

## **Convention Report on Youth Ministry**

For almost two years, it has been my honor and privilege to serve as the interim coordinator of youth ministry for our diocese.

In 2024, the Youth Ministry organized 3 events and 2 retreats. These events include Bishop's Ball, an afternoon at the arcade and a board game day. Glory be to God, Happening #11 was held at the end of February for 10th-12th graders after a 5 year hiatus. Our second post COVID New Beginnings, a retreat for 6th-9th graders, just wrapped up. Thanks to Summer Camp Director, Marcus Green, I was able to visit with campers and camp staff during the summer as well as help with some staff training.

At the end of the school year, we had 5 seniors graduate and move on from DCYM (Diocesan Commission for Youth Ministry). While it was hard to lose our amazing graduates, it was exciting to share what being a part of DCYM looks like. We had fifteen 9th-12th graders apply to join DCYM. A sub committee of the Next Gen Pillar aided in speaking with rectors, youth ministers and camp staff members and ultimately helped discern 5 applicants to join. We have had a busy fall, meeting no less than once a month. We have been learning about servant leadership, planning our events and retreats for this school year and even making some church visits to promote youth ministry. Would you like us to come visit your church next? We'd love to!

There is a lot coming up for the youth of our diocese! First up in December is Youth Rally at Camp Crucis. This retreat is for 6th-12th graders and even though it's only one night, it holds a lot of punch! We jampack the retreat with a lot of fun activities, a bonfire, theme sessions, small groups, daily offices, benediction and mass. Our theme this year is "After God's Own Heart" where we'll be studying the life of David as a prelude to Summer Camp's soon-to-be announced theme. Last year we had 79 participants and the hope is to have just as many this year, if not more. Bishop's Ball, Happening #12 and a Chicken 'N Pickle event are all things coming this spring as well!

Please pray for us. For the youth of our diocese, DCYM, the adults and clergy working for and with our youth and our ministry. I humbly request prayers for myself as well; that I may do the work God has called me to do, to reflect His light and be His hands and feet.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Mecca