noted)

2015

Monday, November 16 – Olivia

Sr Candace Fier will present

Monday, December 6 – Olivia

2016

Monday, January 11 – Olivia

Monday, February 8 – Olivia

Monday, March 14 – Olivia

Monday, April 11 – Curriculum Day, New Ulm

Monday, May 9 – TBA – *Bishop LeVoir will present*



Riverbend TEC

Together Encountering Christ retreats for adults and youth:

- January 16-18, 2016 in Winsted at Holy Trinity Catholic Church
- March 5-7, 2016 in New Ulm at Cathedral
- July 30 - August 1, 2016 in New Ulm at Cathedral

To sign up, contact: riverbendtec@gmail.com to receive an application.

Parish Visits

Bryan Reising will be on the road again this catechetical year starting in September of 2015 for some parish visits (twice a month). He will visit on the day of your Faith Formation. This will run through May of 2016.

Please contact him to figure out a date that will work for you or he may contact you for that visit as he lines up his schedule. He will not get to all places during the catechetical year, but he would like to get to all regions and most area faith communities. Keep in mind, that Bryan recognizes that this is a very busy day for you. So

don't feel you have to give him special treatment. If you have time to meet with him that afternoon, that would be great, but don't feel obligated. He can always meet with you on another day or through a phone call. The main idea for this is to look at what is happening that can benefit other parishes and area faith communities.

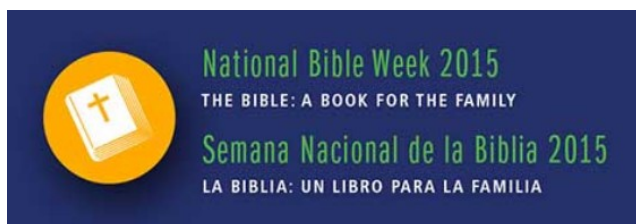
What will happen with these visits? The following are some possibilities: an observation of your faith formation during the time of instruction, perhaps an in-service with your catechists, or even a catechetical presentation as a guest catechist for adults, youth, or children.

Keep in mind that this is not an audit, but a visit to observe and be of service. He will have an assessment tool to benefit your catechetical ministry. Discuss with your pastor or pastoral administrator a good time to arrange a visit. Contact Bryan to arrange a date and time: breising@dnv.org or call the Office for Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation, 507-233-5324.

Scheduled Parish Visits:

September 23 – Holy Cross AFC, New Ulm
 October 14 – Christ the King AFC, Tyler, Ivanhoe
 October 28 – Lamberton

I have openings for more future visits!



From **November 15–21, 2015**, the USCCB invites *families, parishes, schools*, and other Catholic groups to participate in **National Bible Week** in celebration of the **50th Anniversary** of the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum*. This year's theme, ***The Bible: A Book for the Family***, builds on this year's Synod of Bishops on the Family and Pope Francis's visit to Philadelphia for the **World Meeting of Families**.

National Bible Week RESOURCES INCLUDE:

[Resources for Families >](#)

Enthroning the Bible in the Family
 Sharing the Word of God at Home
[See More >](#)

[Resources for Parishes >](#)

How to Start and Sustain Parish Bible Study
 Family Retreat ("Nourishing Our Family with God's Word")
[See More >](#)

[Articles >](#)

The Senses of Scripture
 The Word of God as the Foundation of the Church's Mission
[See More >](#)

University of Dayton's Virtual Learning - Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)

Be a part of these online learning opportunities! They have certificates for Catechesis, Youth Ministry, Leadership, Adult Faith Formation, Marianist Studies, and Social Justice! This is a great gift for your catechists!

Cycle 1: January 10 - February 13, 2016

(Registration: Opens Oct 29, 2015; Closes Jan 6)

