

Convention Report on Youth Ministry

I am humbled and grateful to continue serving as the Coordinator of Youth Ministry for our diocese, focusing on spiritual formation and community building for our 6th-12th graders through retreats, events, and opportunities to study God's Word.

Ministry Accomplishments

There were 10 total gatherings (7 events and 3 retreats) this past year, fostering deep engagement and fellowship across the diocese.

Events:

- **Annual Gatherings:** Bishop's Ball, which had 75 attendees, and the Senior Graduation Celebration.
- **Fellowship Events:** Recreational outings were successfully held for high schoolers (Top Golf) and middle schoolers (Pool Day), alongside a successful Pickleball outing at Chicken 'N Pickle for both middle and high schoolers.
- **Praise and Pies:** This new event, which invites 6th-12th graders and their families to attend Mass at a host church followed by pizza and fellowship, has been a huge success, strengthening bonds between youth and adults from different parishes.

Retreat Highlights:

- **Youth Rally:** Held the first weekend in December at Camp Crucis, we had 71 participants and 21 adult volunteers come out for fellowship, fun, worship and learning.
- **Happening #12:** Held in February, this retreat served 26 10th-12th graders, proving to be a pivotal weekend for many as their faith grows alongside their knowledge and appreciation of Anglican traditions.
- **New Beginnings:** Hosted by St. Alban's in October, this retreat had 30 6th-9th graders registered and 13 high school staff members. We discussed more about growing their relationships with God, their parents, siblings and peers plus enjoyed fellowship and games!

Strategic Growth and Distributed Leadership

Two key initiatives launched this year were aimed at improving accessibility and developing youth leadership across our geographically widespread diocese.

1. **Zoom Bible Study:** Per the request of the youth, we launched a Zoom Bible Study on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. This successfully overcomes geographic barriers, connecting attendees from Midland to Georgetown, to grow in our knowledge of the Word and with each other.

2. **Youth Sub-Committees:** In partnership with the Next Generation Pillar Leaders, we discerned an opportunity to create three sub-committees (for New Beginnings, Youth Rally, and Bishop's Ball) to support the Diocesan Commission for Youth Ministry (DCYM).
 - This model allows 10th-12th graders, who may have less availability, to commit to the specific events they are most passionate about.
 - The New Beginnings sub-committee successfully involved six 10th-12th graders from five different churches, demonstrating the effectiveness of this distributed leadership model. We are excited to see how this initiative continues to bring youth together to serve and grow.

Looking Ahead

Our calendar is full for the remaining school year:

- **Youth Rally, Dec 6-7, 2025:** This one-night retreat at Camp Crucis for 6th-12th graders is packed with fun activities, theme sessions, small groups, benediction, daily offices and mass.
- **Spring Calendar:** We are planning for Bishop's Ball, Happening #13, two Praise and Pies events, a middle school event, a high school event, and the Senior Graduation Celebration.

I humbly request your prayers for our youth and leaders, that we may successfully pass on the fire and not ashes to the next generation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Mecca