



NET MINISTRIES

# NETWORKS

Spring 2014  
The Evangelization Edition

Challenging young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church

WHAT'S INSIDE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT / ALUMNI UPDATE / BENEFIT BANQUET / AMERICAN BIBLE CHALLENGE



MARK JOSEPH (STEUBENVILLE), MARK BERCHEM (NET MINISTRIES), JOHN BEAULIEU (STEUBENVILLE), RANDY RAUS (LIFE TEEN), DAVE RINALDI (NET MINISTRIES)

## NET PARTNERS WITH LIFE TEEN AND STEUBENVILLE

*Bringing the Gospel to Greater Numbers of Youth*

NET Ministries, Life Teen, and Steubenville Conferences together serve more than 300,000 Catholic youth and young adults nationwide. In January, we three organizations joined forces to bring the Gospel to greater numbers of youth and to offer parishes resources to help teens continue their faith development into adulthood.

Arizona-based Life Teen equips 1,646 parishes in 31 countries with resources to train catechists and create an environment to reach, engage and support Catholic teens. This summer, Steubenville Conferences, based in Steubenville, Ohio, and affiliated with Franciscan University, will hold 20 "evangelistic, Eucharistic" youth conferences that include speakers, music and prayer in cities across the country.

One of our first joint objectives in cooperation together is to present parishes with resources aimed at engaging youth in the faith throughout the year, not just at a once-a-year event.

"We three organizations want to reach more young people, and we're all taking some real, positive steps to bring the Gospel to an ever greater number of Catholic youth," said Mark Berchem, Founder and Executive Director NET Ministries, who brought the ministry leaders together.

The cooperation between ministries comes at a time when as many as half of parishes have no youth ministry programs and large numbers of Catholic youth stop practicing their faith after high school, according to John Beaulieu (NET alumnus 83-84, 86-87), Steubenville Conferences Partnership and Engagement Director.

"Somewhere between high school, through college and into their young-adult years, they become disconnected from the Church, and most of them never come back," he said. "We're

*(continued on page 4)*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT:

Archbishop John C. Nienstedt, D.D.

### FOUNDER/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Mr. Mark Berchem, M.S.W., M.T.S.

### TREASURER:

Mr. Edward Kocourek

Mr. Gerald Brennan, CIMA

Mr. Jack Cozzens

Mr. Gordon DeMarais, M.A.T.

Mr. Thomas Flynn

Mrs. Jan Gloudeman

Mr. Thomas Grundhoefer, J.D.

Mr. Daniel Hagen, CFA

Mrs. Helen Healy

Mrs. Patricia Huber

Dr. James Kolar, D.MIN.

Mr. Patrick Regan

### EPISCOPAL ADVISORY BOARD:

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.,  
Ph.D., S.T.D.

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, D.D.

Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, D.D.

Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, D.D.

Bishop Sam G. Jacobs, D.D.

NET is under the ecclesiastical vigilance of the Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt, Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. It is governed by a national board of directors, is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and has been audited by Lewis, Kisch and Associates, Ltd.

## A WORD FROM NET'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

We hear a lot of talk in the church today about evangelization or the “new evangelization,” but because it’s a new word or concept to many of us, we’re not quite sure what it means. Some people think evangelization is something we are borrowing from the evangelicals. While there are some things we can learn from our evangelical brothers and sisters, evangelization is a Catholic concept that goes back to the very beginnings of the Church. Jesus, before He ascended into heaven, commissioned the Church to “go and proclaim the good news.” Let’s take a moment and analyze that simple commission.

**GO.** It’s an action word. It implies moving out of ourself towards others. Sadly, many Catholics think that “to go” means packing up a suitcase like the NET team members and going to some distant place to share faith with people we don’t know. But the Church and our Lord are not asking that most of us pack up and go someplace. *When Jesus says to you and me, “Go,” He is asking us to extend ourselves to those around us, in our families, in our neighborhoods, in our workplaces, and bring them something that’s invaluable.*

**PROCLAIM.** It means speaking. Somewhere along the line we’ve come to believe that we shouldn’t share our faith out loud, but rather, be a good example; be a witness by how we live our life of what it means to have faith. Now, absolutely it’s important to demonstrate our faith by how we live our life, but *Jesus didn’t say, “Go and give a good example.” He said, “Go and proclaim.”* He wants us to talk about faith, to verbally share faith with those we encounter. That can be scary for some of us, but that’s why the Lord promised that He would never leave us to our own resources. He gives us His Holy Spirit to help us overcome our fear and to courageously proclaim Him to the world.

