

Core Team Application Packet



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Revised 2011



Welcome



Dear Potential Youth Ministry Core Member,

I'm so glad you are interested in serving our youth ministry here at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns!

At St. Pat's, we value our youth and want to fulfill the Church's mission to "Go, and make disciples of all nations," by leading youth to Christ and the Church. Youth ministry is a ministry of miracles, and a ministry in which not only will you encounter miracles in the lives of the youth, but in your own life as well.

I believe strongly that effective youth ministry is built upon relationships between adult staff and teens. When a teen is loved, accepted, and listened to by an adult, they are more open to being loved and accepted by God. Youth learn how to become adults by interacting with, imitating, and observing adults. They really do desire healthy and positive relationships with adults. It is our goal to lead youth to Christ by combining this relationship model with a faith formation program that engages youth's energy, imagination, curiosity, and compassion in an engagement of our Catholic faith.

Volunteers are the backbone and foundation of youth ministry, and it is core team members who are given the biggest opportunity to make an impact in the life of the youth. This occurs through positive relationships with youth and by life witness. Because of this, we hold high expectations for core team members. I am looking for men and women who have a deep love for God, and a deep love for the youth.

Please prayerfully discern your call to this special ministry, especially as you read through these materials. After you fill out the application, I will get in touch with you to schedule a one-on-one where we can get to know each other better and talk about any questions you may have.

Youth ministry is an amazing and rewarding way to give of your time and serve the Lord. I'm very excited to meet with you and spend some time talking about your hopes and desires for ministry. If you need to reach me for anything, please feel free to call or email me.

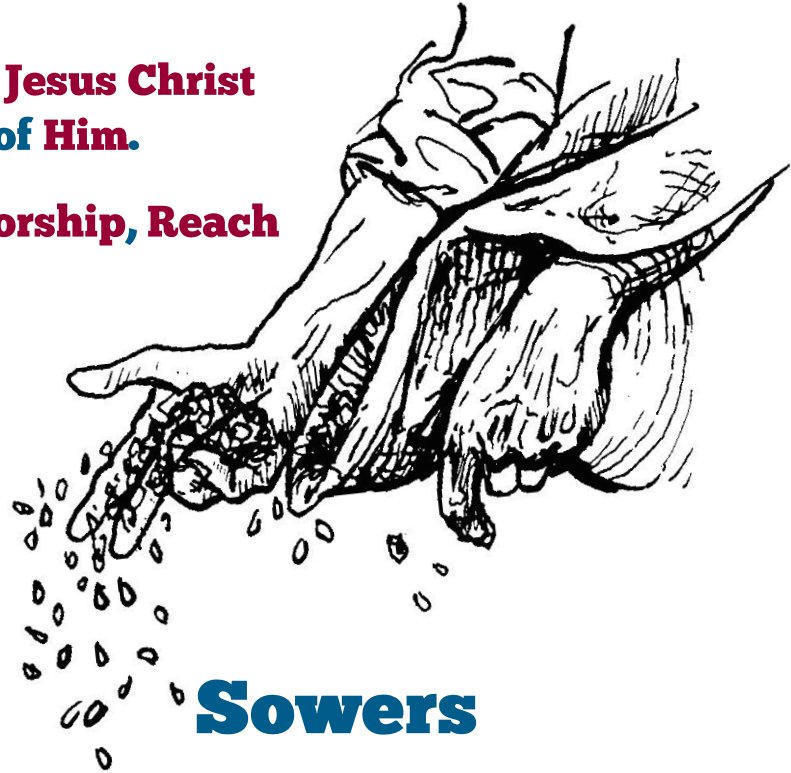
God Bless,

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Youth Ministry Overview

Our Mission: To bring youth to **Jesus Christ**
and make life-long disciples of **Him**.

Four Goals: **Proclaim, Minister, Worship, Reach**



We **PROCLAIM** Christ through evangelization, dynamic catechesis, relational ministry, and our witness.

