

What the Teens Need from Youth Ministry

Changing the world happens one teen at a time. Teens DO NOT connect to programs; they DO connect to people. The most effective way to influence teens is through a significant relationship with key people in their lives. Our goal is to develop leaders who will walk with teens on the journey to Christ.

Teens need adults who will:

- Love God and live for Him
 - Be interested in their lives
- Take the initiative to spend time with them
 - Pray for them
 - Be authentic (real)
 - Say encouraging words
 - Believe in them
 - Laugh
 - Go to “their world”
 - Remember their names and care for them
- Share God’s love through personal experience
 - Be consistent to the programs
 - Be patient
 - Enjoy life and live the seven essential values
(Love, Evangelization, Joy, Vocation, Affirmation, Authenticity, Eucharistic Spirituality)

How to be Involved in Teen’s Lives:

It is important for you to understand what commitment I ask from our Core.

For effective youth ministry, you need to:

1. Understand the reason we exist as a youth ministry. Look at our values and goals on the next page.
2. Commit to the Youth Ministry. Consider the role that God has created your gifts to allow you to serve to build up the Kingdom. These gifts will be what allows you to serve.
3. Grow as a Minister. Develop your abilities through prayer, classes, and conferences. This will ultimately have an impact on the rest of the ministry.
4. Allow yourself to let Jesus Christ shine through you so we may gather as a family in His name, seeking to guide all to become a light to the world.

Our Goals:

- To lead those we minister to to have an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ
 - To help them to grow and mature spiritually
 - To foster a sense of community among those we serve
- To teach and explain the theology of the Roman Catholic Church
 - To treat everyone with dignity and respect
- To give Glory and Praise to God for all he has done in our ministry

Our Values:

- Prayer
- Mass and the Sacraments
- Study of Sacred Scripture
- Authentic witness to God and our faith
- Honesty and integrity
- Positive atmosphere
- Community
- Radical Hospitality

Our Commitment:

The Mass

- Commit to attending Sunday Mass
- Prepare your heart before Mass by praying for the power of the Mass and the success of the youth ministry programs that week
- Dress appropriately for Mass
- Foster hospitality
- Participate fully in the Mass and set an example
- Demand respect from the teens in a loving yet firm manner.
- Support Core members in disciplinary situations.

Retreats

- Attend your scheduled retreats throughout the year.
- Attend all the planning meetings that are needed.
- Remember this is a time when teens can be vulnerable.
- Maintain and keep boundaries that are important.

Core Meetings, Trainings, & Interaction

- Attend all scheduled meetings and trainings and arrive on time
- Ask questions about what you don't understand regarding the planned events and activities.
- Grow as a minister

Core Interaction

- Give feedback to other Core members and to the Youth Minister
- Praise your fellow Core members when they work hard and accomplish good work
- Graciously accept compliments from your fellow Core member