- [A Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry](#)
- [Advanced Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [Autism in Faith Formation \(SN 4\)](#)
- [Bible Basics](#)
- [Catholic Beliefs](#)
- [Catholic Teaching on Chastity, Family Life, and Human Sexuality Education](#)
- [Church History 1](#)
- [Collaboration and Community](#)
- [Conscience](#)
- [Creative Methodologies: ADHD in Parish Life - Pastoral Implications \(SN 3\)](#)
- [Disabilities in Parish Life: An Overview \(SN 1\)](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church](#)
- [Ecclesiology: Reframing Church](#)
- [Facilitating Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 4\)](#)
- [Faith and Human Development](#)
- [Fundamentals in Deaf Faith Formation Methodologies \(SN 2\)](#)
- [Galatians](#)
- [Images of Jesus](#)
- [Introduction to Catechesis](#)
- [Introduction to Christian Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Liturgy](#)
- [Introduction to Practical Morality](#)
- [Introduction to Prayer](#)
- [Introduction to Scripture](#)
- [Introduction to the Sacraments of Initiation](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Community](#)
- [Marianist Studies: William J. Ferree, SM: Social Justice](#)
- [Marianist Studies: Mary, Holy Possibility](#)
- [New Testament](#)
- [Old Testament](#)
- [Our Hearts Were Burning](#)
- [Pastoral Approach to Culture](#)
- [RCIA](#)
- [Sacrament of Marriage: A Holy Calling](#)
- [Sacraments](#)
- [Spirituality in Adult Learning and Faith Formation \(AFL 6\)](#)
- [Study of The Joy of the Gospel \(Evangelii Gaudium\)](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Doctrine](#)
- [Survey of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- [The Parish Nurse as Counselor and Spiritual Companion](#)
- [The Parish Nurse: Facilitating Wholistic Health Through the Lifespan](#)
- [Theological Reflection: Key to Connecting Faith and Life](#)
- [Vocation, Spirituality and Discipleship of Catechists](#)

For new students to register for VLCCFF:

<http://vlc.udayton.edu/profile/agreement.php>

For returning VLCCFF students to register for another course:

<http://vlc.udayton.edu/register/>

VLCCFF has certificates for catechists, for ministry leadership, for youth ministry, for adult faith formation, and social justice. Encourage your catechists to get the Certificate for Catechesis. If some of you want a closed course on a particular course, please contact Bryan Reising.

For further information and discussion of further ideas,

call 507-233-5324; breising@dnu.org. Cost for the 3-Week Seminar is \$40 and the five-week course is \$50. Certificates are \$20.

Scholarships are available:

Web site for the Hilary and Elizabeth Mohr Catechist Fund for scholarships: <http://static1.squarespace.com/static/55844033e4b0b4466f11c152/t/55db2f84e4b05c60e8774f35/1440427908543/MohrScholarship-CatechistFormationFund-ApplicationFo>

Office for Religious Education, Diocese of New Ulm: <http://www.dnu.org/religious-education/>

Catechetical Planning

For those who are catechetical leaders, Bryan Reising can provide a closed course on "Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan." Other catechetical leaders who have taken this three-week seminar found it very helpful in looking at all aspects of planning for catechesis for their AFC or parish. Please contact Bryan at breising@dnu.org if you are interested.

NIKA - another online learning opportunity for those in the Diocese of New Ulm



NIKA Catholic Catechetical Institute (NCCI) exists to make Jesus the Christ better known and better loved. It offers faith-filled college level continuing education for non-traditional students and adults who are seeking to deepen their faith life. The courses aim primarily at personal faith formation (intellectual and spiritual) and secondarily

are helpful to those seeking classroom applications. Faith formation is the primary emphasis because the faith-filled person will be more effective in communicating faith and making Christian disciples than the unconvinced technician who has not developed a consistent prayer life: "A theologian is one who prays..." Enjoy continuing education from the convenience of your home. Free online presentations for continuing education as well as mini-courses have begun. For further information... <http://www.nikacatholic.com/>

Early Catholic Family Life (ECFL)

Please be reminded the Diocese of New Ulm has learning materials available to check out to area faith communities offering the Early Catholic Family Life program. Early Catholic Family Life (ECFL) is a wonderful

program for parents with children 0-5 years old. ECFL is a structured seven session two-hour class patterned after the highly successful and popular Minnesota ECFL program (Early Childhood Family Education). ECFL consists of a parent-child interaction component, a parent discussion time, and children's learning and play time. This program emphasizes the importance of putting faith at the center of family life at the earliest ages. It is an opportunity to discuss faith education with Catholic parents and an opportunity for parents and preschools to have fun learning more about God together.

If you do not have parish staff trained to lead the program, but want to learn more call one of our offices.

To arrange for the checking out of the lesson material bins please contact Cindy Blickem at cblickem@dnu.org.

Religious Education Safe Environment Compliance Reminders

DUE DATES APPROACHING

Several of you are starting to send in your Safe Environment reports regarding the children's training. Thank you!

Those of you who have not yet turned your training reports and forms, you have until November 10, 2015 to complete the lessons (Lessons 3 & 4) and turn in the required paperwork. At the very least, opt-out information which is to be sent home to parents before your Safe Environment training for children and youth, should have been sent by now. Lessons are available to PCLs/DRE's through the VIRTUS account (Educator tab). Have a makeup session for students that missed the initial training opportunity. The copy of the previously submitted absent form is to be used for reporting this information prior to February but can be done as soon as November 18.

