



# Saint Michael's Youth Ministry Program

40 Alden Street, Cranford NJ 07016

www.saintmichaelsym.com

Instagram & Twitter: SaintMichaelsYM

Greetings to all of You! I pray that your Summer has been a time of rest and relaxation so far.

If you were not with us at our final YM Meeting back on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Year End Awards Night, CONGRATULATIONS... you were selected as one of the TEAM Leaders for the 2022-2023 St. Michael's Youth Ministry Program.

Just as over 2000 years ago Jesus took a disgruntled fishermen and told him that he would be the "rock that he would build his kingdom on", so we will look to all of you... to be that "rock" to build our program on for the next school year.

I am writing you so that you can all start making plans for our upcoming TEAM Retreat. The TEAM Leadership Retreat is a two-day planning session where we gather the teen leaders of our Youth Ministry Program to start making plans for the upcoming School year. We will discuss what is Youth Ministry, the role of the TEAM, creating a schedule, events, fundraising and overall decisions for the group and much more. We truly hope that you can attend as much of the 2 days as possible

**The retreat will be held at the St. John Paul II Youth Retreat Center (499 Belgrove Drive in Kearny) on Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup>.** Many of you are familiar with the site if you have been to the Work Camp week or went on Retreat with us. There is NO COST for you to attend this – our program covers the cost for this retreat!

**Here is the basic info for the Retreat...**

Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>, we would ask you to start arriving to St. Michael's School around 12:15pm so that we can depart and travel by bus at 12:30pm to the Retreat Center. Please make sure you eat lunch before coming, as we won't be having dinner til about 6pm. Sunday we will depart the Retreat Center at 5:30pm and return to St. Michaels around 6pm.

**VERY IMPORTANT .. I will be sending you all an email in the next few days with an IMPORTANT PRE TEAM RETREAT Quiz you must complete. This will be an educational tool that we will use for TEAM this year, and help us immensely in our work.**

If anyone else has a conflict (sports, vacations, work, etc.) please email or text me - we REALLY are hoping and planning that ALL of you can attend this important time together. Schedule off for work, let coaches know, etc.

Attached/ enclosed you will find a permission slip for the Overnight. Please bring it with you so we can collect them all on that Saturday afternoon.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to call/ text me via my cell at 908-447-4948, or email me at [rich@saintmichaelsym.com](mailto:rich@saintmichaelsym.com)

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 20<sup>th</sup> ...

Peace,

<p><b><u>Packing List for the TEAM Retreat</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comfortable Clothes ... we will be moving around</li> <li>• Sleeping Bag/ or Sheets &amp; Blanket</li> <li>• A Pillow</li> <li>• Shower Stuff (towels, soap, toothbrush etc.)</li> </ul>
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Good afternoon, TEAM!

An important part of being on the St. Michael's Youth Ministry Team is learning about how God has already gifted you with your own unique strengths and abilities. Whether you believe it or not, God has created all of the amazings that makes you, you!

For the upcoming TEAM Retreat next weekend, and to help us learn how we are all made unique with special gifts and talents we are going to use a tool to help us this year. **We are asking each one of you to complete BY THIS FRIDAY August 19th the Gallup Strength Finders Assessment.**

The Gallup Strengths Assessment (or quiz) offers our Youth Ministry TEAM Leaders a way to look at how YOU were created and then work to bring your gifts and abilities to the forefront as we serve together at St. Michaels.

Over the next few days when you have about 30 minutes, please take your Strengthsfinder Assessment. I would ask that you complete it no later than Friday August 19th by lunchtime!

### **Here is what you need to do**

#1 Go to: **STRENGTHS ASSESSMENT**. (click on it for the link) or go to <https://www.strengthsquest.com/registration/default.aspx>

#2 Copy and Paste the special Access Code that has been purchased and assigned for you to complete this assessment. PLEASE make sure you copy and paste the right one. Each Access code was assigned specifically to you and can only be used once after it is accessed.

