

After the commissioning, the team had two days of ministry training as they worked to combine the two different countries' ways of doing things and figuring out what would be best for the youth of Scotland.

All of the retreats were conducted in schools. In Scotland, Catholic schools are public. Because of this, there is a variety of different faith backgrounds and beliefs with the students in these schools.

As an American, it's a little difficult to comprehend the history of Christianity that this country carries with it. Our country is only but a few hundred years old. Christianity in Scotland is breaching the 1450 year mark! With that comes a lot of tension. The team learned they had to be careful when sharing which football (soccer) team they supported. One is a Protestant team and the other is a Catholic team.

The team found that most of the youth with whom they were blessed to spend time did not even know who Jesus was before the retreat began! They were somewhat aware of the history of Christianity, and they were even more aware of the issues of the Church, but it was a rarity to encounter a secondary school student who knew, or had ever even been told, that Jesus loves them and died for them.

Fr. Jim said of the retreat work in Scotland: "It was brilliant. God really, really worked here. The team was amazing. You know well the quality of the folks you sent over – they are really inspiring as individuals, as missionaries, as advocates of NET."

It was such a privilege to see them work and to share time with them. While I had picked up a lot of what happens through my visit to [NET USA] and to Ireland, one of the things that impressed me most was just how everything is surrounded by prayer. It was really inspirational. There's probably too much to praise to write it all down.

The bottom line is that God really worked in all the schools through them. Everyone was impressed by the team but also by the methods and the preparation and professionalism of what they do."

Please continue to pray for the people of Scotland.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Since 1981, NET Ministries has evangelized Catholic youth across the country and throughout the world in various countries. Over 2000 young adults have responded to Jesus' call to love Him with all one's heart, mind, soul, and strength (Mk 12:30) and have heeded the exhortation of Pope Pius VI who said, "Side by side with the collective proclamation of the Gospel, the other form of transmission, the person-to-person one, remains valid and important. The Lord often used it and so did the apostles. In the long run, is there any other way of handing on the Gospel than by transmitting to another person one's personal experience of faith? For evangelization must touch life: the natural life to which it gives a new meaning, purifies and elevates it."



**MARK BERCHEM PROUDLY PRESENTED THE AWARDS TO
TAMMY EVEARD (LEFT) AND CAROLINE GAMBALE-DIRKES**

The vibrant witness of hope and joy that NET team members show to their peers has proven to be the most effective means to introduce others to a life-changing personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Many of our alumni have continued this work in a variety of ways. They have taken their formative time with NET and continued a life of prayer, sacramental participation, fellowship, and service. They serve as missionaries in the work place, in their places of study, in their marriages, in the convent, and in the priesthood. In big and small ways, NET alumni continue to engage our current culture and dare to transform it according to God's design through the witness of their lives.

On May 18, 2013, at the annual end of the year banquet for the NET team members and their families, two of our alumnae were honored with NET's Distinguished Alumni Award. These women have made a lasting impact in Catholic evangelization in our country. We invited them to fly in to St. Paul to accept the award and give a few words of advice to the team members before they officially became NET alumni themselves.

The Award Recipients

Tammy Eveard served on a NET team in 1985-1986, and since then has spent more than 25 years speaking on the

power of God in our lives, Scripture, leadership training, and women's issues. She has presented to countless audiences on both regional and national levels, and has been featured on several radio and television programs including CNN and EWTN. Tammy is known to be a dynamic, passionate speaker who captures audiences with her enthusiastic style and storytelling. She has been described by others as "an excellent motivational speaker with the ability to connect with her audience in a manner fitting the specific age group." She is the author of the newly-released book *Becoming: The Woman God Made You To Be*. Tammy lives in Colorado, with her husband, Mark, and their three children.

