



NET MINISTRIES

NETWORKS

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

NET MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2019

The NET Ministries Podcast

Relevant Conversations for Modern-Day Catholics



NET PODCAST

For the past year and a half, NET Ministries has been unveiling episodes of our popular podcast in an effort to help evangelize. While NET's mission statement is "challenging young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church," our podcast challenges *you* to do the same.

Hot topics in the podcast include:

- » common Catholic misconceptions
- » ministry burnout
- » racism in the Catholic Church
- » life after community

With more than 20,000 downloads and new episodes being posted on a regular basis, we hope you'll take a moment to check it out for yourself.

Listen to our podcast on iTunes, Apple Podcasts, YouTube, Facebook, or at <https://netministries.fireside.fm>.

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DEAR FRIENDS,

Recently, the Holy Father released his apostolic exhortation, *Christ Lives*, which is the fruit of his reflections from the recent synod focused on youth and young adults. As he shares his thoughts regarding youth ministry, he encourages us to build around two important realities.

1. The entire community has to be involved.

The entire faith community must be engaged in ministry with youth. The Church must become more welcoming. Stop and think about it - does the average parishioner acknowledge the presence of young people at Church? Do we introduce ourselves and tell them we are glad they are here? When our parish is looking for volunteers to help with the youth programs, is there a flood of volunteers? Young people desperately need a place to belong. Our involvement or lack of involvement communicates to our young people whether their concerns, interests, and activities are important to us and whether we want to accompany them along their journey.

This is something that we all can work on. We can't put the entire responsibility on our priests, youth ministers, or in our case, the NET missionaries. We all have an important part to play in passing on our faith to the next generation.

The Holy Father points to the crucial need to attract young people to a personal encounter with Christ. He urges us to approach young people "with the grammar of love, not being preached at." The proclamation of the basic Gospel message and the opportunity to encounter the One whom the Gospel is about must come first.

Pope Francis summarizes the Kerygma in three simple truths: *God loves you, Christ saves you, He is alive.* The Holy Father encourages us to not overlook the power of this simple message and to find creative ways to incarnate that simple message in the language of the young. This is the message that the NET missionaries have faithfully and effectively communicated to over 100,000 young Catholics this year.



2. Young people must take on a greater role.

The second important reality on which the Holy Father invites us to focus is giving young people a greater role in shaping and forming our youth ministry efforts. Allow their ingenuity and youthful idealism to take more of the center stage. Pope Francis knows that many times the most successful agents of ministry to youth are other youth. The principle of “like serving like” has been proven most successful in the 38 year history of NET. Often, the young can better reach another young person who might never respond to the efforts of an older adult. There is a real beauty and fruitfulness in helping young people get out there on mission. They believe the world needs changing, and they want to try to make a difference.

In my personal experience working with young people, I’ve come to see that “mission motivates.” As a young person is engaged in serving others and trying to bring the love of Christ to others, their sense of purpose grows, their experience of having a place in the Church grows, and their desire to learn more about their faith grows. This is what I have seen played out in the lives of many of our NET missionaries.

The Holy Father exhibits great confidence in the young and their ability to make a profound impact on the Church. “Through the holiness of the young, the Church can renew her spiritual ardor and her apostolic vigor. The balm of the holiness generated by the good lives of so many young people can heal the wounds of the Church and of the world, bringing us back to the fullness of love to which we have already been called: young saints inspire us to return to our first love.”



I have seen those young saints in my work with NET Ministries. Let’s continue to find ways to support them with our prayers and financial support.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mark Berchem, MSW, MTS
Founder and President
NET Ministries, Inc.



DISCIPLESHIP WEEK 2019: BE STIRRED INTO FLAME (2 TIM. 1:6)

Discipleship Week, also known as D-Week, is a 3-4 day spiritual adventure for teenagers that will inspire, equip, and challenge them to live the life they are created for: that dynamic, Spirit-filled Catholic life as a young apostle. Their faith will come alive and be set ablaze through encounters with Jesus in Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and Reconciliation.

A faith-filled, energized team of NET team members, along with other outstanding leaders, musicians, and speakers lead D-Week. This amazing team will lead dynamic sessions which include worship, relevant talks, free time, small group time, fun activities, and so much more.