First Name	Last Name	Access Code
Olivia	Bufkin	A6E6S3M2H6N5R5
Nora	Cumiskey	B5R8N3Y4T5M7X5
Owen	Cumiskey	Y6Q2X4P5T9D7J9
Aidan	Frese	H6Y3C7F8Q6R6P5
Kristen	Fries	C6Q4Q5D4M4D8R8
Kate	Garcia	Z9N2K4Z8Y6H4Q3
Owen	Giblin	M8G2J6E3E4R4T8
Matthew	Goldate	T5S4N3N8K6C3W3
Jane	Howlett	K2H6G7Y3X2G5C3
Danny	Kennedy	D4K5C5R7A6Y4W9
Eric	Kimball	R6F9B7P7R6M2D8
Meaghan	Laniewski	Q4D7X9E8G7J2X4
Reagan	Leahy	Z6F7R5C5P7N9E7
Angela	Marino	S7M7D4M4T9X4Y5
Ryan	McCarthy	Q3S3K9B8F8C5Y6
Neil	McGovern	E9E8T2R3C9D2D4
Olivia	Padovano	M6M9D4T3N9A7F6
Aila	Riera	F8D8M6Q7C2C7E5
Kianna	Riera	X9T8W7X6M8N3W6
James	Santulli	E6P8T8M8R5K7S4
Isabella	Stappas	S5J7H6Y5Y8A2Q4

#3 They will ask you to create an account. Please do that. That will allow you to access your results at any time and also will give you some tools for you and your parents to look through together. If you have any questions, please give me a call, or shoot me an email or text. **PLEASE REMEMBER to complete this no later than Friday August 19<sup>th</sup> by lunch time.**

Looking forward to seeing how God has uniquely created you!



# St. Michael's Youth Ministry TEAM Retreat

## August 20-21, 2022



### Saturday

12:15pm Arrive to St. Mikes, check in with Valeria  
12:30pm Depart for St. JP II Youth Retreat Center  
1:15pm Arrive, get settled in  
1:30pm Welcome/ Prayer/ Logistics in Sacred Heart Room  
1:45pm Intro's/ Icebreakers  
2:00pm **SESSION 1 Youth Ministry 101**  
2:15pm **SESSION 2 St. Mikes YM a look @ our Program (Mission/ Vision/Structure)**  
2:30pm Break (Snack snackies, sip sippies)  
2:45pm **SESSION 3 Looking at your Gifts/ Talents**  
3:45pm Break  
4:00pm **SESSION 4 Responsibility & Leadership – Perfect Together?**  
**ASE's**  
5:30pm Break (sip sippies only)  
5:45pm **SESSION 5 Looking at your TEAM Applications**  
6:00pm **SESSION 6 Looking at our Surveys**  
6:30pm **Mass**  
7:00pm Dinner / Free Time  
8:30pm **SESSION 7 SWOT Analysis**  
9:00pm **SESSION 8 Program Storyboarding**  
9:30pm Break  
9:45pm **SESSION 9 First Night Discussion**  
10:30pm Closing Activity  
11:00pm Prayer / Snack Snackies  
11:30pm In Rooms

### Sunday

8:00am Wake Up  
8:30am Breakfast  
9:15am Prayer/ Ice Breaker  
9:30am **SESSION 10 Witnessing**  
10:30am **SESSION 11 SKITS**  
11:30am **SESSION 12 Running Small Groups**  
12:30pm Lunch – pack your stuff up / clean rooms  
1:30pm **SESSION 13 Calendaring**  
2:30pm Break (final Snack snackies)  
2:45pm **SESSION 14 TEAM Committees and Plans**  
3:45pm Break  
4:00pm **SESSION 15 Advertising/ Recruitment Discussion**  
4:30pm **SESSION 16 Program Stuff to Discuss**  
Cow Wear/ St. Mike Feast / NCYC / JH YM/ ???  
5:00pm **SESSION 17 NEXT STEPS / WRAP UP**  
5:30pm Depart for St. Mikes  
6:00pm Done... Go and Spread the Good News!

