



## April E-Letter

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### About Us

For more information about the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, visit us online at

[www.seattleoyyam.org/](http://www.seattleoyyam.org/)

### Dear CYO Athletics Community,

April is National Child Abuse Prevention month. With it, we are reminded of one of the most difficult periods in the history of the Catholic Church. One of the key ideals of the Safe Environment program (SEP) instituted by the Archdiocese of Seattle has been "from compliance to conversion". It calls us to a level of responsibility and engagement beyond fulfilling a requirement mandated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and toward an intention and the subsequent actions of eradicating child abuse from our community. Please [click here](#): to a link for "12 Things the Bishops Have Learned From the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis" by Bishop Cupich, Chair of the Committee for the Protection of Children & Young People.

The training that all volunteers who work with youth or other vulnerable populations are required to participate in is not intended to add burden to an already busy calendar but instead to equip those of us who have shown a passion and care for young people to protect them from one of our society's greatest ills - one in four girls and one in five boys are sexually abused by the age of 18 while 90% of abuse victims are abused by someone they know. Although we would like to think that abuse only happens to "other people", the reality is that most of us know someone affected by this tragedy. With the appropriate training, we are given the tools and resources to recognize the signs of abuse and to act confidently when we encounter them.

Our desire to protect children in CYO Athletics goes back to Bishop Bernard Sheil of Chicago and its first inception in 1930. Recalling his days as a prison chaplain and his walks with young men to the gallows, he envisioned a program that could change their fates from admiring the gangsters and bootleggers of the day to having more constructive outlets which would more positively engage their energies, dreams and aspirations. He proposed a program of social and athletic activities designed to "keep the kids off the streets". He never could have imagined how far his initial efforts would reach.

The program was adopted and adapted throughout the far corners of the country, including the Archdiocese of Seattle as initiated by Archbishop Connolly in 1951 through CYO summer camp, youth clubs, dances,

conventions and, of course, athletics.

These programs were instituted to engage our young people in positive endeavors, to help them grow in their faith and to protect them from the harmful elements of our society. So "protection of children" is fundamentally who we are. And yet, the landscape of where the harmful elements exist has changed. We need to be even more diligent in our efforts to protect children. We need to go above and beyond. The Internet and technology is a big example of this - in and of itself, they are not bad things, and yet they can be used as tools for those who seek to harm our youth. Please go to this link <http://www.seattlearch.org/sep/links.html> for more information and resources on how to keep your kids safe.

With a renewed commitment to protecting our youth and eradicating sexual abuse we pray for the protection of all God's children, the prevention of abuse and for all victims of abuse, that they may find hope, healing and comfort in the Risen Lord...

Lenten Blessings,

~Tauno Latvala  
Director of CYO Athletics

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## April - Important CYO Athletics Dates

**April 8** - CYO Athletics Track Team Registration Deadline

**April 16** - Volleyball Championships @ St. Joseph Seattle

**April 19** - Track & Field Pre-season Coach Meeting

**April 25 - 29** - Pete Fewing Spring Break Soccer Camp

**April 30** - Preliminary Track Meet @ Southwest Complex

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## CYO Summer Camps

Don't let your summer fill up without CYO Summer Camp! CYO offers overnight camping programs for grades 1-12. And did you know Camp Don Bosco offers Day Camp? Running Monday-Friday each week,

campers can experience camp and still be home every night. Crafts, games, horses, swimming, outdoor fun, acting, music and more! Most importantly, campers are a part of the CYO camping community, where they will deepen their faith and experience Christ in the sacraments. Sign up today at [www.camping.seattleoyyam.org](http://www.camping.seattleoyyam.org)!

## 2010 WNBA Champions!



The Seattle Storm are extending an invitation to all CYO Athletics players, coaches, families and friends to attend their Celebration of Champions on Opening Day, **Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 12pm. vs. Phoenix Mercury.** This will be an unforgettable experience for all, highlighted by the Championship ring ceremony and the unveiling of the 2010 WNBA Championship Banner. **Receive an exclusive discounted ticket offer (\$15) for this game** as a participant, team, family and friend of the Catholic Youth Organization!! Please visit <http://www.wnba.com/storm/cyo.html> to reserve your tickets for this unforgettable experience! Seats will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Group seating is available so bring your team!

Also, mark your calendars for the Storm's Faith and Family Night on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. vs. Los Angeles! More information to follow!

## Last Chance! Spring Break Soccer Camp

This is your final reminder to look at registering for Pete Fewing's Spring Break Soccer Camps during the week following Easter, April 25th through April 29th at Lower Woodland Park. Pete Fewing is well known in the soccer community, as he coached the Seattle University men's soccer team to two National Championships, and has worked on the broadcast team for the Seattle Sounders FC. [Click here](#) for registration information.

*\*Please note, this organization is independent and is not part of the Corporation of the Archbishop of Seattle. They are not sponsored, directed, administered or managed by the Archbishop of Seattle, pastors or archdiocesan staff.*

Thank you for your commitment to CYO Athletics. If you have not received past E-Letters, they can be found on our website by [clicking here](#). Please also continue to send us stories at [cyo@seattlearch.org](mailto:cyo@seattlearch.org), the moments of grace that make our program special, and remind everyone why we do the work we do.

Sincerely,  
CYO Athletics  
Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Archdiocese of Seattle