We **MINISTER** like Christ to youth through positive and encouraging relationships and loving presence.

We **WORSHIP** Christ through the Mass, Sacraments, and forms of prayer such as: Adoration, Praise and Worship, and Community Prayer.

We **REACH** as Christ to those in need through love and works of mercy.

Core Members have a unique place in the mission of youth ministry at St. Pat's. By putting in the time to make a positive impact on the life of a youth, core members help sow seeds of faith, hope, and love in their lives. We aim to develop leaders who will walk the journey to Christ with teens. It's not as hard as you may think to greatly impact a youth's life. The most effective way to influence a teen is through the influence of significant and meaningful relationships.

Youth need adults who are:

- In Love with God and living for Him
- Young
- Old
- Crazy
- Normal
- Consistently present
- Praying for them
- Encouraging
- Interested in their lives
- Take initiative to listen and spend time with them
- Patient
- Joyful and able to laugh
- Remember their names and care for them
- Not saints but repentant sinners striving for sainthood

Youth Ministry Overview

Our Mission: To bring youth to **Jesus Christ and make life-long disciples of **Him**.**

proclaim

Dynamic catechetical nights are planned at least once a month. These nights proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ for conversion, attempting to hand on the deposit of faith to youth in an engaging and fun manner.

Current Issue Nights are planned at least once a month. These nights focus on a relevant teen issue or a topic from youth culture or current events.

minister

Community Nights are planned at least once a month. These are fun nights which allow youth to just hang out and enjoy fellowship. They are intentionally designed to give the Core Team opportunities to develop relationships with teens.

Retreats are planned at least once a semester. Retreats help turn hearts to Christ and encourage youth to grow radically in their relationship with Him.

goals

Everything we do fits into our four goals of youth ministry at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns:

Proclaim, Worship, Minister, and Reach



worship

Mass, Adoration, confession, the rosary, praise and worship, Liturgy of the Hours, and praying together are examples of activities planned to fulfill the goal of worship.

reach

Service activities are planned at least once a semester and allow youth to be Christ's hands and feet, reaching out to those in need of our time, talent, and treasure. We become the living presence of God in love and service.

Core Member Commitment

What we offer you

- The joy of working with Christ to evangelize teens
- Fellowship with other Core Team members
- Core Team Retreats
- Training in catechesis, relational ministry, public speaking, different forms of prayer, the ways of a Jedi, communicating the faith, giving a testimony, Theology of the Body, how to relate to teens, retreat planning, lesson planning, and more!
- The opportunity to lead a youth group night
- Access to resources such as books, videos, and DVD's
- Various trips such as: March for Life, National Catholic Youth Conference, Steubenville Youth Conference, Camping, eXclaim!, Mission trips, and more!
- The opportunity to discover and develop your specific gifts and talents
- A voice in the planning, shaping, and development of youth ministry at St. Pat's
- Pizza
- The opportunity to witness young lives transformed by the Gospel

What we ask of you

Spiritual Life

- Deep love for God and for youth
- Attend Mass regularly
- Regular life of prayer
- Free from serious sin
- Strive for holiness
- Willingness to guide youth in the teachings held by the Catholic Church
- Full compliance with Diocesan and Parish Protecting youth procedures and policies

Core Training and Interaction

- Strive to grow as a minister
- Support and encourage other Core members
- Be active and involved in youth group nights
- Help create an environment of love, acceptance, and depth
- Go out of your way or comfort zone to talk to youth, especially the loners

Attendance

- Commit to regularly attend the once a week youth group night, either for High School or Middle School
- Attend all semester retreats, Core team meetings, big events, and at least one non-youth group related youth event (soccer game, school play, etc.) per semester

Application Form

Instructions (Note: Illegible answers cannot be considered.)

