



NET MINISTRIES

# NETWORKS

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

NET MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2017



## WITH PROFOUND GRATITUDE

In February, NET Ministries lost a true friend and member of our Board of Directors with the sudden passing of Tom Grundhoefer. He was 60 years old, and is survived by his wife, Jane, and five children.

He was a devoted spouse and father. He worked as General Counsel for The League of Minnesota Cities where he dedicated his sharp mind and humble nature to the promotion of the public good. He was actively engaged in his faith as a leader in the Community of Christ the Redeemer and strong proponent of the Jesuit Retreat House. Tom enjoyed photography, walks with Jane, and spirited rounds of golf and racquetball.

Tom was an inaugural member of NET's Board of Directors and has served generously for the past 28 years. His contributions in board discussions were of great significance and he cared deeply for NET's ministry to youth. "Tom embodies what the author of Sirach describes as a faithful friend (6:14-16). He was a sturdy shelter, a life saving remedy, and a treasure beyond price," said NET's Founder and President, Mark Berchem. "Time with Tom was always life giving and I am a better man having had the gift of Tom's friendship."

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**NET is under the ecclesiastical vigilance of the 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.**

## ALUMNI EVANGELIZATION AWARD



Each year, NET Ministries gives an Alumni Evangelization Award to an outstanding alumnus. Criteria for nominees include:

- Must have served with NET a minimum of 7 years ago
- Must be living an exemplary Catholic life
- Must be demonstrating an involvement in serving within the Church (professionally or as a volunteer)
- Must be demonstrating an ongoing commitment to the mission of evangelization

We are proud to present this year's award to Fr. Emmanuel Mary Mansford, CFR. Fr. Emmanuel has been a huge supporter of NET in regards to recruiting, being present at NET training, and speaking at Lifeline.

Originally from England and now living in New York, he has dedicated his life to serving Christ and His Church through being a Franciscan Friar. Through Fr. Emmanuel's pastoral care, wisdom, and guidance to others, it is very evident that Christ's heart reigns in him. He is a strong man of faith and truly strives to share the truth with love and compassion to all he encounters. One of the apostolic missions of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal is to serve the materially poor, most especially the destitute and homeless. By living in poor neighborhoods, running homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and youth programs, Fr. Emmanuel and the other friars strive to fulfill the command of the gospel to live among the poor, providing for their physical and spiritual needs.

Thank you, Fr. Emmanuel, for your steadfast work in bringing young people to the Lord! Congratulations on being the recipient of the NET Ministries Alumni Evangelization Award 2017.

## NET TEAM MEMBER ASKED TO REPRESENT YOUTH OF THE UNITED STATES



Current NET team member Suness Jones was asked by the USCCB to attend a special meeting in Rome related to World Youth Day and the 2018 Synod on Young People in early April. She was the sole young adult to represent the young people of the United States.

While in Rome, she had the opportunity to speak to the committee of cardinals, bishops, and global delegates about how young people in the U.S. want to be heard and valued, and how they don't always believe that the Church wants to listen.

Overall, the meeting was a brilliant cross section of youth ministry from all over the world. Adult and young adult delegates from 150 countries and movements came together to share the state of youth and youth ministry in their communities. The three focuses of this meeting were reports from the last World Youth Day and how to improve it, discussion on the 2018 Synod on Youth, Faith, and Discernment and the preparatory document that was released in January, and finally, discussion and suggestions regarding World Youth Day 2019 in Panama.

Suness, in particular, was asked to take part in this important meeting by the USCCB because she used to work at the Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth as a youth ministry and World Youth Day intern. She's kept working with World Youth Day despite her year of service with NET Ministries this year.

## NEXT YEAR'S NEW PARISH TEAM

We are excited to announce a partnership with a parish as it joins our Parish Team Program in the 2017-18 school year. Parish teams, which make up 6 of our 16 NET teams, are embedded in a single parish or Catholic high school for the entire school year. One of their primary duties is to seek out the alarming number of disengaged youth and invite them to events, while also individually mentoring those who yearn to go deeper in their faith. These teams lead various weekly discipleship groups for the young men and women as well. These teams have the advantage of being able to see the same young people every week for the entire school year, frequently continuing discussions of faith and values. Learn more at [www.netusa.org/parishteams](http://www.netusa.org/parishteams).

Welcome to our newest Parish Team site: St. Joseph and SS John and Bernard in St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, Michigan! We are thrilled to begin our work with your youth!



## THE MISSION YEAR IS FINISHED

We have much to be grateful for as together we welcome back 163 young men and women from their year of service with NET.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis says, "God challenges those who believe in Him 'to go forth.'" These dedicated young Catholics have met that challenge. They have overcome demanding schedules, difficult travel, sickness, weariness, and family illnesses to courageously share the message of Christ's love and mercy with tens of thousands all across our nation. Their generosity has resulted in a renewal of faith in the lives of many.

We thank God for His grace and protection, and the team members for their heroic witness. The world needs more saints! The staff and I are very proud of their phenomenal service to the mission of evangelization.

  
Mark Berchem  
Founder and President



### NET MINISTRIES

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

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## WHOM HE DESIRES

"And he went up on the mountain, and called to him those whom he desired; and they came to Him." (Mark 3:13)

I want to invite you, reader, to read that verse again. Rest with it for a moment. Read it once more.

Where did Jesus go up? He went up on the mountain. What did he do? He called to Him those whom He desired. How did they respond? They came to Him.

Jesus on the mountain called the twelve, yes, but He also called you and me. He desires you and me. And He desires every heart.

How do you become a missionary? You become a missionary when you have come to know this desire of Jesus for you and His desire for every person you have met or ever will, and that knowledge drives you to come to Him. To follow

Him. To be with Him and to be sent out.

"No one comes unless they are drawn," sings Josh Garrels, "by the voice of desire that leads them along. No more separation, between us."

Do you want to be a missionary? Listen for His voice: "My desire is for you. My heart longs for you." Then be that voice for others. Speak the word of life, whom no one else has but Jesus only. Come to him, lay your heart before Him, and tell him "I will follow." When you follow, He will lead. When you listen, He will speak. Do whatever He tells you!

If He wants you to know Him more and to make Him known through a given time of life in a mission community, listen to Him. Come to Him. You are whom He desires.

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