

Archdiocese of Atlanta Youth Ministry

Office of Religious Education Mission Statement:

The Archdiocese of Atlanta Office of Religious Education (ORE) has as its mission service to our Archbishop, as he responds to the Gospel call to "go and make disciples of all nations." Office Members:

- Promote life-long formation in the Catholic faith, through age-appropriate religious education, Sacramental formation, and catechetical leadership training.
- Remain faithful to the message and the messenger, Jesus Christ, the teaching authority of the Holy Father, the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, and our Archbishop.
- Respond to the educational, Sacramental formation, and other needs of pastors and other clergy, as well as religious education staffs and other agencies, groups, and individuals of the Archdiocese, sensitive also to multicultural and disabled interests.

Youth Office Mission Statement:

The mission of the Youth Office of the Archdiocese of Atlanta is to serve the needs of middle and high school teens and the adults who minister to/with them in our parishes and schools by providing resources, training, networking and direct service programming.

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Population Served: **Middle School and High School Teens in parishes and schools and the adults who minister to/with them**

ARCHDIOCESAN PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (C.L.I.)

- Week-long retreat experience for high school teens to develop and refine skills in the areas of leadership, problem solving, effective communication, personal spirituality, group dynamics, etc.
- Includes participants from various parishes - approximately 100 students total
- Offered annually during the month of July
- Approximate cost is \$325.00, which includes lodging, meals and all supplies
- Contact the Youth Office for more information

SEARCH FOR CHRISTIAN MATURITY (SEARCH Retreats)

- Weekend Retreat experience for High School Teens
- Sessions focus on developing self confidence, building community, and growing in one's faith and relationship with Christ - All talks and sessions are led by High School Teens
- Special focus for teens from rural parishes
- Offered two during the year - usually in Winter and Spring
- Approximate cost is \$90.00, which includes lodging, meals and all supplies
- Contact the Youth Office for more information

SONFEST

- Five day beach retreat for high school students - held in Fort Walton, FL
- Approximately 500 participants representing 30 parishes
- Offered annually during the month of June
- Approximate cost is \$450.00, which includes lodging, meals and transportation
- Contact the Youth Office for more information

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

- Held on the Saturday before the Feast of Corpus Christi
- Annual day-long youth rally
- Focus in evangelization and Eucharistic renewal
- National Speakers
- Open to Middle and High School youth

EXALT (XLT)

- Praise & Worship
- Music
- Adoration
- Short teaching
- Tuesday nights during the school year

CHALLENGE OF THE YOUTH GROUPS

- Day-long sports and field day type activities
- Approximately 200 participants representing 20 parishes
- Offered annually during the spring
- Approximate registration cost is \$100.00 per parish team
- Open to Middle School parish teams
- Contact the Youth Office for more details and specific information

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH RALLIES

- Day-long rallies where students have the chance to build community with one another while participating in fun activities, thought provoking sessions / talks, and spirit-filled liturgies
- Attendance is anywhere between 300 to 500 students from all parishes
- Annual event usually held in November
- Cost per person varies according to venue and activities / meals planned (approximately \$25.00)
- Contact the Youth Office for dates and more information

CATHOLIC YOUTH and FAMILY DAY AT SIX FLAGS

- Day-long "Rally" where Catholic students and families spend time with one another enjoying the attractions of Six Flags
- Held annually in the spring
- Attendance is anywhere between 1000 to 2000 students from the Archdiocese and surrounding states
- Open to Middle and High School students, young adults and whole families
- Cost is approximately \$40.00 per person, and includes entrance to the park, all rides, buffet lunch, Mass and parking
- Contact the Youth Office for more information

WORLD YOUTH DAY ACTIVITIES

- Activities planned to coincide with World Youth Day - varies annually
- In the past, groups of young people have traveled to Denver, Paris, Rome and Toronto to participate in the International celebration of WYD
- In 2010 the Office of Youth Ministry and Young Adult Office will sponsor a trip for 18 year olds and up to World Youth Day in Spain
- Contact the Youth Office for more details

STEUBENVILLE ATLANTA

- Weekend Gathering / Rally for young people from the Archdiocese and surrounding areas
- Sponsored by Franciscan University of Steubenville and National Life Teen
- Usually held third weekend of July
- Approximately cost \$125.00 plus hotel
- Contact the Youth Office for information

RISE UP

- Open to all Middle School youth
- Held on 4 to 6 Saturday's through out the school year at different locations around the Archdiocese (6:30-9pm)
- Worship music, ice breakers, games and a speaker

SUPER SERVICE SATURDAY

- A day of service and reflection for Middle School age youth
- Held annually in January
- Parishes are encouraged to do service projects within their community and teach about Catholic social justice.
- Days should consist of Prayer, Worship, Service project and reflection

