

# YOUNG OBSERVER

## YO CALENDAR

### Vocations gathering

**What:** The Institute of Religious Life national meeting. Inspirational and informative panels; conversations with priests and religious.

**When:** April 22, 8:45 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

**Where:** Mundelein Seminary, 1000 E. Maple Ave. (Illinois Rt. 176), Mundelein

**Cost:** free to 15-25 year-olds if pre-registered; parents and chaperones, \$15 each; lunch included

**Info:** Diane Michalik, OCDS, [diane@religiouslife.com](mailto:diane@religiouslife.com), 847/573-8975

## VOCATION CORNER

### Do you know that you are loved?

The other day a whole group of people were standing outside of the church, enjoying the nice weather, waiting for everyone to arrive for a baptism.

In the midst of adults arriving and little kids running around, someone walked up to a 4-year-old, gave her a hug and said "I love you!"

In response she simply said "I know."

This, of course, is a shocking and unexpected response! But as I thought more about it, I realized that it is actually a beautiful response that we should all start to use from time to time.

You see, I think so frequently in our lives, even as we are striving to do God's will and to please him, we get so worried about proving ourselves and trying to make our response of "I love you too" be so perfect, so elegant, and so precise, that we miss the first and most important step.

**This would, of course, be the step of simply acknowledging that we are loved.**

Of course responding "I know" to God's statement of "I love you" seems like a childish response, but we are His children.

Do you take time each day to accept the fact that God loves you? Because when you are able to say "I know" to God's affirmation of His love, it is with the assurance that He loves you that you will be able to go forward and do incredible and great things for Him.

So believe that you are loved, let this knowledge change everything, and know that by starting here, your own response of "I love you, too," spoken through your life, will mean so much more!

— Father Keith Romke, Diocesan Director of Vocations, [kromke@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:kromke@rockforddiocese.org)



(Photo provided)

### 53 Marian Central students are state scholars

At Marian Central Catholic High School in Woodstock, 53 students were named Illinois State Scholars. The students are among the top 10 percent in the state. They are (first row, from left) Abigail Bogner, Jacqueline Chmiel, Michael Cronin, Alexis Daniello, Grace Dawson, Nicholas Edwards, Kristen Fanella, Christian Fernandez, Lina Flores-Wolf, Hayley Griesser, (second row) Lauren Hanlon, Sydney Hirsch, Saige Jager, Matthew Janisch, Abigail Jones, Laura Knapp, Brenna Koch, Nicole Lange, Morgan Litterer, (third row) Emily Miller, Richard Monbrod, Jack Moscinski, Jacob Noe, Ally Palminteri,

Samuel Reckamp, Victoria Roberts, (fourth row) Gabrielle Rohde, Gregory Salvi, Jack Schneider, Matthew Schneider, Conor Smith, Matthew Snell, Connor Stiscak, Joseph Suthers, Nathan Tappen, (sixth row) Rhiannon Torres, Zachery Turner, Natalie Tuzik, Claire Van Der Bosch, Tyler Watermann, Jayson Wiczorek, Gabrielle Wingett, Anne Catherine Yuk, Mary Caroline Yuk, Sarah Zabala, (not pictured) Kaylie Baader, Mikolaj Malinski, Lauren Nicholson, Rachel Noonan, Scott Reckamp, Julia Tompkins, Mary Wagescheide and Lindsey Willis.

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## YO FATHER

**Q** Why can't I have sex outside of marriage? Why wait if I know that I love the person?

**A** These are two great questions, and I really think that the first question can be answered by understanding two key words that you mentioned in the second question. So I want to briefly consider what it truly means to be a person and what it means to love.

A person is different than any other object that we can encounter in life, and the reason why is a person has a free will. For this reason we need to treat people differently than we treat objects in life.

**You see, objects are meant to be used, whereas people are meant to be loved.**

Think about it this way, if I want to drink a glass of chocolate milk, I can make that decision and the milk

can't say any differently, because it's an object and as such it can't object.

**If**, on the other hand, I want to have a friend go running with me, they **can** say no, and at that point

it would be wrong for me to tie them up, put roller skates on their feet, and then pull them along when I ran simply because that's what I wanted.

This would be treating them as if they existed simply as an object for my use. It would deny their personhood and strip them of their dignity as a person with free will.

**It would undermine the beauty of the fact that they have been made in the image and likeness of God.**

We are meant to love people and use things, **not** the other way around! **If** we were to flip it around and end up loving things and using people (which we see a lot of in the world), we'd end up living from an idea that everything and anything is meant to be used by me insofar as it brings me as much comfort and pleasure or minimizes pain and discomfort ... including people.

The reason I'm going on and on about this is because it is key to understanding that every encounter that I have with another person has to take into account their truest good.

I have to be willing to **love** them and not use them.

Now, you may say that all I've said so far has nothing to do with your first question, because your boyfriend or girlfriend wants to have sex too. They're not objecting in any way.

But I'll tell you now that if you really want to **love** them, then you'll wait for marriage to have sex, and here is why:

It's because true **love** always has three characteristics:

- It is outward focused
- It desires the good of the other
- It is willing to sacrifice to achieve that good.

So if you really love your boyfriend or girlfriend, then your decisions on how to treat him or her will be focused on him or her and not on yourself. It will want what is best for them, and you will be willing to embrace sacrifice yourself in order to obtain that good for them.