**THE GOOD NEWS.** What is the good news that we are meant to share? Certainly our faith is rich and deep. We can be tempted to think we don’t know enough or we’re not trained enough to share the good news. *But in its purest form the good news is the simple truth of what God has done for each one of us.* It involves sharing about God’s love and His desire to be in friendship with each one of us. It involves acknowledgment that we don’t always live our lives according to His plan.

It includes the great act of love of Christ dying and rising so that we could be reunited in friendship with God. And it ends with a simple invitation to entrust oneself to God's care.

And when we share, we don't share theology; rather, we share our own experience of these simple truths. Certainly there is so much more to say about our faith. Yet these simple truths, which each of us can speak about from our own personal experience, contain the power to change someone's life. We don't need to serve with a NET team or as a missionary in some foreign land to be involved in this new evangelization. All of us can get out of ourselves and share

with others how we personally have experienced God's love and mercy and invite those whom we know to do the same. Not only *can* we, we *must!* The Lord is asking all us "Go and Proclaim the Good News."

Sincerely in Christ,



Mark Berchem  
Founder and Executive Director



## NET, Life Teen, and Steubenville (continued from front page)

losing so many young adults after high school. We can't afford not to look at how we can do things better and in a way that's more unified."

We hope that finding ways to work together could help in addressing these problems.

"The Church often operates in silos," said Randy Raus, Life Teen President and CEO. "I think one of the things Pope Francis is calling us to do is reach out of ourselves – that ministries aren't the be all and end all. If we got together with other ministries, we could have greater impact."

The broader benefit to the three ministries working together is what may be accomplished in the Church overall, said Mark Joseph, Steubenville Conferences Executive Director of Christian Outreach. "We all collectively know that the future of the Church is in the hands of our youth and young adults, so whatever we can do in that arena is going to go a long way in serving the Church."

Soon, as NET missionaries finish parish youth retreats, they will offer the parish a follow-up kit with resources and information from Life Teen about starting youth ministries and also information about Steubenville Conferences. Life Teen will continue to host several of the Steubenville conferences. Steubenville Conferences will help recruit Catholic young adults for NET Ministries and Life Teen.

Parish leaders are often looking for ideas on how to keep momentum

going after a retreat or conference, Berchem said. The follow-up kit should help parishes who don't have resources to hire a youth minister or if they do have one, it will help their ministers accomplish more.



"It's trying to help a parish assemble the resources that they need to put together a program and a pattern that can, in a sense, sustain young people throughout the entirety of the year," Berchem said. None of the organizations plans to change or realign their content, which is already compatible. "It's more [about] looking for those opportunities to share with the broader Church," he said, "[and say] 'Here are some other very good resources that can help you in your work with Catholic young people.'"

Young people benefit from being exposed to different kinds of ministry. "It's good for kids to experience a big conference," he said. "It's also good for young people to go on a small parish retreat with a handful of their friends. It's all about giving them lots of options and giving them lots of ways to encounter Christ."

Another goal of the partnership is to attract more Catholic young adults who are willing to offer a year of service as missionaries to youth. NET seeks to increase the number of retreat teams it sends out in order to reach 30% more youth in coming years. Recruiting by Life Teen and Steubenville Conferences can help NET make more contacts with potential young-adult leaders.

"From NET's perspective, our hope is that we work more closely with Life Teen and the Steubenville Conferences — that an ever-growing number of Catholic young adults will be exposed to our work and consider serving as a missionary with us."

Already sharing a common mission, the three ministries will now work together on it, Beaulieu said. "As we sat around the table, it was obvious that our whole goal here is to get as many young people into a relationship with Christ to help them encounter his love, to help them understand who they are in Christ and all that the Church has to offer them to help them grow in that," he said. "It's a common mission, but I think when you do it together and show the unity that Christ wanted to see in the Church, you add an element of strength that takes all of our ministries to another level."

# SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI: FRANCIS CABILDO

Inspiring others through his passion for music and worship



## ALUMNI EVANGELIZATION AWARD

FRANCIS CABILDO  
NET ALUMNUS 1994-1995

Ever since Francis served with NET Ministries in 1994-1995, he has continued to be about the work of evangelization, impacting many lives for Christ in the Southern California area. He was involved in youth ministry at his home parish of Sacred Heart in Rancho Cucamonga, CA in various capacities, ranging from being a core team member, an assistant youth minister, a music minister, and finally, a youth minister.

From parish ministry, he moved to campus ministry at JSerra Catholic High School in San Juan Capistrano, CA, before joining the staff at Santa Margarita Catholic High School in Rancho Santa Margarita, CA as the Assistant Director of Campus Ministry – Retreats, where he is currently employed.

Amidst his busy work life, Francis has also spent nine years as an area contact for Life Teen, where he cares for local youth ministers in their work.