## Blessing of Leadership

### Call to Worship:

Lord, we place ourselves before you with grateful hearts. You have been present with us as we discerned the gifts and talents of our community. We now ask you to enable us to share your spirit with those who have been raised up as leaders - those who will enable us to fulfill our mission. Send your spirit's gifts into the hearts of all gathered here.

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 1: 4-10 ... The prophetic call to leadership  
Matthew 18: 1-5 ... Who is the greatest?

### Silent reflection:

### Prayer of Blessing:

May the God of Prayer be with you, sharing intimately in the secrets of God's heart. And may you respond through the Spirit with the gift of yourself. May the blessing of prayer be with you.

**Amen**

May the God of Faith be with you, promising you miracles. And teaching you to expect them. May God show you things that can be seen in the darkness. And may your faith serve as a beacon to light the way for other pilgrims. May the blessing of faith be with you.

**Amen**

May the God of Hope be with you, inspiring, calling, inviting you to dream. And may your uplifted face and courageous spirit inspire others who have lost hope. May the blessing of hope be with you.

**Amen**

May the God of Life be with you, filling you with God's own life. As you hold it, cherish it, and allow it to grow, may you love others into life. May the blessing of life be with you.

**Amen**

May the God of Play be with you, teasing, surprising, inviting you to laugh at yourself. As you are graced by God's playfulness, may you lighten the burden of others with a smile, a laugh, a song. May the blessing of play be with you.

**Amen**

**Leader:** The community has called you forth as stewards of our hopes, our dreams, our vision, and our commitments. We promise to stand beside you in solidarity and support so that all may grow in the Lord through your ministry. May you continue to call upon the Lord for his strength and the Holy Spirit for guidance. We ask this in Jesus' name.

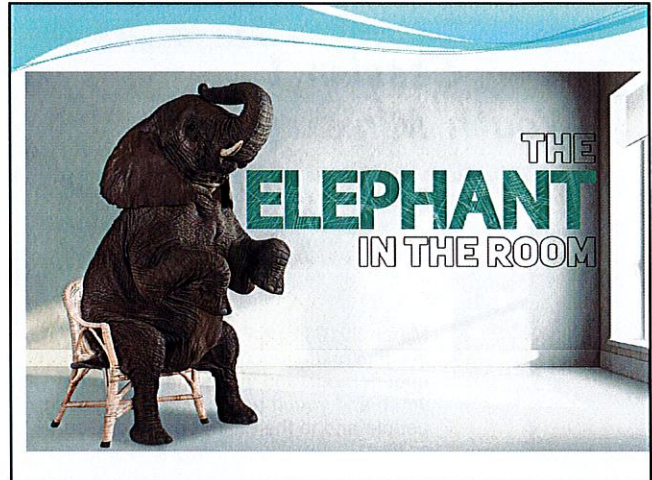
**Amen**

### Sign of Peace and Support





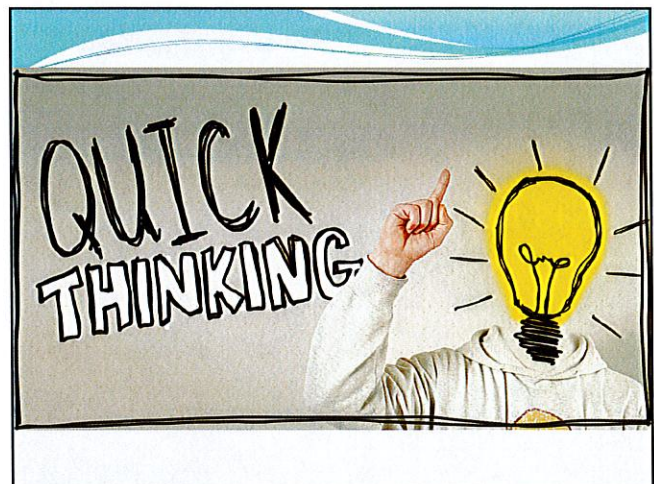
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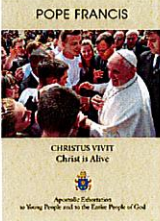
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## Session 1 Youth Ministry 101

1997 – Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry






March 2019 Pope Francis shares his insights on the accompaniment, engagement, and vocational mission of youth and young adults written "to young people and to the entire people of God."