Please meet with your Local Safe Environment Coordinator to get any new names of catechists and volunteers reviewed for VIRTUS compliance and for information on getting new volunteers registered in the VIRTUS system. E-mail any new catechist names to cblickem@dnu.org indicating if they have been reviewed as being active in the VIRTUS registration system or if you have had them registered as new volunteers.

Any catechetical leader, youth minister, catechist, adults helping with youth ministry, or anyone who may be in a ministry with minors is required to be in total compliance with safe environment requirements prior to serving. Please double-check with your local SEC to make sure everyone in your programs is fully up-to-date. Your LSEC should be able to run a parish master list for your convenience as needed. If not, have the LSEC contact the diocesan office for assistance. Detailed information on the Safe Environment components is available on the newly launched and updated diocesan Web site.

Annual volunteer training posted on 8/24/15. These should have been completed by 9/24/15. We still have about 650 accounts that are not completed. If you have catechists or volunteers that have not completed their online training, they are not in compliance and are not allowed to be unsupervised with minors. Check with your LSEC. For those not in compliance, you may want to use a catechist training opportunity to have a tablet or two (iPad or other) for all those returning volunteers with your program that have not yet completed the online training. It can be done on the larger screen smart phones quite easily as well.

Thank you for your cooperation in our efforts to keep our children and youth safe!

VIRTUS Trainings

Protecting God's Children for Adults

A complete list with the most updated information can be found on the diocesan Web site.

https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theOrgID=25411

Mohr Catechist Formation Fund...

A Gift for You, Your Catechists, Your Youth Team Members, Your Teachers of Religion

This scholarship fund is a great gift for your catechists, teachers, youth ministry team, and many of you! You can receive scholarships for Faith Formation Day and other catechist formation opportunities, opportunities outside the diocese, online courses through the University of Dayton's VLCFF (Virtual Learning Community of Faith Formation), and even some college courses on faith formation. Please submit applications soon! An application is on our Web site:

<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/55844033e4b0b4466f11c152/t/55db2f84e4b05c60e8774f35/1440427908543/MohrScholarship-CatechistFormationFund-ApplicationForm>

Interested in a Bachelors or Masters

in Theology, Religious Education, Pastoral

Ministry, Parish Administration, or Canon Law?

St. Mary's University of Minnesota:

<http://www.smumn.edu/undergraduate-home/areasofstudy/theology/theology>. (They offer BA in Theology, Religious Education, Pastoral and and Youth Ministry; they also offer a Graduate Certificate in Canon Law)

St. Paul Seminary Graduate Program for Lay People:

<http://www.stthomas.edu/spssod/graduate/degree/mare/> (this includes an optional online distance learning degree.)

Their degrees include an MA in Theology, Pastoral Ministry, and Religious Education).

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Membership - This Is for All Catechetical Leaders

Join NCCL and receive CL (Catechetical Leader) Magazine, CL Weekly every Monday, discounts on resources, and information on the national conference and regional workshops! The cost of an individual regional membership to NCCL is only \$65.00. This is only \$5.42 a month. Use the Mohr Scholarship Fund for this opportunity! For further information about membership, check out the Web site: www.nccl.org.

Adult Faith Formation

Word on Fire: The Mystery of God - Who God Is and Why He Matters

What do we really mean by "God?"

Atheism is on the rise. Skeptical thinkers like Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and Sam Harris vigorously attack belief in God as irrational or, even worse, dangerous. The so-called New Atheism has attracted millions of young people thanks to bestselling books such as *The God Delusion* and *God Is Not Great*. How should Christians respond? How can we turn the tide of secularism and draw people back to God? In this new six-part film series and study program, Bishop Robert Barron reaches into our rich intellectual tradition to teach us how. Using the insights of St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Pope Benedict XVI, he uncovers a clear yet sophisticated understanding of what what we mean by "God." Who is God? And why does he matter? Watch this series and you'll not only learn the answers yourself, but you'll discover how to share them with others - especially those who no longer believe.

This film and study program is now ready to be ordered:

<http://mysteryofgod.wordonfire.org/>

Parish Catechesis Question

Regarding the knowledge of the faith in your own life and promoting in your parish, what does your parish or AFC offer you and your catechists to experience the kerygma and to increase your knowledge of the faith?