1. Read through all the questions before you begin your answers.
2. Answer all the questions.
3. Please clearly TYPE or PRINT each answer. Use separate paper when necessary.
4. Very Important: When answering these questions, be yourself. There are no right or wrong answers. These questions are simply vehicles for us to learn who you are.
5. Also Very Important: Rest assured that all information will be held in strict confidence by the parish staff.

Here are a few important facts about being a member of the Core Team:

- Team members must be at least one year out of high school or older.
- Team members should possess the following qualities: a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, an unconditional love for teenagers, a love for the Catholic Church, regular participation in Sunday worship, a personal prayer life, freedom from serious sin, regular reading of Scripture, and openness to using the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Team members must be open to training and completing all background checks and requirements set forth by the diocese.
- Team members must continue to possess the above-mentioned qualities throughout the duration of their commitment.
- Team members are free at any time to unconditionally terminate their relationship as a Core Team member. At the same time, the youth minister retains the option to ask you to step out of this ministry if it becomes clear to us that the Lord is not calling you to this specific ministry, or if mitigating circumstances make it unwise for you to continue in this ministry.

APPLICANT'S INFORMATION

First Name Last Name MI

Current Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____ May we contact you at work? Yes/No

Cell phone _____ E-mail: _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Age _____ Gender: Male/Female
month day year

EDUCATION

Please check the one that applies to you and fill in the requested information. Leave blank those choices, which do not apply.

- Presently, I am in college. _____ (College and class)
- I graduated from college. _____ (College)
- I graduated from high school in _____ (year).

EMPLOYMENT

Please document where you work.

Business name _____ Phone number _____
Job Title _____ Your duties _____

Please document any other work related trades or talents. (i.e. construction, public speaking, street evangelist...)

VOLUNTEER HISTORY

Please document the last two volunteer positions you held. Use "A" below to indicate your most recent volunteer service.

A. Organization's name _____ Phone number _____
Your duties _____
Frequency of involvement (e.g. once a month) _____
Starting date: ____/____ Ending date: ____/____
 month year month year
Reason for leaving _____

B. Organization's name _____ Phone number _____
Your duties _____
Frequency of involvement (e.g. once a month) _____ S
Starting date: ____/____ Ending date: ____/____
 month year month year
Reason for leaving _____

DIOCESAN / PARISH INVOLVEMENT

Please check all that apply to you and fill in the requested information. Leave blank those choices, which do not apply.

I have been a parish member for ____ years/months.

I have worked or volunteered at _____ parish.

I have...

- taught or assisted in a religious education program in (my home parish) (another parish). please circle one
- assisted in a youth ministry/ Life Teen program in my post high school years.
- served as a lector, Eucharistic minister, alter server, and/or choir member at a parish.
- served in a parish or diocese in other capacities (i.e. coordinated or assisted with the parish festival, assisted in the
- parish or diocesan office, etc.) _____

How often do you attend Mass?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Rarely
- Never

AVAILABILITY

1. Please list any activities or commitments, which might prohibit you from being available on Sunday nights or weekend retreats. Please list dates and times of these commitments.

2. How would you feel if, after having completed the application form, interview, and/or training for the Core Team you were not selected?

3. When would you be available to meet for an interview? _____

4. Please circle your preference of volunteering: Middle School/High School/No Preference/Both

CATHOLIC / SPIRITUAL FORMATION

1. Please check all that apply to you and fill in the requested information. Leave blank those choices, which do not apply.

I am baptized

I was confirmed in the Catholic Church at the age of _____

For the past 12 months, I have met my obligation of attending Sunday liturgy and Holy Days of obligation.

I converted to Catholicism at the age of _____ from the _____ faith.

I attended a Catholic school in grades _____

I attended a Catholic college/university for _____ years.

Other than in school, I attended religious education classes in grades _____

As a junior high or senior high student, I participated in a Catholic youth ministry program in grade _____

Other religious formation I received while growing up included (i.e. RENEW, RCIA, a non-Catholic but Christian education, a non-Catholic but Christian youth ministry program, Campus Crusade, etc.)

