

## Polarity by The Wedding

By Vito Reed

The Wedding is a band comprised of five 20-something guys from down in the deep south, Arkansas to be exact. They debuted with their self-titled album on the now-defunct Rambler Records label. When their home label tanked, they also lost one of their founding members, their drummer. This was all back in 2005. Now, in 2007, The Wedding has gained two new members, a drummer and a guitarist, swelling their ranks to five. Even with all this change, they still found time to record a brand-spankin' new album that almost burns your fingers with its hotness.

One thing that is apparent is their faith. It permeates their whole album and, from their interviews, their daily life. Take their lead single, "Say Your Prayers." The whole song is basically about the title. Weird, I know, but they pull it off without sounding too cheesy. Next, on this disc of surprises, is the song "I'll Sleep When I'm Dead." This track starts off with the sound of bagpipes before launching into an extended drum roll. The track has the sound of Celtic punk and the lyrics deal with finding hope inside despair. "Staring At The Light" is punk at its best, while candidly discussing redemption. Perhaps the most blatant expression of their

faith comes in on the track "It's Time To Rock (Ok?)." "Cause they bring 'em in on stretchers/And when they leave they're walking out/That's what our God's about." "Schizophrenia" rails against hypocrisy while "The Last Stand" salutes our soldiers. However, the stand out track, lyrically, is "Misery Loves Company." "I've done so much wrong, it outweighs the good/I've found the hardest things to do are the ones I should/But You gave me all the grace, I needed to get out."

Throughout this ultimately hopeful disc, The Wedding speaks candidly of redemption, faith, courage and spirituality. Combining the musical experimentation of Fall Out Boy, the singability of Good Charlotte and the feel-good chords of The All-American Rejects, The Wedding establishes themselves as the next kings of punk.

Vito Reed is a homeschooled 13-year-old, living in Powell. He's the oldest of four children. He enjoys playing acoustic and electric guitar, reading and writing

## Jr. High Summer Camp will be highlight of the summer!

By KATHRINE BATTON

If you are looking for a fun and faith-filled environment to spend part your summer, then the Junior High Middle School Summer Camp, sponsored by the Diocese of Cheyenne and held Aug. 12 to 17, is the perfect opportunity for you.

Students will have the chance to attend Mass, participate in large group activities, spend quiet time in prayer and experience small group faith sharing. There will be three days of team-building skills and time to make friends with people of the same age statewide. Youth Ministry Chaplain, Father Bill Hill will be present throughout the week and will be celebrating Mass.

Director of Youth Ministry, Elaine Menardi said the camp will give youth from Wyoming "an experience of faith in a different setting and an opportunity to recognize how God is present to us in each other and everywhere."

To parents, Menardi said the camp is "a positive and a faith-filled place to spend time" and "is a good place to

kids to be in the summer." She explained that there are other options out there for youth during the summer months which are not positive or uplifting, and that this is an opportunity to have experiences which are centered on nurturing faith.

The mountainous setting of the H.R. Camp at Esterbrook in the Medicine Bow National Forest is beautiful. The rocky and wooded terrain is the perfect for experiencing the rugged outdoors; there will be a day hike, swimming, camp games, a stewardship project, rock climbing (with parent permission) and evening camp activities. The camp has a wonderful chapel, meeting hall, living quarters and swimming hole.

The cost for the week of camp is \$250, but Menardi said there are partial scholarships available and encourages those who want to attend to call her office for more information. She said the cost alone should not be a deterrent. The director said the youth office is still looking for volunteers to help them with the camp, and she encourages high school seniors and juniors as well as college-aged individuals or adults to spend the week assisting them at Esterbrook.

If you are interested in attending or if you would like to volunteer your help, please call Elaine Menardi at 1-800-788-4616 or contact your parish youth minister. Registration deadline is Mon. July 30. Registration forms are also available at [www.wyoming-catholicyouth.com](http://www.wyoming-catholicyouth.com).

## Casper native professes first vows in religious life

Karen Grochowski, a native of Casper, will joined with Laura Nettles of Las Alamos, NM, in professing first vows with the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. Both women are graduates of the University of Wyoming.

Grochowski spent her time as a novice learning more about Franciscan spirituality and ministering at New Horizons Domestic Violence Shelter in La Crosse. She taught 4th grade religious education each week. She has also worked at a center for children with developmental disabilities; a Native American outreach office; and a Chicago food pantry.

She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from UW.

Nettles graduated from UW with a degree in music education and taught high school band. During her novitiate, she learned about Franciscan spirituality and ministered at the Will County Jail, touring inmates.

She also ministered in New York City at a food resource center, a homeless shelter and at Franciscan International. She plans to complete a masters in theology and teach ethics in college.

The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration are based in La Crosse. More than 350 women religious in the order further the work of the Catholic Church in various ministries throughout the US and internationally.

## In Defense of Our Faith

Editor's note: Homeschooled students, brother and sister Celena Howell and Jason Howell of Laramie, offer suggestions to typical questions they encounter on the Catholic faith.

When someone defends the Catholic faith, we call this activity apologetics. The word "apology" comes from the Greek and Latin root "apologia". In modern English, "apology" means that we express dismay or regret for something we wish hadn't happened; however, in the ancient world, the same word meant the exact opposite.

In his book, Answer Me This, Patrick Madrid defines an apologist as someone who presents a well-reasoned argument for Christianity by drawing information from Scripture, the facts of Christian history, and logic. Apologetics is the actual presenting of this defense for the Faith to someone else.

At Confirmation, all Catholics were given a special mission. By becoming soldiers in the army of Christ, we have accepted an obligation to follow Christ's lead, to protect His Church, and to defend the Faith we professed as adult Catholics at our Confirmation. Since we have been given this incredible mission, it is helpful for us to understand how to we should defend our Faith.

Before presenting a couple questions and their answers, it is important to know that apologetics must be approached with charity. In John 13:35, Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Our goal should not be to win converts by a loyal defense of the Faith, but to present the truth of Catholicism in a loving way and to plant the seed in the hearts of other people. (The responses to the following questions are intended to provide a basic understanding of what Catholics believe and why.)

Q. Do you believe that you attain heaven by good works?

A. We do not believe that we are saved by our good

works alone. James 2:24 says, "You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone." Catholics believe that both faith and good works are inseparable, since faith is essential to produce good works and good works are the visible evidence of faith. Although Jesus made salvation available to everyone, we have to earn the right to benefit from the merits of His cross and resurrection. Without Christ, no good works could have enabled us to save our souls. With Christ, our good works can do so, since He requires them of us.

Q. What do you base your religion on? Isn't the Bible completely sufficient for us?

A. Catholicism is based on Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Although the Bible is God's Divinely Inspired Word, it does not explicitly say that we are to believe in Scripture alone. In fact, in Thessalonians 2:15, St. Paul says, "So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter." Since there was no written form of the Bible for 32 years after Christ's death, the early Christians kept their faith alive through oral tradition.

A wise father once said to his children, "Since you're not the first ones who have ever been asked these questions, look at what other Catholics have written in defense of the same issues; you don't always have to make up your own arguments."

If you are ever faced with a question about your Faith, try some of these ideas:

1. Pray to the Holy Spirit
2. Talk to a priest or your parents
3. Consult the Catholic Encyclopedia, writings of the early Church Fathers, the Bible, Catholic web pages, etc.

Together these will all help to give you the strength and guidance you will need to defend the Faith in a loving, Christ-like manner.

May the Grace of God be your strength,  
May the Will of God be your guide, &  
May the Peace of God be your constant joy.