OTHER PROGRAMS OF INTEREST FOR TEENS:

NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE (NCYC)

- National Youth Conference sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM)
- Held bi-annually in November in different locations around the country (next Conference is in Kansas City, Mo - November 2009)
- Cost is dependent upon transportation means and location of conference(estimate \$750)
- Contact the Youth Office for information

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- The Youth Office works in conjunction with various local groups and agencies to provide service and outreach experiences for middle and high school teens
- Previous activities include: The Souper Bowl, The Hunger Walk, The AIDS Walk, Habitat For Humanity, March For Life, etc.
- The Archdiocese works in conjunction with Mission Honduras, Mustard Seed and Amigos for Christ to promote mission trips among parish youth groups

ARCHDIOCESAN OFFERINGS FOR YOUTH MINISTERS:

CERTIFICATION / METHODOLOGY CLASSES

- Training offered for the professional Youth Minister and all volunteers involved with Middle School and High School ministry
- Offered in various formats and settings throughout the year
- Contact the Youth office for more details and upcoming dates and locations

YOUTH MINISTRY INSTITUTE – YMI

- Weekend retreat atmosphere where adults involved in Youth Ministry receive necessary certification training, have the opportunity to network and socialize with their peers, and participate in communal meals and worship
- Held annually during the month of August at a local Retreat Center or parish
- Cost per person approximately \$35.00 if in parish and \$85.00 if at retreat center
- Contact the Youth Office for details

CORE MEMBER UNIVERSITY

- Ongoing training for Youth Ministers and Core teams sponsored by Life Teen and supported by the Archdiocese
- Held usually in fall or early winter in a local parish
- Cost approximately \$75.00

YOUTH WORKERS RETREAT

- Weekend Retreat for adults involved in Youth Ministry in the Archdiocese, a time for personal renewal and relaxation
- Offered annually, either in the February or March
- Cost approximately \$85.00
- Contact the Youth Office for more details and dates

NETWORKING (2:42) OPPORTUNITIES

- Monthly gatherings where Archdiocesan Youth Ministers have the chance to come together, pray, share insights and ideas with one another, discuss and plan future events, and share a meal
- Co-sponsored by local Life Teen
- Held quarterly from in various parishes throughout the Archdiocese
- Contact the Youth Office for dates and information

IN-SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- Held a couple times a year
- Speakers brought in to help youth ministry teams face the challenges of adolescence (counseling, pregnancy, drug and alcohol awareness, learning disabilities, service opportunities, etc.)
- Contact Youth Office for dates and to register

DAYS OF SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

- Sponsored by the Office of Religious Education
- Day long Mini-Retreat offered during Lent and Advent for Adults involved in Ministry
- Participants participate in presentations, discussions, personal reflection time, communal worship, and a shared meal
- Contact the Youth Office or the Office of Religious Education for dates and information

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY (NCCYM)

- Bi-annual conference for Youth Ministers and other Adults working with teens
- Sponsored by the National Federation For Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM)
- Typically held in December in alternating locations around the country
- Next December in 2010 in New Orleans

OTHER SERVICES OFFERED:

RESOURCING PARISHES AND MINISTERS

- Provide program resources, information, assistance, evaluation, and direction at the request of Pastors, DRE's, Youth Ministers, Campus Ministers, and Parish Councils
- Assistance in Retreat planning and organization
- Assisting in developing "Total Youth Ministry" programs in parishes
- Provide communication on the latest "trends" in Ministry from regional and national organizations

WORKSHOPS

- Renewing the Vision
- Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens
- Volunteer/Core training

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

- Provide Sacramental Guidelines Workshops
- Provide resources for Sacramental preparation for teens, especially Confirmation
- Assistance and resources for Confirmation Retreats - planning, organization, and presentation

ADVOCACY AND LIAISON FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

- Assist in keeping communication open and ongoing between the Archbishop's Office and the Archdiocesan Youth Programs
- Serve as Liaison between Archdiocesan Organizations and Parish Youth Programs such as St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Social Services, etc.

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

- Local committee of the national organization serving the needs of Catholics involved in Scouting programs in the
- Archdiocese of Atlanta
- The Youth Office serves as liaison between the Scouting organizations, the Archbishop's Office and parish youth programs

RESOURCES

- Catechesis Material
- Prayer Services
- Life Teen Material
- Social / Icebreaker Resources
- Justice and Service Resources
- Video Library
- Multicultural Resources
- Consultant for Hispanic Youth Ministry

WEB SITE AND NEWSLETTER

- www.atlyouth.org
- Monthly newsletter sent out each month to all Youth Ministers by email.

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