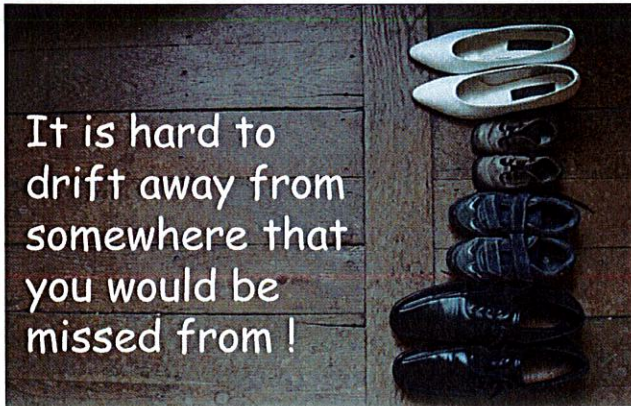
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## Understanding Today

- ❖ **The rise of the "Nones" .. 38% of 18-25 identify themselves as unaffiliated with ANY religion (Pew Research 2016)**
- ❖ **THIRTEEN is the average age Catholics stop practicing their faith (CARA 2017)**



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It is hard to drift away from somewhere that you would be missed from !

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## So... Why Do Most Teens Stay?

- ❖ **Their Families**
- ❖ **Relationships they Form**
- ❖ **Looking to or trying to make a difference**




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### Youth Ministry Is .....

- ❖ the *response* of the Christian community to the *needs* of young people
- ❖ and the *sharing* of the unique *gifts* of youth with the larger community



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### The First Goal ...

To **empower** young people to live as **disciples** of Jesus Christ in our world today

- Present Good News
- Relationship with Jesus
- Call to Discipleship
- Provide for Catechesis
- Explore Vocations

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### The Second Goal ...

To draw young people to responsible **participation** in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community.

**Four Faith Communities**

- Family
- Parish
- Among Peers and Friends
- Youth-Serving Organizations

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### The Third Goal ...

Foster the total **personal and spiritual growth** of each (and every) young person.

Healthy, competent, caring and faith-filled youth  
Spiritual needs in context of life  
Fosters

- Adolescent development
- Discipleship
- Catholic identity
- Healthy Values and Life Skills

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### Essential Characteristics for a Youth Ministry Program

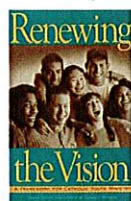
- ❖ Must Promote Holistic Growth
- ❖ Must be family and community-centered
- ❖ Must be flexible and inclusive
- ❖ Must put people first
- ❖ Must be theologically sound



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### Components of Youth Ministry

- Advocacy
- Catechesis
- Community Life
- Evangelization
- Justice and Service
- Leadership Development
- Pastoral Care
- Prayer and Worship




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### Session 2 St. Mikes YM




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## Our Mission Statement

We, the members of Saint Michaels High School Youth Ministry, come together to unify the youth of our communities. We look to make a difference by encouraging teens to live, understand, and enjoy their faith each and everyday. We are "today's youth making an impact on the world of tomorrow."