His passion is music and leading others closer to Christ through worship. He has been involved in various ensembles including Guarding Virtue and The Francis Band.

For over twelve years, he led worship for NET's Discipleship Weeks. More recently, he has been involved with Revolution 242 Ministries, targeting college-aged young adults, and TheCityLights.org, in collaboration with the Diocese of Orange, which hosted 1,300 youth and young adults at a first-of-its-kind event, God Among Us.

He and his wife, Nicole, live in Irvine, CA, with their three boys: Dylan, Brayden and Preston. Francis' first single, *Wildfires*, was released in March 2014.

NET Ministries is proud to honor Francis with the 2014 Alumni Evangelization Award in recognition for the outstanding and continuous work that he prayerfully and tirelessly does on behalf of Christ and His Church.

*Francis will accept his award on May 17 at the end-of-the-year Banquet of Thanksgiving for the 2013-2014 NET team members. Look for our blog post at that time.*  
[www.netusa.org/blog](http://www.netusa.org/blog).

# ALUMNI UPDATE

## WEDDINGS



**JESSY (HAGAN) BENNETT (05-06, 06-07)** married Ethan Bennett on October 26, 2013 at St. Mary of the Woods in Whitesville, KY. Jessy now serves as the program director at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center in Bowling Green, KY.



**LAUREN (MYERS) FLUDER (11-12)** was married to Michael Fluder on March 1, 2014 at St. Michael's Catholic Church St. Michael, MN.



**KARINA (RAMIREZ) BRAUN (11-12)** married Erich Braun on October 26, 2013 at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Coppell, TX.



**LINDSEY (WHITIS) BOESHANS (06-07, 07-08)** was married to Ben Boeshans on February 15, 2014 at St. Joseph in Marshall, TX.



**SHELLY (MACDONALD) (94-95, 96-97, staff 97-00)** and **JOE LICHTY (staff 07-11)** welcomed Joseph Thomas on November 12, 2013.



**BECCA (GASPER) WISINSKI (03-04, 04-05)** and her husband Jonathan welcomed Eleanor Mariae on November 14, 2013.

**RICK ERISMAN (97-98)** and his wife Britt welcomed Lenorah Grace on January 22, 2014.



**JANE (POLASCHEK) (08-09)** and **JONATHAN DETHOMAS (10-11)** welcomed twins James Gerald and Isaac Paul on February 17, 2014.

**ELVINA (FLORES) (10-11)** and **MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ (02-03, 09-10)** are the proud parents of son William Noah, born on March 2, 2014.

**MEGAN (HEBERT) SOILEAU (07-08)** and her husband Matthew welcomed Jolee Elizabeth on March 29, 2014.

**AMBER ROSE (YAKKEL) (10-11, staff 11-12)** and **CAMERON O'HEARN (10-11, 11-12, staff 12-13)** happily welcomed Lucy Perpetua on April 22, 2014.

## VOCATIONS

**CHRISTOPHER DOWLING (07-08)** will finish his year of Postulancy and become a Novice at the end of May 2014 with the Franciscans TOR of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

## NEW JOBS

**BRANDON TAIT (09-10, 10-11)** is the Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, and Confirmation Director at Saint Thomas More Catholic Church in Irvine, CA.

## OTHER

**CAROLINE (MCVEIGH) METZINGER (96-97, staff 97-98)**, originally from Australia, became an official citizen of the United States in March 2014.

## IN MEMORIAM

**STACEY BAKULA (87-88)**, passed away on March 26, 2014. Please pray for the repose of her soul.

## LIVING IN THE LAND OF “-ER”

Did you see it? I sure hope so! Search YouTube or Google for “Sister Cristina The Voice Italy” and you will see it. (If you are watching the YouTube video of it, be sure to turn on the English subtitles so you can understand the conversation.) In case you haven’t seen it, here’s the summary: a Catholic nun competes in a major secular vocal competition ... and nails it! The judges and the crowd go absolutely nuts!

Some have commented that Sr. Cristina Scuccia, a 25 year old from the Ursuline Sisters of the Holy Family, is a modern day Sr. Mary Clarence (Whoopi Goldberg’s character in the 1992 movie, *Sister Act*) or Maria Von Trapp (Julie Andrew’s beloved character from the 1965 classic movie, *The Sound of Music*). She is much more than that!

She’s a young, energetic consecrated virgin -- super awesome on so many different levels. But wait, there’s more - (not another Billy Mays infomercial) - Sr. Cristina is a brilliant witness of what the new evangelization is all about. When asked by one of the shows judges about why she came, Sr. Cristina responds simply, “I have a gift, and I’m giving it to you. Shouldn’t things be this way?” It sure should be, Sister!

