

High School, Confirmation & Junior High Youth Ministry

Dear Families and Friends:

August, 2009

We are very excited about the new school year with several exciting plans. Our hope is that you find a place where you can participate and have your faith renewed.

New Youth Mass Sundays 5:00 p.m. beginning Sept 13

One size does not fit all. One of the greatest challenges of today is to help young people appreciate the Catholic Mass. The purpose of this Mass is to feed them spiritually so they will take Christ into their everyday life. We hope you'll agree. The music will be contemporary, the Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Ushers will be teens and the homily will be *directed to teenagers*. Please join your children and come September 13!

Our New Priest!

Over the summer, Father Sean Rogers came to us from Ukiah. He's really very young (35), only became a priest two years ago, grew up in Santa Rosa, is the oldest of eight children, and because he played football for Notre Dame, Father Gary introduces him as his bodyguard. We're already planning for him to help us with youth ministry and once you meet him, you'll see why he's a natural fit with our teenagers. If you haven't met him, please introduce yourself.



Mexico Trip:

An expression of our Catholic identity is traveling to where the poor and marginalized dwell. This opportunity is transformative, faith based, cultural, and educational. Students will live in dorms next to an orphanage where they learn about and care for the children besides helping with a work project. We will need 1 adult to five students and can take up to 35 HS youth. If you're interested, mark your calendars for the week after Easter. Check emails for an informational meeting coming up.

Connecting to teens:

I invite you to one of the most enriching experiences you can have—sharing faith with teenagers. When I began volunteering several years ago with parish teens, I had no idea of the love, joy and fulfillment that would become a part of my life. I was nervous that “they wouldn't like me.” I was afraid that “I wasn't qualified.” But I quickly found that “being qualified” had a lot to do with caring, listening, and being there and a little to do with knowledge and training. Teens and God renew our own faith and help us connect to the important things in life. We hope you'll consider working on some of the projects listed on our form. It does take a whole parish.

Relay for Life:

Junior High and High School youths are welcome to sign up for the Petaluma Relay for Life Sept. 19th at Casa Grande High School beginning at 10:00 a.m. Both junior high and high school youth may sign up for the day and if high schoolers raise at least \$100, they may stay until the event ends at 10:00 Sunday morning. Our goals are to raise money, join the fight against cancer and have fun. Go to http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=13862&pg=teamlst Click: **St. Vincent Youth Ministry**, Click **Join Team** then Click **Team Member Registration**. It's free to sign up. Fill out your information and send your friends and family to your page so they can pledge their support. Parents and families welcome!

Other Service Projects:

Let us know your ideas for service projects that you can help us with. The one in Dec. will be decided by the group once we begin our sessions. I look forward to partnering with you and God in loving your children and sharing our faith with them. God bless!

Call us if you know someone who would appreciate receiving this mailing.

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