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## St. Mikes YM

❖ Some History For Y'all

- Pre 2010
- 2010-2011 Part 1 "A New Frontier"
- 2010-2018
- 2018-2019 The Beginning of the End
- 2019-2020 Part 2 - ½ a year
- 2020-2021 Part 3 - Covid
- 2021 Part 4 "The New Reality"



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## St. Mikes YM


- ❖ Our Vision – from our Website
- ❖ Our Structure
  - Coordinators of YM
  - TEAM
  - Clergy
  - Chaperones
- ❖ Space Given to Us
- ❖ Accounts



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## Levels of Leadership

- Level 1 I do, You Watch – OBSERVED
- Level 2 I do, You Do – SHARED
- Level 3 You do, I watch – TRAINED
- Level 4 You do, I do something else - OWNED
- Level 5 You do and develop someone else - MULTIPLIED



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### Benefits of Teen Leadership

- Ownership of the Program
- Life Skills Training
- Enhanced self-worth and growth
- Broad distribution of work
- Youth Ministry Continuity
- Good Role Model
- Youth Evangelization
- Increases Youth Visibility



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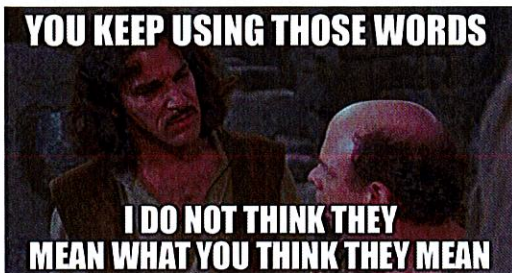
### Draw Backs of Teen Leadership

- Teen Based Leadership/ Ministry is slower than Adult Leader based
- Higher Failure Rate
- Other teens might not but into “youth-based approach”



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### Session 3 Responsibility & Leadership



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# Controlling vrs Servant

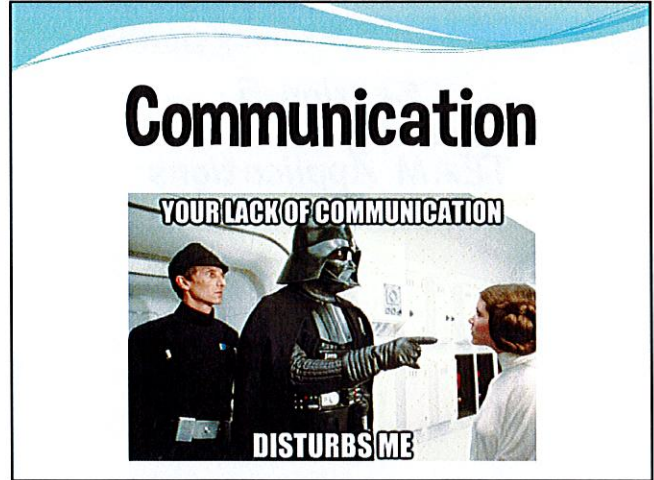
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**SERVE**  
**DISCIPLINE**  
**CHARACTER**  
**INTELLIGENT**

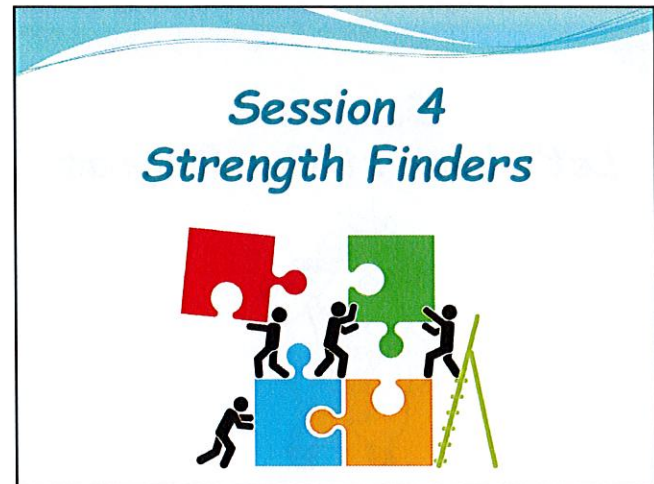
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**VERBAL**  
**VISUAL**  
**PHYSICAL**  
**INTUITIVE**