The reason the Church teaches that

sex is to be enjoyed and celebrated within the sacrament of marriage is sex is so much more than a recreational activity.

It is meant to be a gift of self to the other while at the same time the love expressed through this act is capable of producing life.

The marital embrace is a way of using one's body to proclaim to the other "I love you, and I am giving myself to you forever and always."

The reason why this is so troubling is because if these words haven't first been proclaimed vocally at the altar in the form of marriage vows, then the body is telling a lie by saying this through the act of sex because there is no level of commitment.

**Through sex the two become one, but if the two individuals aren't married, then this bodily expression is reduced to a mere act of use on the part of both people.**

This concept is further emphasized because in the natural order of things — as God's plan intends it — the

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## Photo face-off at Newman Center in DeKalb

While several students from St. Mary School in DeKalb surround Bishop David Malloy (right), "paparazzi" snap photos. The bishop shared dinner and conversation with stu-

dents at the Northern Illinois University Newman Center at Christ the Teacher University Parish in DeKalb Feb. 15.

# Dinner and dialogue

## Bishop visits NIU

By AMANDA HUDSON | News Editor

**B**ishop David Malloy visited students of Northern Illinois University and Kishwaukee Community College on Feb. 15 at the Newman Catholic Student Center in DeKalb.

After enjoying a meal together, Bishop Malloy told everyone news about Illinois House Bill 40. If passed, he explained, HB40 would allow Illinois to use tax money to pay for abortions. The message he had received said that Illinois legislators were going to try to pass the bill quickly, the following day.

After noting the need "to be very compassionate to the women" who have had abortions, most often under duress, Bishop Malloy led the students in prayer that the bill would not pass. He also asked them to take that prayer to Newman's usual Wednesday hour of adoration and praise that would follow his talk.

Saying he had "no particular agenda" for the remainder of the hour, the bishop then welcomed students' questions.

The first was about what people could do if HB40 did pass.

"It is very hard to say what to do," he said, because taxes are widely distributed. He added it's important for Catholics to live the faith they profess.

There would be "a lot less" abortions

if Catholics did not have them, he said, perhaps even closing some providers for lack of business.

On a lighter note, Bishop Malloy talked about the "Carpool Karaoke with Bishop Malloy" video from last year's diocesan Youth Summit.

"I still am a little bit mystified," he said, describing the initial call that asked "if I'd be able to sort of let go of my dignity." He said he didn't realize the video was slated to go beyond the summit.

"On Tuesday (following the Sunday summit), I got a call (asking) did you know 4,000 people" had "hit" the video to watch it.

With a grin, he confessed, "I didn't know I was hit-able!"

(At press time, the video has now been viewed 559,200 times.)

Explaining the video's history, the bishop said that his costar Father Keith Romke told him that when he was a student at NIU, the priesthood wasn't on his mind — until a moment when he saw a group of priests laughing together.

"It stayed with him," Bishop Malloy said. In the midst of what some call "a bunch of rules," he added, "we really have a lot of fun. ... It is joyful to live our faith."

Another student asked the bishop to tell his own vocation story.



Bishop David Malloy (second from right) and Father Jeremy Trowbridge, parochial vicar at Christ the Teacher, chat with students at the Newman Center.

Coming from a family of doctors, Bishop Malloy had studied pre-med sciences and was accepted into medical school. He said it was very competitive back then, and he wasn't sure what to do because following that path "was bothering me just a little." So he kept bringing his concerns to God while attending Mass every day as his father and grandfather, both doctors, had done.

At the end of the semester, he received a letter about a new program where students accepted to medical school could defer their entrance for a year.

"God had just, in a sense, answered my question," Bishop Malloy said, adding, "God has His ways."

He took advantage of that year to check out a possible vocation, and never went back.

Bishop Malloy also explained the idea of "several levels" of vocations.

Regarding what he called "the great vocation" of marriage, he said, "We gotta be praying about that," not only regarding the vocation itself, but also asking God about His choice of a spouse.

Discerning calls from God to be a priest or religious sister or single person is also at this level, he said.

At another level, if someone feels called, the question becomes, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" he said. "The Lord has a place for you. The more we don't listen to Him, the less happy we'll be. ... It is up to us to be

praying and patient, and stay at it. One of the great tools of the devil is discouragement."

Bishop Malloy admitted to the students his own failure to "trust Him enough," and gave an example of what he experienced several times when he did not have any idea what to do.

"Amazing to me, in each case, God made (the right) person walk up to me and (he or she) had exactly what I needed," he said.

As he and some students discussed the difficulties of explaining the Catholic faith to critics, the bishop said, "We can't get intimidated and disturbed."

They talked briefly about some people's lack of reasoning and how feelings may be presented as answers.

"We need to learn how to think," Bishop Malloy said before asking, "How many here have been confirmed?"

He then spoke of how the Holy Spirit can warn people of danger and give them a sense of the goodness of others. A good prayer life helps that process, he said.

The final question asked his reaction when he got the call to become a bishop.

He said he had been content and settled at his Lake Geneva, Wis., parish after years of travel for the Church. The unanticipated phone call came.

Bishop Malloy explained his response to that call by saying simply, "You try to say 'Yes.'"



(Observer photos/Amanda Hudson)

College students help themselves to a taco dinner prepared and served by class officers, student council members, teachers and mothers from St. Mary School in DeKalb when Bishop David Malloy visited the Northern Illinois University Newman Center in February. The kitchen crew also stayed to hear the bishop's talk.

