

Report for St. Ignatius Parish Pastoral Council
Teen Ministry
November 2018

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Summary & Role:

- The Teen Ministry Program is for our high school age community members to have a place they can continue to understand their faith, a safe place to ask questions about their own personal struggles and to grow in community with others their age outside the classroom. After Confirmation we lose a chunk of our teens because they feel they are done with their faith learning/understanding. This ministry is built to show them how important it is to take just a bit of time each month to talk about their faith, to see how their faith can be a part of their everyday lives.
- One meeting per month on a Sunday, 4-5:15 PM. About 15-20 teens typically attend.

Leadership & participants:

- Our participants are high schoolers from the Catholic and public high schools. All are welcomed; we have an open door policy to ensure everyone feels included.
- Part-time paid staff (10 hours/month, currently Maggie), who works with Catechetical Ministry director (currently Fatima) and pastor (Fr Mike) to determine programming and activities done outside the parish
- Two young adult volunteers, a woman and a man who are former members of the Newman Community and have both worked with high school programs for several years, also help with programming

Budget:

- Income: Registration fees (\$25); November pie sale fundraiser (~\$700 raised last year)
- Expenses: pizza, subsidies for LA Youth Day trip
- Other expenses paid directly by families

Communication:

- Publicized at St. Ignatius (bulletin, website)
- Word of mouth
- Ask teens to bring friends who would benefit from the group

What we do well:

- Annual community & team building retreat held on a Saturday (at ropes course, Aquatics Center or similar)
- Annual trip to LA Youth Day, a one-day conference at Anaheim Convention Center with 10,000 teen participants. Only teens who have been participating in the program and fundraising for the year are allowed to go. Trip is 2 nights, fly down, spend full day at conference which includes workshops on social justice, faith, being Catholic, and Mass with the bishop; followed by an evening at Disneyland. Cost is about \$415 per teen, partially offset by Pie Sale fundraiser.
- We work with the teens to make the program what they want

How we struggle:

- Parents don't think the faith of their kids needs to be nurtured and a part of their daily lives
- Parents think once kids are confirmed, they're done
- Kids are busy and don't make time for this now

"But I continue to talk, work with the teens who come, ask them to be present. They do and each time we meet we can get one more person glad they took this time for themselves."

What we need, what we ask of the Parish:

- Continued support
- Realize importance of constantly nourishing your faith
- Be examples for families
- Talk about this program and others
- Let people know this is not "Maggie talking at them" it's Maggie asking questions and listening and helping them grow