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**Session 5**  
**Looking at Your**  
**TEAM Applications**



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**Session 6**  
**Looking at our Surveys**



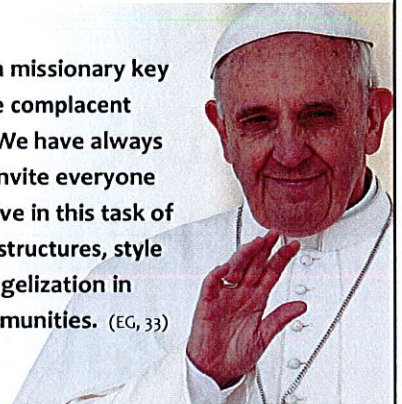
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**Session 7**  
**Let's Look at Our Program**



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Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: "We have always done it this way." I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities. (EG, 33)




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(3)

**Session 8**  
**Storyboarding**



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**The Holy Father ...**



“Do not fear change, it is in the nature of the missionary church. Change and reform is in the very nature of a church that is called to be missionary, in a world that is experiencing a change of epoch.”

**Pope Francis Address to the Cardinals, Bishops & ranking officials of the Roman Curia  
December 21, 2019**


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**Session 9**  
**First Night Discussion**



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**Session 10**  
**St Mike YM Hodgepodge**



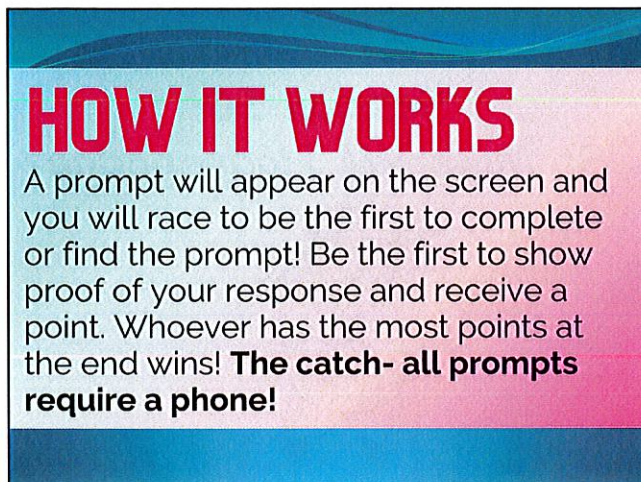
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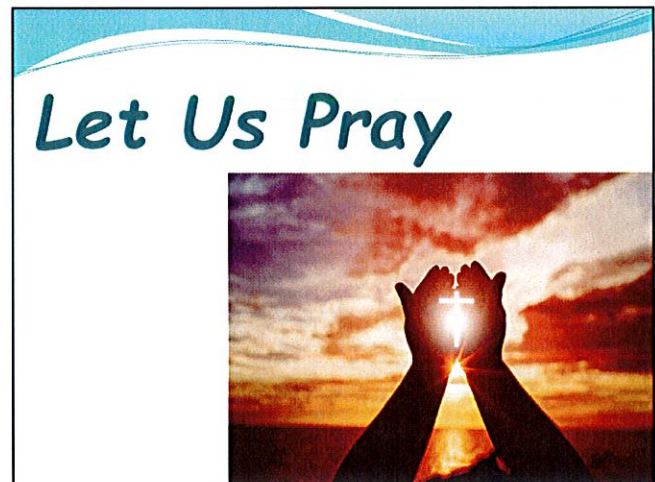
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**Session 11**  
**Witnessing**



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**Session 12**  
**Skits**



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**Session 13**  
**Running Small Groups**



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**What are Small Groups?**

- where members shouldn't be afraid to share
- where members are not made fun of or put down

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- **It's NOT ABOUT YOU!** You are trying to lead teens closer to Christ
- **Be Yourself!** Don't be over excited, a creeper or a dead fish!
- **Arrange your Seating..**group leaders should sit apart .. Its should look like a "us and you" thing

45

- **Be Prepared!** Know Questions and whats going on. It's a **DISCUSSION .. NOT an INTEREGATION!**
- **Use open ended questions..** Try NOT to make it a "yes" or "no" type discussion. Use "why" or "how" so they can explain and you can listen

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- **CONFIDENTIALITY!** What is said in small groups should stay in small groups! \*\*if something is said that could put them or someone in harm you **MUST** tell Rich so we can get them help!
- **LISTEN!** Ask questions – listen for answers!

