

## Albany Deanery Youth Retreat

On December 1, 2007, St. Teresa's Parish, Albany, hosted a deanery-wide youth retreat sponsored in part by a grant received by the Youth Ministry Department of the Diocese of Savannah.

More than 125 teenagers and 30 adults participated in this day-long retreat called "Journey with the Lord" which was dedicated to the memory of Fr. John O'Brien. Youth groups from following parishes participated: St. Ann's, Alapaha, St. Teresa's, Albany, St. Theresa's, Cordele, Good Shepherd, Hazelhurst, St. Joseph's, Macon, St. Michael's, Montezuma, St. Francis, St. Mary's (Marine Base), Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Mary's, Holy Trinity, Swainsboro, and St. Augustine, Thomasville.

T-shirts and food for the participants were made possible with donations from the following: Dr. Michael and Nancy Aquandro, Alfred Corriere, Deacon Jay and Nancy Dallas, Dr. Robert and Ruth Krywicki, Anna Louise McCormick, Bee McCormick, Greg and Dina McCormick, Dr. Ira and Julie Roth, and Dr. Michael and Sylvia Szpak,

The day featured team events which included skits performed by the teens, volleyball, and kickball. There were also group breakout sessions which included stations dealing with the life of Jesus. Everyone was also treated to a concert by Catholic singer/songwriter/musician, Chris Muglia from Tempe, Arizona and The Fish Eyed Fools from the Diocese of Savannah.

St. Theresa's Parish, Cordele, cooked a delicious lunch of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation was made available during the day often with lines of teens waiting to receive the sacrament thanks to Fr. John Brown, Fr. Ben Dallas, Fr. Ray Leverault, and Fr. Victor Seidel.

After attending 5:30 Mass concelebrated by Fr. Barry Stanton and Fr. John Brown, the group was treated to a pizza supper and more praise and worship before returning to their home parishes. The retreat yielded many positive comments from both the adults and teens.

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**Picture #1:** Welcome Sign

**Picture #2:** Chris Mugila

**Picture #3:** The Fish Eyed Fools

**Pictures #4, 5, & 6:** Breakout Sessions dealing with the life of Jesus.

**Pictures # 7, 8, & 9:** Participants enjoy Praise and Worship

**Picture#10:** Fr. Ray Leverault leads the participants in prayer.