

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Cleveland's "Protecting God's Children" program is vigilant in its efforts to raise awareness and protect children from sexual abuse. To report any past or present suspected inappropriate behavior toward children by priests, deacons, religious, lay ecclesial ministers, or personnel associated in any way with the Church, please contact local civil authorities and the Diocesan Response Services office at 216-334-2999 or via email at response_services@dioceseofcleveland.org.

First Step Programs

The Church's teachings on marriage, divorce, and remarriage are often misunderstood. This program is offered to help everyone, especially those who have experienced divorce, learn more about Catholic teaching in these areas. Representatives from the Ministry to the Divorced Office of the Department for Marriage and Family Ministry will be present to explain their ministry to those who are divorced. **General meetings for 2014: Tuesday, September 23, at St. Ambrose Parish, Brunswick, at 7:00pm and Tuesday, October 14, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Cuyahoga Falls, at 7:00pm.** For more information, visit www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal or call the Tribunal (216-696-6525/800-869-6525 x4000).

Youth and Young Adult Ministry and CYO Office
CYO Athletics is seeking high school students interested in officiating: flag football, boys and girls soccer, and volleyball. Training will be provided for students. All trainings are mandatory. Officials are paid a fee to officiate. **Contact the CYO Athletic Office at 330-379-3636 x16 or vrosato@clevelandcatholiccharities.org if interested. Thank you for your cooperation and support of CYO Athletics!**

Married Couples

More than 1,500,000 couples in over 92 countries have experienced a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** and have found something worth passing on. Held **October 10-12** at the **Clarion Inn, Hudson, OH**. More info? Call Terri or Steve (440-834-0939) or visit www.wvme.org.

God Needs You

Consider joining the **Women's Board of Catholic Charities Community Services of Summit County (CCCS/SC)**. We invite **adult women of all ages and parishes** to join our group. Find out how you can help support the work of Catholic Charities here in Summit County. Make new friends and help others at the same time. **The first membership meeting for the next club year will be held on Friday, September 12, at 9:30am in Akron at Catholic Charities offices at 812 Biruta St.** For more info, contact Anne MacWherter at 330-342-9030.

Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a three-month program to help couples struggling in their marriages. A support group is available offering interaction with other couples striving to improve their relationship. **Held September 19-21 at the Doubletree Inn, Beachwood, Ohio.** To register, call 800-470-2230 or email Cleveland@retrouvaille.org. For more information, visit www.Helpourmarriage.com.

Card Party

Save the date for the **4th annual Immaculate Heart of Mary's Council of Catholic Women's Light Supper Card Party** on **Thursday, September 11 at 6:30pm at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Family Center (1905 Portage Trail, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223).** Men and women of all ages are invited to bring their cards or board games for a great social evening. There will be a new game table for those who will not have a full table. So mark the date on your calendar now! **Also, if anyone is interested in donating a door prize or raffle gift, call Jan Harrington at 330-928-2765 or leave at the rectory.**

"A Rhapsody of Summer: A Summertime Recital"

Come and enjoy an afternoon of delightful music! **"A Rhapsody of Summer: A Summertime Recital"** will be presented by **Krista Solars (violinist/fiddler) and Peter Douglas (pianist).** Selections presented include works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Schumann, and Tchaikovsky. **This event is hosted by the Dominican Sisters of Peace and will be held at 3:00pm on August 17 at Our Lady of the Elms Convent Chapel, (1230 West Market St. in Akron, Ohio).** The concert is free and open to the public.

Sports

Pray that playing sports makes us strong
and helps us grow in friendship.

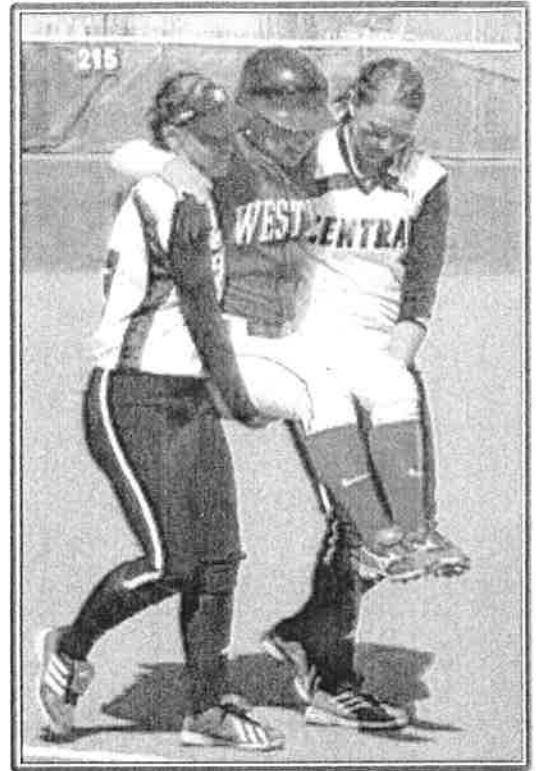
When Pope Francis was young, he used to play basketball. He knows playing sports can make us strong and help us grow in friendship. He feels sad when athletes or fans behave badly. He encourages us to be happy and kind to others when we play and watch sports.

Here is a true story that the Pope would love—and so will you.

In April of 2008, a softball player named Sara Tucholsky hit a home run over the center-field fence during an important game. A very small person, Sara had never before hit a home run. She was so excited that she ran past first base without tagging it. When she turned around to touch the base, Sara twisted her leg and hurt her knee badly. But the rules of the game say that when you hit a home run you have to run around all the bases or the run doesn't count. Poor Sara could not even stand up! Everyone could see that she would never be able to make her way around the rest of the bases.

Then two players from the other team asked the umpire if they could carry Sara around the bases. And that's exactly what those athletes did: they carried their opponent around the field and helped her tag each base so her home run would count. With the help of Sara's home run, Sara's team won that game. The players on the losing team knew that helping someone in need is more important than the numbers on the scoreboard.

Let's pray together: Jesus, please bless us as we play sports.
Help us grow strong in body and in character.



ESPN.com: Sara Tucholsky got a lift from Central Washington's Liz Wallace, left, and Mallory Holtman.
Photo: Blake Wolf

Think About it!

- ∞ Do you play basketball like Pope Francis did when he was young? Or do you prefer another sport?
- ∞ How do you feel after playing around or exercising with friends?
- ∞ What are two things you can do during a game to show you care about others?