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- **Stay Faithful to the Catholic Church !** \*if questions comes up and you don't know ask us – or tell them you will find answer and get back to them – **DO NOT** use what you feel it should be as the answer.

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**Session 14**  
**Calendaring**



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**Session 15**  
**TEAM Committees**



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**Session 16**  
**Advertising/ Recruitment**



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**What if**  
**St. Mikes YM**  
**promoted**  
**itself like**  
**Starbucks?**



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- ❖ To Take Care of Their Customers
- ❖ They know the exact demographic that they are reaching
- ❖ "The Third Place"
- ❖ They are constantly communicating the "why" & their core values
- ❖ "People don't buy what you do... they buy why you do it!"




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## Session 17 Program Stuff



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## Session 18 Next Steps



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**Youth Ministry  
Commissioning Prayer**

**Presider** You have been chosen to become a member of the Youth Ministry Leadership Group. We are grateful for your willingness to give your time and talent to the task of ministering to, with, by and for the young people of our Parish.

I ask you now, are you prepared to work together in this ministry and to be guided by the Holy Spirit in all your actions?

**TEENS:** We Are

**Presider:** (to those assembled) I ask you, the parishioners of our parish, will you pray for these young people and offer them support as they assume the task of serving the needs of the youth of St. \_\_\_\_\_ Parish?

**Assembly:** We Will.

**Presider:** Youth Ministry is important to us and to our young people, and we know with your help, our ministry in the Parish will be a success. So, I ask you now, are you prepared to work in service to the youth of St. \_\_\_\_\_ Parish?

**TEENS:** We Are

**Presider:** Almighty God, send your blessing upon the members of our Parish Youth Ministry Leadership Group and guide them as they carry out your will. May their words and actions lead our young people into a closer relationship with your son, Jesus Christ. We pray that they may be strengthened by the love of Christ. We ask this, as we ask all thing in your name..

**All:** Amen

# Blessing on St \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Ministry Teen Leaders



(Please ask the teens to stand and come forward)

## Call to Worship:

You have been chosen to become a member of the Youth Ministry Leadership TEAM here at St. \_\_\_\_\_ Parish. We are grateful for your willingness to give your time and talent to the task of ministering to, with, by and for the young people of our Parish.

## Prayer of Blessing:

May the God of Prayer be with you, sharing intimately in the secrets of God's heart. And may you respond through the Spirit with the gift of yourself. May the blessing of prayer be with you all. We ask this in your name - **Amen**

May the God of Faith be with you, promising you miracles. And teaching you to expect them. May God show you things that can be seen in the darkness. And may your faith serve as a beacon to light the way for other teens. May the blessing of faith be with you. We ask this in your name - **Amen**

May the God of Hope be with you, inspiring, calling, inviting you to dream. And may your uplifted face and courageous spirit inspire others who have lost hope. May the blessing of hope be with you. We ask this in your name - **Amen**

May the God of Life be with you, filling you with God's own life. As you hold it, cherish it, and allow it to grow, may you love others into life. May the blessing of life be with you. We ask this in your name - **Amen**

Almighty God send your blessing upon the members of this our Parish Youth Ministry Leadership Group and guide them as they carry out your will. May their words and actions lead our young people into a closer relationship with your son, Jesus Christ. May they grow in their faith this year and be committed to service to all.

And may almighty God bless each one of you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**AMEN**

**Sign of Support – Applause**