

# THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

*Pastoral news from across the Diocese of New Ulm*

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## Youth encouraged to register for spring Junior High Festival

The spring diocesan Junior High Festival is set for April 26, 2009, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Mary's School (the Fieldhouse) in Sleepy Eye and it is bubbling over with excitement and surprise! This year's keynote is Oddwalk Ministries, a musical duo of Shannon Cerneka and Orin Johnson (originally from St. Dionysius in Tyler). "Their very first gig together was at my first Junior High Festival in Hutchinson back in 2004," said Sr. Margaret McHugh, DSMP, Director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of New Ulm.

"We literally helped them get their

show on the road! Now that they've become nationally acclaimed (a kind of starving artist's version of 'rich and famous') we're going to welcome them back and see that they're better than ever! I'm sure that everyone who attends this Festival will 'Walk Away Different' just like the title of their newest album published by GIA."

Back by popular demand is Amanda Vernon who will be introducing a new song entitled "Keep it Fresh." Amanda's fun and spirited performance shows that the joy of the *Good News* is contagious! A

new time has been established for this Junior High Festival and others to follow. Sr. Margaret stated, "We're going to start at 11:00 a.m. and finish by 5 p.m. so it will be easier for folks to travel from all over the diocese. Mass will still be at the same time, but we'll offer lunch instead of supper."

Sr. Margaret added, "We're going to offer a break-out session for guys and girls which has worked out really well in the past. Julie Carleton, the co-hostess of LIFELINE and Discipleship Week at NET Ministries will give a talk to

the girls. Fr. Craig Timmerman, parochial vicar of St. Mary's in New Ulm and associate vocation director for the diocese, will talk to the boys."

All youth grades 6-8 and their parents and chaperones are encouraged to attend.

To register and/or arrange transportation, contact your parish youth minister, DRE, or pastoral leader. The cost, which covers lunch, snack, keynote, break-out, and dance, is \$17 if pre-registered by April 16 or \$20 after that date.

