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**Abstinence Programme**

Submitted by webmaster on Tue, 2007-10-02 16:56.

[Information on Abstinence Programme](#)

**ABSTINENCE is a way of life**

**Background**

In an effort to inculcate high moral standards in the youth of today's society and help to curb the prevalence of HIV/AIDS a training of Trainer's workshop on Abstinence was organized through the Roman Catholic Diocesan Family and Life Commission. This was conducted in June, 2005 by a team of four, from the Governor's Program on Abstinence (GPA) in Louisiana, U.S.A. There were 35 participants from over 10 different Roman Catholic parishes throughout Guyana and representatives from other religious denominations were present at the workshop.

Following this workshop, it was felt that in order to motivate the youth of Guyana it would be necessary to incorporate relevant information from Guyana. Ms Gail Dignam of GPA had given permission to amend the curriculum to make it Guyana friendly and a Sub-Committee was formed with a mandate to "Amend the curriculum to include Guyanese vernacular, statistical data and biblical references."

**The Process**

The team had eight sessions over three months. Each member reviewed a section of the curriculum and recommended changes, which were discussed and agreed upon before being incorporated. We also looked at the Videos; the Interactive CD and Power-point presentations, but came to a consensus, that these could be replaced at a later date when we roll out the training sessions.

All the recommendations were implemented and on Jan 28-29 2006 a Trainers update workshop was held. Twenty-Two (22) trainers attended including two from non-catholic Churches. Four teams were established with responsibility for starting the Abstinence programme and set up Abstinence Clubs in their parishes in Regions 3 and 4, within three to four months. Plans are in place to take the programme to the other Regions as soon as the management committee can access funding.

The Youth Office has been given the responsibility for this Abstinence Programme for Guyana and a management committee has been set up to coordinate the programme, hence the Abstinence Programme for Guyana's office will be based at the Roman Catholic Diocesan Youth office.

The committee will consist of a maximum of eleven persons all volunteers who will manage the programme with Bishop Francis Alleyne as "Patron".

**The members of the "Management Committee" are:-**

Navigation

- Activities
  - Quiz
  - Competitions
  - Abstinence Programme
- Resources
  - History
  - Know Your Faith
  - Frequently Asked Questions
  - About Catholicism
  - The Holy Rosary
  - Links
- Groups
  - Georgetown
  - East Coast Demerara
  - East Bank Demerara
  - West Coast Demerara
  - Linden
  - Berbice
  - Interior Districts
- Give Your Prayer Login

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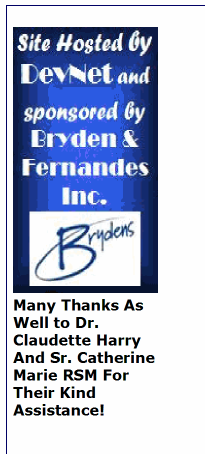
**What Is A Vocation?**

**Religious Orders**

**Vocations In Guyana**

Map Showing Priests And Religious Orders In Guyana

**Vocation Stories**



- ✓ Sister Catherine Marie RSM (Family and Life Commission)
- ✓ Mrs. Pamela Mittelholzer (Family and Life Commission)
- ✓ Lucretia Stanton (Diocesan Youth Coordinator)
- ✓ Gavin Agard
- ✓ Samantha Butts-Hazel (Diocesan Youth Council Member)
- ✓ Lawrence  
Kendall
- ✓ Dr. Claudette Harry
- ✓ Mark Phang
- ✓ Niall Stanton
- ✓ Mrs. Shirley Thomas
- ✓ Althea Hyman

The Youth Coordinator Acting on behalf of the Roman Catholic Diocesan Youth Office has kindly offered The Abstinence Programme and their team a furnished Office space in their building.

**The Organizational system of the Committee of the Abstinence Programme for Guyana is as follows and the committee shall consist of the following persons:**

- ✓ Patron
- ✓ Programme Coordinator
- ✓ Public Relations Officer
- ✓ Fundraising Officer
- ✓ Project Coordinator-Clubs
- ✓ Secretary
- ✓ Finance Officer
- ✓ Technical Officer
- ✓ Other support Officers x 3

The main Goal of this programme is to spread the abstinence message to the youth, which would inculcate high moral standards and help to curb the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Guyana. This will be achieved by training "Peer Educators" in all ten regions of Guyana, through the Roman Catholic Churches.

**The Objective:**

- To train 200-400 peer educators within the next twelve months
- To ensure that the youth have a good understanding of the programme, (the 12 lessons in the manual) before making the "Abstinence Pledge" and receiving their "Abstinence Certificate"
- To promote the formation of the Abstinence clubs which will sustain the programme .

### **Abstinence In 2008 and 2007**

- ❖ **The Abstinence Convention.**This Convention was held on June 14 2008 at the Marian Academy. It's intention was to help our young people understand that 'ABSTINENCE' is a way of life and to encourage young married couples to '**Be Faithful**'. This convention was evidently larger than the one held in 2007 at the Youth Office.
- ❖ **The Abstinence Awareness Day.**The Programme on Abstinence for Guyana held it's first ever Awareness Day on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2007 in the compound of the National Library. This event was judged a major success. The purpose of the Awareness Day was to make young people aware of the Programme on Abstinence as well as to understand the value of "Choosing abstinence as a way of Life" The booth attracted adults, young adults, teenagers and children; many of whom expressed their interest in the programme and invited the team to visit their schools, Churches and communities to carry out the programme. The number of persons the Abstinence Programme managed to attract and educate was in excess of 200 hundred persons.

**For more Information on the**

**Abstinence Programme for  
Guyana contact**

**The Roman Catholic Diocesan Youth Office.**

**Abstinence Programme Photos are available in our Gallery**

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