Call to Mission: The Next Generation

Forming our young adult members in mission is an essential element of following Jesus. It is not optional. Yet many of us do not know how to share our faith, or we feel uncomfortable doing it.

Below are just a few of the many young adults in our Diocesan Church who are giving witness to the power of the Holy Spirit at work in them, forming them into Spirit-filled evangelizers. Their statements show that Jesus is alive in them. He has risen from the dead and is working in the hearts of the next generation of Catholics.

Being Catholic is not just going to church, but living the truth and sharing that truth and its blessings just as others as have done for us. We want our family to grow and be educated in the way of the truth.

- Nick & Violetta Boyle & Family
Marquette

We give to UPCSA because we have received from UPCSA. We met as college students at NMU’s Catholic Campus Ministry, and are grateful to be able to provide for future Catholic Wildcats (and Huskies, and Lakers!). We also give to UPCSA because we are building the Church that our sons will inherit. The greatest gift a parent can give their child is the gift of faith, and we are able to not only pass on faith, but model stewardship and provide for the fiscal needs of the Church right here and now.

- Charles & Emily Fust & Family
Marquette

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U.P. Catholic Services Appeal
“I give because having youth programs is essential to carrying out the faith. If we young people can give of what we have, it gives us a sense of pride knowing that what we do can make an impact on those around us.”

- Kayla Reynolds
Gladstone

“My passion for being a member of the Catholic Church is rooted in its very meaning: universal. Each of us is called to a unique vocation and possesses different talents, but we are all invited to give to the Church and serve together in its many ministries.”

- Rebecca Pedler
Marquette

“As a Catholic family who strives to live our faith vibrantly, we allow God to use us as instruments through which we can bless our Church and her ministries by being good stewards of the resources. God is a loving Father who will not be outdone in generosity. It is humbling to be able to participate in that.”

- Miguel Valenzuela, Kendra Youren & Family
Marquette

**Inspired by the next generation, let us all think and pray about how Jesus has touched our own life. How would you share that with someone? Why is Jesus important to you? What difference has Jesus made in your life?**

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**Upper Peninsula Missionaries**

**By the Numbers**

- **64,433 CATHOLICS**
  - 93 Parishes & Missions
  - 58 Active Priests
  - 24 Retired Priests
  - 8 Seminarians
  - 40 Religious Sisters
  - 43 Permanent Deacons
  - 8 Catholic Grade Schools
  - 1 Catholic High School
  - 958 Catholic School Students

- **In 2020:**
  - 413 Baptisms
  - 246 Confirmations
  - 351 First Communions
  - 175 Marriages

- **4,041 Students in Faith Formation**
- **1,200 Campus Ministry Students**
- **5,391 People Served by Catholic Social Services of the UP**

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Guidance From Your Bishop: Concrete Ways to Respond to the Lord’s Call

If we love Jesus, we will want to tell others about him. In Bishop John Doerfler’s pastoral letter, “Transforming Fire,” published in 2017, he provides a list of concrete ways for all Catholics in the Diocese of Marquette to respond to the Lord’s call. How will you cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit to help form Spirit-filled evangelizers and grow the Church?

- All Catholics are encouraged to renew regularly their commitment to follow Jesus.
- All Catholics in the Diocese of Marquette are encouraged to spend at least 15 minutes in personal prayer each day and to pray daily the Prayer for the Formation of Spirit-Filled Evangelizers (see sidebar).
- All Catholics are encouraged to renew their commitment to participate in Mass each weekend and go to Confession at least twice a year, preferably more often such as monthly.
- All Catholics who are married are encouraged to renew regularly their marriage vows and their commitment to their spouse and children.
- All Catholics are encouraged to build a community of love and make their parishes more welcoming by desiring to share the love of Jesus with everyone who walks through the doors of the church and with people in need in their broader community.
- All Catholics are encouraged to participate in formation opportunities available in their parishes and throughout the diocese to deepen their prayer life, to increase their knowledge of the faith, and to learn how to share their faith with others.
- All Catholics are encouraged to pray for the people that they know who are not practicing any faith and pray for inspiration to share Jesus with them.
- All Catholics are encouraged to offer a voluntary penance for a new Pentecost, an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Diocese of Marquette.

Prayer for the Formation of Spirit-Filled Evangelizers

O Holy Spirit come into my life and my heart. By the fire of your love, transform me and all Catholics throughout Michigan’s Upper Peninsula into Spirit-filled evangelizers. I pray that more and more people may come to know the love of Jesus Christ and make a personal decision to follow him. I pray for all the people that I know who are not practicing any faith. Touch their hearts with your love, O Holy Spirit. Work through me so that they may have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and follow him in faith. To you, O Holy Spirit, and to the Father and to the Son, be glory and honor for ever and ever. Amen.
Catholic Social Services
On the Frontlines
Changing Lives

Since 1915, Catholic Social Services of the UP (CSSUP) has put into action the teachings of the Catholic Church to support those most in need. The agency serves to nurture, stabilize and strengthen families through counseling services, recovery options, foster care and adoption. It could not do what it does without annual donations from the faithful throughout the diocese.

During the last year, demand for all the agency’s services grew significantly. More professionals were hired to serve in the field. Case workers doubled their efforts to check on children in at-risk homes. Walking into these homes took more than personal protection equipment, it took inner strength. CSSUP remained on the frontlines, providing a variety of services enveloped in God’s universal love.

Alisha Young, a licensed social worker and certified advanced alcohol and drug counselor, said one the greatest struggles during the last year was the uncertainty and discomfort brought on by the pandemic, which exacerbated the need for mental health and addiction services. “The pandemic brought to light a lot of mental health and substance abuse issues that some people were able to conceal or control, until the pandemic. For these people, the stay-at-home orders meant they now had time to attend to their own self-care and create healthier life-long habits.”

The crisis may be subsiding, but the work of CSSUP is far from over. There is still pain, suffering and loss. Agency staff enthusiastically embrace their call to mission on the frontlines, because changing lives is what they do.

YOUR GIFT MATTERS
www.dioceseofmarquette.planmygift.org

You decide how to give. Start by exploring our estate planning website and take a look at the different options that may work best for you.

www.yoopercatholic.org | www.youtube.com/theupcatholic
www.dioceofmarquette.org/socialmedia

THANK YOU for belonging to the Catholic Church in the Upper Peninsula!