



Sharing from FSPA to You

Special Events with Youth and Young Adults

Welcome! Thank you!

FSPA is happy to welcome Sister Romana Klaubauf and lay affiliate Emily Dawson to the Membership Office. At the same time, we are grateful to Sisters Dorothy Dunbar and Karen Flottmeier for their dedicated years of ministry in that office. A special word of appreciation to Sister Patricia Tekippe for her generous service on the Membership Team, too. Thank you, Sisters!



Sister Romana Klaubauf



Emily Dawson

Sister Romana Klaubauf, new co-minister of the FSPA Membership Team, grew up in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Her focus in ministry has been nursing and health care, and this has taken her to several Midwest states, as well as to Cameroon, West Africa. Sister Romana maintains initial and on-going contact with women discerning FSPA membership. She looks forward to companioning those discerning life-path decisions and who sense a tug in their hearts to follow Jesus as a Franciscan Sister.

Emily Dawson is an FSPA lay affiliate and new co-minister of the FSPA Membership Team. She is originally from the Milwaukee area. Emily first met the FSPA community when she

attended FSPA-sponsored Viterbo University in La Crosse. She also met her husband, Joe, there and she worked at Viterbo as an admission counselor. Emily is happy to assist those discerning their journeys and pathways. Her role in the membership office is to help women discerning God's call to meet other FSPA and share in FSPA events. She looks forward to working with those contemplating religious life and walking with them on their journey.

Sister Romana and Emily are eager to hear from those discerning where God is leading them. Welcome to Sister Romana and Emily!

Come and See!



Photo by Katie Mitchell, FSPA

Is God Calling You?

Pray, reflect, learn . . . Come and See!

Make a discernment retreat with the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

Upcoming dates:

April 13-15, 2012

June 15-17, 2012

Come and See weekends will offer you the opportunity to be with our sisters as you consider the call to Franciscan life and seek direction in your life. These weekends offer time for prayer, discussions, liturgy, relaxation, and one-on-one conversations with sisters.

The retreat weekends are held at St. Rose Convent, the motherhouse, in La Crosse, WI. Come and See weekends start at 6 p.m. on Friday and end at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

If you would like to come to one of our scheduled retreat weekends, but can't, just contact us and we will arrange another time to visit that works for you.

Call or email us: 1-888-683-FSPA
membership@fspa.org

You can also find FSPA on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter!

[www.facebook.com/
FranciscanSisters](http://www.facebook.com/FranciscanSisters)

www.youtube.com/franciscansisters

www.twitter.com/FSPAtweets

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World Youth Day 2011



Photos by Katie Mitchell, FSPA

World Youth Day 2011

Rooted and Built Up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the Faith

By Sister Katie Mitchell

For both Sister Julia Walsh and I, it was a first: attending World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain, August 16-21. We were both excited to experience a worldwide event like this and to represent FSPA in this global context. Since we both live and minister in Chicago, we joined the pilgrimage group from the Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

What was the experience like? What was most impressive? What was it like to be gathered together with the global Church?

It was an experience unlike any other—walking through the beautiful city of Madrid during the week and sharing in the enthusiasm of the millions of young pilgrims from all across the globe who had descended on Madrid and filled it with joy and hope. Young pilgrims overtook the streets, raising their nations' flags and creating beautiful displays of color as they intermingled with young people from countries all over the world. The churches, streets and subway of Madrid were filled with exuberant young people who created a contagious atmosphere of joy that

often made the local people stop and smile. Despite the multitude of different languages, there was a strong, unmistakable feeling of being united in a shared faith and a shared joy.

During the week the young people gathered for numerous events, such as catechesis, Mass, reconciliation, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, celebrations of praise and music, and testimonial festivals. With us were gathered about 30,000 other U.S. pilgrims.

We often joined the English-speaking pilgrims to share the good news of being Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration through our presence and vocation materials.

Young people spoke freely with us about what it means to live their faith and to consider a vocation to religious life.

Like the pilgrimages of times past in which pilgrims went through difficulties to arrive at their destinations, we too had our challenging moments.

Every day that week the temperature soared well over 100 degrees. We frequently waited many hours for an event and trudged long distances back to our accommodations well past midnight with throngs of other pilgrims. During the week several of us from our Chicago group gathered with thousands and thousands of others waiting for the arrival of Pope Benedict XVI. We stood for hours in the hot sun in order to be in the first rows behind the barricades. However, the wait seemed less lengthy because of the young people who were clearly excited and chanted and sang about their faith in Christ, a moving experience that I will not forget.

The night of the Vigil Mass with Pope Benedict XVI was for me the most memorable experience of the week. We joined the swelling crowds of pilgrims walking miles and miles to the Cuatros Vientos airfield. Everyone carried heavy backpacks and sleeping bags in the hot Madrid sun. There were over two million young people gathering like us for the evening vigil. We finally arrived happy but dusty, thirsty and tired as we unfurled our sleeping



The World Youth Day pilgrims were filled with joy as they flooded the streets of Madrid



Times of joyful prayer and praise filled every day during the pilgrimage.

bags and prepared for the overnight vigil. Relief came in the form of fire trucks that sprayed us with water, and I was one of those delighted to stand in front of the fire hoses. Songs and prayers made the waiting bearable under the scorching sun. Just a few hours into the evening vigil a driving rain and wind storm hit, delaying Pope Benedict's message. After a few minutes in which everything stopped except the cheers of the crowd, the pope said, "Young people, thank you for your joy! Thank you for your resistance! Your strength is greater than the rain!"