But unfortunately, we don’t live in a world that readily agrees with you. We live in the land of “-ER” (not the city of Ur in ancient Mesopotamia) -- bettER, healthiER, richER, fastER, newER, skinniER, strongER is the driving motivation for many of us. *Our current materialistic, consumerist mentality has programmed us to “one-up” our neighbor: what we have is never enough. And this Sicilian nun shows us how refreshing the contradictory witness of a gift given simply for the sake of giving is, without asking for anything in return.*

No doubt, Sr. Cristina has an amazing vocal talent. I sure hope she’s able to go far in the competition. But more than that, I hope that her witness will inspire the rest of us to engage the culture in which we live so as to transform it from the inside out! She allowed her gift to lead her outside the convent walls and onto the stage in front of hundreds in

state of life, live in the midst of the world and its concerns, they are called by God to exercise their apostolate in the world like leaven, with the ardor of the spirit of Christ,” (Apostolicam Actuositatem, 2).

The land of “-ER” in which we live today needs to be penetrated and perfected by the Gospel of Jesus. Our mission has been



Source: *The Voice, Italy*

the studio and millions who have seen the video online. *She went humbly with her talent and confident in the Lord, and with the conviction that her gift could have an impact in the world.*

Just the other morning morning, Mark Berchem shared with the staff during our morning prayer that, in the presence of Jesus, the light of the world, all other lights fade away. This is our baptismal responsibility; we, the lay faithful, have a unique role that is described by the Council fathers: “(The laity) exercise the apostolate in fact by their activity directed to the evangelization and sanctification of men and to the penetrating and perfecting of the temporal order through the spirit of the Gospel. In this way, their temporal activity openly bears witness to Christ and promotes the salvation of men. Since the laity, in accordance with their

assigned. The tools have been given - namely, the Holy Spirit. The mission field has been located. The light of Jesus living in our hearts should be so bright that other people will be inquisitive and attracted by this Light. Today, right after reading this article, decide to let your light shine (this is easy). The question is, who needs to see that light most (this is so much harder)? Who is trapped in the mythical land of “-ER” that needs you to shine a light to the path into God’s Kingdom?



**Steve Villa**

*Alumni Relations, Music, and Drama Administrator*



## CATHOLIC YOUTH BENEFIT BANQUET



On April 29, NET Ministries held its annual Catholic Youth Benefit Banquet. This year's theme was the long-term fruit of NET. More than 500 attendees heard from a variety of presenters: Bishop Andrew Cozzens (*NET alumnus 91-92*) spoke of how serving with NET influenced his vocational discernment; Dr. Mary (Frenz) Paquette (*NET alumna 88-89*) explained NET's role in how she founded her Catholic family practice; Eugene and Betty Hall spoke on how five of their children and five of their grandchildren served with NET, and the effect it has had on their family; Mark Berchem read thank you letters from two individuals who attended NET retreats more than 20 years ago and still credit their NET retreat with sparking their personal relationship with Christ.

If you were unable to attend the banquet but would like to support NET Ministries, please fill out the giving envelope stapled within this newsletter or visit [www.netusa.org/donate](http://www.netusa.org/donate).



### NET MINISTRIES

110 Crusader Avenue West  
West St. Paul, MN 55118-4427

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
PAID  
Twin Cities, MN  
Permit No. 469

**Address changed?**

**Receiving multiple copies?**

**Want to unsubscribe or switch to an e-newsletter?**

If so, contact us:

Phone: 651.450.6833 | Fax: 651.450.9984

[www.netusa.org](http://www.netusa.org) | E-mail: [alison@netusa.org](mailto:alison@netusa.org)



[netusa.org](http://www.netusa.org)



[facebook.com/netministriesusa](https://facebook.com/netministriesusa)



[@netministries](https://twitter.com/netministries)

## TUNE IN AND WATCH NET MINISTRIES ON



NET alumnus Chad VanHoose (*05-06, staff 06-11*) will be representing NET Ministries on the Game Show Network television show, "The American Bible Challenge," premiering on Thursday, May 22.

The American Bible Challenge is a fun, spirited game show that celebrates the Bible and its teachings, relevance, and place in American culture.

Chad was joined by two other seminarians from the Saint Paul Seminary in St. Paul, MN, Deacon Marc Paveglio (NET staff 2010-11) and Mark Pavlak, to form "Team Sons of Thunder." The Sons of Thunder chose NET Ministries as the nonprofit beneficiary of their potential winnings. Join us in cheering on his team!

For more information, visit <http://gsntv.com/shows/the-american-bible-challenge>.

PREMIERING THURSDAY, MAY 22 AT 8/7 C