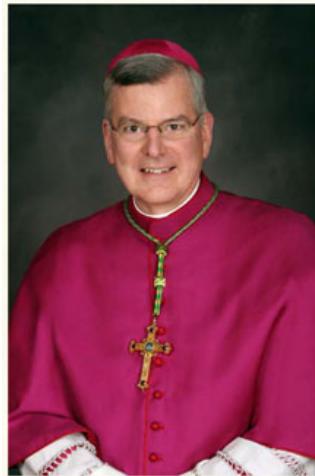
Caroline Gambale-Dirkes, a NET team member in 1990-1991, is known for being a dynamic and passionate evangelist. Her motto is that "you need to do the ridiculous to see the miraculous!" Sharing incredible stories such as how she evangelized two New York Giants football players, she keeps her audience engaged and wanting more. She has been active in evangelization and youth ministry for 16 years. She was the Eastern Regional Director for Life Teen and the Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry in the Archdiocese of Newark. She continues to serve as the area coordinator in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania for Life Teen. She has spoken internationally at numerous rallies, retreats and conferences, including the National Charismatic Leadership Conference, Steubenville Youth Conferences, the National Catholic Youth Conference and Life Teen Training Conferences. In 2007, Caroline and her husband, Dan, co-founded 2Tim4 Ministries as a means to evangelize people of all ages throughout the country.

Archbishop Nienstedt: A Sacrifice in Faith

The following is an excerpt from Archbishop John C. Nienstedt's keynote address at NET's Youth Benefit Banquet on April 30, 2013.

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to be with you tonight as we continue to give thanks to Almighty God for the great good He is accomplishing in and through NET Ministries. Through the powerful witness of our young people on fire for the faith, NET Ministries continues to obey the command of Christ to "go, therefore, into the whole world, and proclaim the Good News."



MOST REVEREND JOHN C. NIENSTEDT,
ARCHBISHOP OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS
AND PRESIDENT OF NET MINISTRIES'
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As you are all well aware, we are living in this Year of Faith proclaimed by the now Pontiff-emeritus, Pope Benedict XVI, last October. In his statement at that time, the Pope issued a direct challenge to each of us:

"To rediscover the content of the faith that is professed, celebrated, lived, and prayed, and to reflect on the act of faith, is a task that every believer must make his own, especially in the course of this Year."

The "content of faith"—whose sources are Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition—represent a witness to God's words and deeds in seeking us out to court our love and friendship and bind us in communion with Him and with His Body, the Church.

As Catholics, we know that the knowledge derived from the "content of faith" is not to be confused with sentimentality or "warm fuzzies." Christ may indeed provide such consolations, but they do not lie at the heart of our Christian faith. Rather, to celebrate properly this Year of Faith, we must strive, once again, to choose to trust—to trust in Jesus who reveals the face of God to us and to trust in the Church who reveals Christ's presence to us.

One of my favorite Old Testament stories is the sacrifice of Isaac. Abraham, our father in faith, could not have experienced any sort of consolation when he heard the strong voice of God, asking of him what mattered the most to him—his very own son. What a stirring, moving line in the book of Genesis where we read: "[g]ive to me] your son, your only son, the one you love." The one you love. In these words, the Bible

makes it clear what God is asking, and that is simply everything. And in the fullest pre-figurement of Christ's own sacrifice, Abraham willingly obeys—in loving trust, he utters a silent "fiat" and prepares to give back to God his cherished child.

In the end, it matters little that Abraham did not actually sacrifice Isaac. Abraham's heart had already been lifted up to the Father—the sacrifice had been made.

My brothers and sisters, this act of loving trust—holding nothing back from God, giving it all back to him through a life of service, compassion and fidelity, this is our life of faith! And this is exactly the purpose of the NET teams, to call young people to this life of trust and faith. It is meant to harness their inherent desire for greatness, found in the hearts of all young people; to utilize their God-given longing for romance, adventure, and radical love for the proclamation of the deepest adventure—to trust that following Jesus will not bring death, diminishment, or loss, but rather life, hope, and, yes, joy!

The words of the Gospel, the words of Christ to the disciples on the sea, "Go out into the deep, and cast your nets out for a catch" are words not nearly as dramatic as those spoken to Abraham, but they are indeed an invitation to faith all the same. Jesus says to us, right here and right now, even as we find ourselves in the stormy and unforgiving sea of a world with little faith, "Trust in me. I am here with you. Do not be afraid!"

During this Year of Faith, I know that NET Ministries is playing a critical part in helping our youth rediscover - or maybe discover for the first time - the content of the faith. And once this year concludes, the need for the ministry of NET will continue for many, many more years to come. Your gifts of support are again not as dramatic as the sacrifice of Abraham, but they must be rooted in the same act of loving trust as the one made by our father in faith; trust that God will take your gift given out of faith, hope, and love and cause it to bear fruit abundantly.