At a certain point an announcer speaking in several languages told everyone that Eucharistic adoration would begin earlier than scheduled. It was incredible to watch over two million young people enter into absolute silence. How that silence impressed everyone is difficult to explain. But it is not every day you see two million people in such intense prayer, which also brought tears to quite a few. In fact, the storm did nothing to dampen the spirits of everyone gathered there; it only seemed to unite everyone more.

The final Mass the next day was a glorious



Sisters Katie (center) and Julia (right) with one of the World Youth Day participants.

culmination of World Youth Day, in which all the pilgrims were sent into the world to be "firm in the faith, rooted in Christ".

World Youth Day 2011 was a remarkable journey in faith with others from around the world. The youth gathered there will never forget it. For me, it was a pilgrimage that will stay in my heart forever. Many of the young people have already shared with me that they are looking forward to World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is good to see young people excited to be Catholic; it is an inspiration for the whole Church. It was an experience that resounded strongly in my heart, and I, like the other pilgrims, feel the obligation to bring this joy to others.



The crowd awaits the arrival of Pope Benedict XVI.



Photo by Katie Mitchell, FSPA

Spiritual Opportunities

FSPA welcomes you to participate in spiritual growth opportunities in the multiple spirituality centers where we minister. Spiritual companionship and guidance are available at each center.

Franciscan Spirituality Center

920 Market St

La Crosse WI 54601-4782

608-791-5295 or fscenter@fspa.org

www.franciscanspiritualitycenter.org

Advent Retreat: From Darkness to Light
.....Dec 8-11

Foundations for Servant Leadership:
The Reflective Life of a Leader
..... Jan 13-14

Understanding Human Motivation
..... March 16-17

Acting for the Common Good
.....April 20-21

Marywood FSC

3560 Hwy 51 N

Arbor Vitae WI 54568-9538

715-385-3750

info@marywoodsc.com

Pathways of Prayer: Contemplative
Consciousness to Find Stillness Nov 2

Centering Prayer Retreat
.....Nov 18-19

Private Directed Retreat
.....June 17-22, 2012

Franciscan Retreat
..... July 24-28, 2012

Prairiewoods FSC

120 E Boyson Rd

Hiawatha IA 52233-1277

319-395-6700

www.prairiewoods.org

Prairiewoods offers several forms of retreat: directed, private, group, or a day of quiet and personal prayer.

Catholics On Call

Discerning Lay Ministry, Priesthood and Religious Life in the Church

By Sister Katie Mitchell

They come from New York, Texas, California and from all across the country to reflect on their vocational journeys. They are young people of college or post-college age who are discerning life as a sister, brother, priest or lay minister in the Church. Their joy and enthusiasm is evident as they find themselves among other young Catholics excited about their faith. These are young men and women who are serious about their faith and who have carved out several days to reflect on the possibility of a life of service in the Church.

For several years I have been blessed to be a mentor for Catholics on Call. As a mentor I have listened to the questions and dreams of these young Catholics and helped to facilitate their discussions. These young adults often express to me their gratitude for the opportunity to gather with others who are also reflecting on their vocational journeys. At Catholics on Call, young people are able to listen to and dialogue with speakers, to have small and large group discussions, and to hear others share stories about their calls. There is also the opportunity to visit ministry sites in the Chicago area where Catholics on Call is held and to listen to the stories of pastoral ministers who share

about their calls and what led them to their ministries. All of this is done in the context of prayer as the participants share in Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, Taize prayer and other rich spiritual experiences taken from the tradition of the Church.

I find the young people at Catholics on Call enthusiastic, thoughtful, generous and genuinely interested in their faith and a life of ministry in the Church. They are eager to learn about the traditions of the Church and to hear stories of others and their journeys and commitment to a life of service. These younger Catholics often tell me that their formation in the faith was not enough and they are eager to learn much more about what it means to be Catholic. Few are burdened by the different visions that have sometimes divided older Catholics. These young Catholics are eager for mentors and older Catholics who will attentively listen to their questions and dreams, accompanying them as they reflect on God's call in their lives and seek to listen to God's stirrings in their hearts.



Participants of the 2011 Catholics on Call Young Adult Conference



Sister Katie with a group of young adults from the summer conference.

The young adults I have journeyed with often tell me that during their time at Catholics on Call they feel challenged by questions they have never asked themselves. Catholics on Call often gives them the courage to set out on a new process of self discovery. Before coming many have told me that they felt alone, different and isolated because of their interest in considering ministry in the Church. So they are grateful to spend time with other like-minded young adults considering their vocations.

As a mentor at Catholics on Call I have had the joy of seeing young men and women find their place as lay ministers, and I have seen still others enter the seminary or religious life. My faith is always renewed seeing them. Just as I seek to give to others, I receive even more as I witness the enthusiasm and commitment of these young people seeking direction in their lives.

To learn more about Catholics on Call visit www.catholicson-call.org

Photos on this page are courtesy of Catholics on Call.