2. Have you participated in any bible studies, religious education classes, Christian fellowship groups, etc., since you have been out of high school? Please elaborate...

3. Are you considering, or have you considered a Religious Vocation?

Yes

No

4. Youth Ministry takes part in the mission of the Parish to impart the doctrine of the faith to young people. Because of this, Youth Ministry must be faithful to the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church, regardless of personal preference. Please check whether you accept or do not accept each of the following teachings of the Catholic Church (answering “No” does not necessarily make you unqualified to be a core member):

A. Do you accept the Church’s teaching on the Holy Eucharist? The Holy Eucharist is the real Presence (Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity) of Jesus Christ and that when one receives Holy Communion, Jesus comes into the heart to dwell.

- Yes, I accept this teaching
- No, I do not accept this teaching

B. Do you accept the Church’s teaching on contraception? God designed conjugal love between a husband and wife to be a beautiful, selfless, total giving of one to the other, and is open to the transmission of life. Since acts of contraception are not selfless, not a total giving of one to the other and are not open to the transmission of life, contraception, which actually means “against conception” is inherently wrong.

- Yes, I accept this teaching
- No, I do not accept this teaching

C. Do you accept the Church’s teaching on the sanctity of life? All life is sacred and each life from the moment of conception has a right to life, therefore abortion, or any other method of barring a new life from implanting in its mother’s womb or terminating a pregnancy is inherently wrong.

- Yes, I accept this teaching
- No, I do not accept this teaching

D. Do you accept the Church’s teaching on papal infallibility? The Pope holds the keys of Saint Peter and Christ endowed the Church’s shepherds with the charism of infallibility in matters of faith and morals. When the Church through its supreme Magisterium proposes a doctrine “for belief as being divinely revealed, and as the teaching of Christ, the doctrine must be adhered to with the obedience of faith.

- Yes, I accept this teaching
- No, I do not accept this teaching

E. Do you accept the Church’s teaching on pre-marital sex? God has exclusively given the gift of intercourse to a man and woman who have pledged their lives to one another in marriage as a way of fully giving oneself to the other, being fully open to the transmission of life should God so choose to bestow this blessing

- Yes, I accept this teaching
- No, I do not accept this teaching

F. Do you accept the Church’s teaching on the Immaculate Conception? The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.

- Yes, I accept this teaching
- No, I do not accept this teaching

WHAT ARE YOUR TALENTS? (CIRCLE)

Set Design	Cooking	Retreat Staff	Prayer Ministry	Public Speaking
Resource Coordinator	Web Development	Publicity	Relational Skills	Jedi Skills
Development	AV/Tech	Artsy Fartsy	Other: _____	

PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL HISTORY

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus Christ?

Write a brief testimony about how you have come into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Include the sacraments that you have received:

Describe a way in which you have grown in your spiritual journey.

How would you describe your spiritual journey right now?

What accountability do you currently have in your spiritual journey?

What do you do when you have a conflict with someone? How do you handle confrontation?

Are there any special issues or concerns happening in your life right now that would have an impact on your commitment and involvement in the youth ministry? (e.g., relationships, other commitments, etc.)

What spiritual gifts do you feel you have, and how would you like to use them in the Youth Ministry?

Why do you want to be involved in the Youth Ministry?

What are some of your expectations of the Youth Ministry, the Life Teen staff, and the parish staff?

Safe Environment

In ministering to teens, we believe it is our responsibility to seek ministers that are able to provide healthy, safe and spiritually sound ministry. You will need to complete the diocesan background checks and Safe Environment training in order to minister to teens. All forms and class times will be provided for you.

The information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I, the undersigned, give my authorization to release any and all records or information relating to working with minors. St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Youth Ministry may contact my references and appropriate government agencies as deemed necessary in order to verify my suitability as a minister to youth. I understand that the personal information in this application will be held confidential by the professional parish staff.

Signature

today's date