

## **Gospel Roads --Summer 2010**

Fr. Steve Ryan, SDB

We are really excited about the nine Gospel Roads programs this summer. Planning these mission retreats for 350-400 participants has been underway for months. Two weeks ago we geared up our preparation schedule. March 26-28 were the planning days for the directors and co-directors of the Gospel Roads Programs. About 16 young Salesian leaders gathered in South Orange for preparation to lead the experience.

Present were

Sarah Shea

- director in Kentucky

Lia Canavan and Eric Heiden

- directors in New Orleans

Rudy Gomez and Fr. Steve Ryan

- directors in Tampa

Ryan Phelan and Chris Maiola

- directors in Philadelphia

Vicki Velasco and Brian Caldwell

- directors in Stony Point

Tommy Wilson and Shannon Sulick

- directors in Washington, D.C.

Nick Magrogan, John Khangian, Jen Hoeffner and Annie Miller

- directors in Birmingham

Meg Fraino

- director in Haiti

What did we do for the weekend? We had mega-long sessions to discuss the requirements, expectations, schedules, job descriptions of the leadership team, meal planning, prayer planning, our standardized journal, evaluating, communications, finances, marketing, and social justice education. We reviewed safe environment policies and had a short session on first aid.

At this stage of the preparation, I am very happy that we have enthusiastic and courageous directors and co-directors willing to lead these programs. We have received lots of initial good news from host communities and their willingness to show support for Gospel Roads. The logistics concerning the lodging, transportation and feeding of participants, as well as lining up all the service sites in various cities, are in process.

Congratulations to Ryan Phelan, associate director of Salesian Youth Ministry, for his hard work to build up the Gospel Roads program.

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