D-Week is purposely designed for a limited number of participants so that teens can easily meet new people, get their questions answered, and deepen their faith.





EASTERN REGION | OHIO

Grades 8-12 (2018-19 school year)

Dates: June 10-13, 2019

Registration deadline: June 3

Register at www.netusa.org/dweek



UPPER MIDWEST REGION | MINNESOTA

Grades 9-12 (2018-19 school year)

Dates: June 17-20, 2019

Registration deadline: June 9

Register at www.netusa.org/dweek

Grades 6-8 (2018-19 school year)

Dates: June 24-26, 2019

Registration deadline: June 16

Register at www.netusa.org/dweek



SOUTHERN REGION | TEXAS

Grades 9-12 (2018-19 school year)

Dates: June 24-27, 2019

Registration deadline: May 31

Register at www.netusa.org/dweek



ALUMNI EVANGELIZATION AWARD: DAVID CALAVITTA

Over the past several years, we have honored some of our alumni with an award for their continuing efforts of evangelization, such as their doing ongoing evangelistic ministry, serving within the Church with an evangelistic fervor, or supporting the advancement of NET's mission through the use of time, talent, or treasure. This annual practice culminates in the award being given to the recipient annually at the Closing Celebration and Luncheon in St. Paul in May.

Criteria for nominees include having served with NET a minimum of 7 years ago, living an exemplary Catholic life, demonstrating an involvement in serving within the Church (professionally or as a volunteer), and demonstrating an ongoing commitment to the mission of evangelization. Alumni nominate each other for the award and the NET staff votes on the winner each winter.





This year's winner is David Calavitta, a longtime youth minister turned graphic designer. He served as a missionary with NET's "Home Team" based in St. Paul in 2000-2001 and currently resides in California with his wife, Brittany, and their son, Judah. He is a passionate Catholic in love with Christ and his Church. From a NET Ministries missionary to a parish youth minister, David has been blessed to serve the Church in various ways since the year 2000.

In addition to his popular speaking ministry, he currently serves as the Director of Design and Marketing for Life Teen International. The Life Teen website says of David, "If you are passionate about grassroots evangelization and helping it happen with incredible design, you will love David Calavitta. He has tattoos, a soft spot for puppies, and a big heart for the Kingdom of God..."

David has spoken at NET's Lifeline event twice over the last few years and has a successful speaking ministry. Lighthouse Catholic Media says of him, "David Calavitta has worked in Catholic Youth ministry for 13 years, serving as a youth minister in several parishes, as well as a missionary with NET Ministries. In a heart-felt talk given at a Steubenville Youth Conference, David reflected upon the all-important and fundamental truth that we were created out of love by a God who continually seeks to draw us into a personal relationship with Him."

We are honored to present this award to David and his family!

Past recipients of the NET Alumni Evangelization Award:

- 2012:** Gordy DeMarais (Saint Paul's Outreach)
Sr. Consolata (Religious Sister)
John Beaulieu (Steubenville Conferences)
- 2013:** Caroline Gambale-Dirkes (Evangelistic Speaker)
Tammy Evevard (Evangelistic Speaker)
- 2014:** Francis Cabildo (Youth Ministry, Musician)
- 2015:** Dan DeMatte (Youth Minister, Speaker, Camp Director)
- 2016:** Doug and Marcella Weisbruch (Youth Ministry)
- 2017:** Fr. Emmanuel (Priest, working with poor)
- 2018:** Dr. Mary Paquette (Pro-life Medical Doctor)





SECOND ANNUAL BANQUET IN OHIO A HUGE SUCCESS

On May 8, NET held its second annual Modern Missionaries Fundraising Banquet in Cincinnati, Ohio, and it was a smashing success. Last year's inaugural banquet held 22 tables and 190 attendees and grew this year to 40 tables with 350 attendees! Our keynote speaker was Fr. Mike Schmitz.

We exceeded our \$90,000 goal by \$30,000 dollars, for a total of \$120,000 in funds raised to support our mission. Thank you to all who attended!



NET MINISTRIES

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