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CFI Youth Rally Rosary... Flies

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CATHOLIC FAITH INVESTIGATION YOUTH RALLY



They floated a Rosary in the sky. The Hail Mary's were green, the Our Fathers. Black and the silver cross at the bottom flashed occasionally as the sun glinted off it in a clear blue sky. Thanks to an extremely rare windless prairie day it went straight up from the O'Neil High School football field for several hundred feet before very slowly drifting off to the east.

It was one of the highlights of a March 31 day of investigating the Roman Catholic Faith for 70 Grade nine and 12s and about 30 Archdiocesan youth leaders who with a few adult chaperones came from all over the Regina Archdiocese to participate in day filled with activities, talks and music while learning more about their faith.

Archdiocesan Youth Coordinator Michelle Braden said she hoped it would be for them a day of discovery. "I expect them to hopefully have their hearts opened to their journey with God and for those already on that path to have their faith deepened." The day was also to build community among archdiocesan youth. "In many of their churches there aren't a lot of young people and it's hard to be isolated it's hard to be on your own. You need to have young people who are your peers to journey with," said Braden.

Braden said the youth leaders put everything together. "They have done the music, they have done the skits, they have put together the break-out sessions and some are cooking the food." The music was an ad hoc band put together by Youth Leaders, besides a couple of guitars, percussion and a keyboardist the group included three singers. They performed throughout the day including the mass presided over by Archbishop Daniel Bohan.

Participants had a choice of activities including basketball and other games. Breakout sessions followed a couple of talks from Lance Rosen, youth leader from the Medicine Hat Roman Catholic School Board. Rosen told his own story of a youth who fell into drugs after a family tragedy and who was turned around through Christ. "I attended a retreat and was particularly influenced by the Scripture Revelations (Apocalypse) 3:20," he told the audience. The Scripture reads 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man listens to my voice and opens the door to me, I will come in to him and sup with him and he with me.'

Everyone gathered on the football field following the days events, prayed a decade of the Rosary then watched as it was allowed to float free. Archbishop Bohan read the Gospel; palms were distributed and all processed into the gym for mass. Supper was served and that was followed by a dance.

By this time the Rosary was high and away out of sight.

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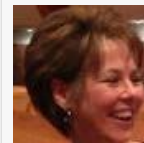


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