2015 - 2016 Dates for Parish Catechetical Leaders (DREs) and Youth Ministers

Mon, Nov 16	PCL/YM Gathering – Sr. Candace Fier	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Nov 18-22	NCYC – National Catholic Youth Conference		Indianapolis, Indiana
Sun, Dec 6	Advent Prayer Service with Bishop LeVoir	2 pm	St. Edward, Minneota
Mon, Dec 7	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Mon, Jan 11	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Mon, Feb 8	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Mon, March 7	Bishop Lucker Lecture	7 pm	St. Catherine, Redwood Falls
Mon, March 14	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Thurs, March 17	Chrism Mass	7-8:30 pm	St. Mary, Sleepy Eye
Mon, April 11	PCL/YM Gathering	9:30 gather, mtg 10 am – 2:30 pm	St. Aloysius, Olivia
Sun, April 24	Junior High Festival	TBA	TBA
Mon, May 9	PCL/Youth Minister Spring Fling	Noon – 4 pm	TBA

Check out Riverbend TEC! For more details and an application check out the Web site: <http://riverbendtec.org>

Jan 16-18, 2016 - Winsted

March 5-7, 2016 - New Ulm

July 31 - Aug 2, 2016 - New Ulm

From the Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office

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HOW TO TURN A ROAD TRIP INTO A PILGRIMAGE

When I was in college, some friends of mine (one of which being my future wife, though I didn't know it at the time!) took a road trip to Florida. In many ways, it was your typical college road trip: in-car dance parties, getting lost (a lot), trying to stay awake, deep conversations, fast-food, etc. But in many ways, this road trip was very different, mainly because of one thing: we prayed...a lot.

With NCYC fast approaching, I thought it would be good to give some tips on how to make a road trip into a pilgrimage. You don't have to do every single one of these activities, but they will certainly help pass the time and sanctify the trip.

The Rosary

This is a must. Rosaries can take any road trip and change it into a pilgrimage. Perhaps bookend your trip with a daily Rosary: one at the beginning and one at the end. Rosaries are great because it not only calms a rowdy vehicle, but also helps to create a prayerful atmosphere. It also kills 20 minutes. With Rosaries and youth, however, it's all about timing. Twenty minutes is a long time to say the same thing over and over again, so either pray it when everyone is awake, fed, and has had a chance to use the restroom OR split the trip up into five decades!

Liturgy of the Hours

The purpose of the Liturgy of the Hours is to literally sanctify the hours of the day. Print out Evening, Night, and Morning Prayer and have the bus participate in the prayer. It may seem hard to coordinate such a thing, but I was recently told about a group that actually does this.

The Divine Mercy Chaplet

Shorter than the Rosary, easy to learn, but extremely powerful. A great way to introduce youth to using a Rosary and praying for the faithful departed (or departing). November is traditionally a month where we reflect on the souls in Purgatory, so use it as a teaching moment!

Listen to a Lighthouse Catholic Media CD

We are all familiar with these catechetical CDs. There are some that are specifically geared towards youth and could be a great way to plant a seed and inspire those going to NCYC.



Watch a Good/Catholic Movie

There are so many good Catholic movies available nowadays. There are also many good movies. Whether it's explicitly Catholic or not, use it as a way to teach, catechize, and inspire. The movie that immediately comes to mind is *October Baby*: it isn't overtly religious, but it caters to both those who enjoy such movies and those who maybe wouldn't normally watch one.

Testimonies

One great way to inspire youth to start thinking about "deeper" things is to have someone give their testimony. People love hearing other people's stories. You could even schedule three throughout the trip so that they have something to look forward to. Have a youth, an adult, and a priest or deacon (if there's one on your bus) give one. Of course, this is assuming the bus driver doesn't mind you using the intercom!

It Is What You Make It

As leaders, our attitude toward the trip can greatly determine our youth's attitude as well. Be joyful, be calm, and don't be afraid to engage youth in serious conversations about faith and life.

"Unstoppable" 2015 Sr. High Youth Rally Marshall - October 25

We had 185 youth and 88 adults attend with 31 parishes represented. Thanks for promoting and bringing your youth and thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success!

National Catholic Youth Conference November 19-21, 2015

If someone cannot go, and there is a substitution, this would be an additional \$20. Please have substitutions into Cindy before November 6.

World Youth Day 2016 Krakow, Poland

PRICE REDUCTION: The cost of the trip has now been reduced to \$3,599! Sign up now!

Join the Diocese of New Ulm and Bishop LeVoir on their pilgrimage to Krakow, Poland, to visit Pope Francis. Items on the itinerary include a visit to Pope St. John Paul II's hometown, childhood vacation destination, Auschwitz, Jasna Gora monastery in the mountains, and many other exciting spots.

This trip is particularly designed for young adults, so if you know of any young adults please recommend to them to come to World Youth Day 2016. More information can be found at dnu.org/youth.

