

August 26, 2011

Praise Be Jesus Christ!

I pray you had a great summer and are enjoying your last few days before everyone is back in school. Many of our teens have already been practicing for their fall sports – and I wish them all the best. As in previous years, Father and I will try to come and support them at their various events and activities throughout the year. It is always helpful if you or your child emails me their sports schedule, or date of concert or play, so I can add it to my calendar and hopefully be there to support them.

We are very excited about our upcoming High School Youth Ministry year. We have spent a lot of time praying and talking over what we want to share with our teens on Wednesday evenings this fall, and have planned a great year for them.

Looking back at the success for our summer camp, Camp Veritas, reading through all of the comment forms, and listening to the feedback we received from teens and parents, it became quite apparent as to where our focus should be. Our main focus will follow right along with the theme of the camp, “Lord, Teach Us To Pray”. Our year will focus mainly on Prayer, The Blessed Virgin Mary, and leading a pure and chaste life style.

“He who neglects mental prayer needs not the devil to carry him to hell, but he brings himself there with his own hands.” – Saint Theresa of Avila

I came upon the above quote by St. Theresa several years ago, and it still rings loud in my mind. St. Theresa is one of three women saints who have been declared “Doctor of the Church,” and a great deal of her writings focused on prayer. Many of our teens have a good prayer life and will be encouraged to go even deeper. For those who don’t, this will be a great springboard for them.

The most common theme on the survey for topics to cover at next summer’s Camp Veritas was Mary, with purity being second. While the theme for next summer has not been set, we wanted to take time this year to cover these important topics. Speaking of Camp Veritas, the dates for 2012 are August 5-9 for grades 9-12 and August 13-17 for grades 6-8. Please encourage your child to attend – you will not be disappointed!

Please prayerfully visit with your teen(s) and sign them up to be involved in our Faith Formation / Youth Ministry program this fall. You will notice that there is NO COST for this great program, just their time and dedication. That being said, it does help us plan for the upcoming year by having you pre-register your teen. As with everything else, please also encourage them to invite a friend or two to any of our events.

Our first gathering will be on Wednesday evening, September 14th, at 7:15pm for the dinner and social, with the gathering time beginning at 7:45pm and concluding at 9pm. We will welcome back

Nationally-acclaimed speaker, Sean Dalton, as he visits with the teens about “*Do You Have Jesus on Your Speed Dial*”? Sean is an amazing speaker who just returned from being a Master of Ceremonies at World Youth Day in Spain!

We have several other great gatherings scheduled throughout the year, ranging from paintball (September 18th – get your forms in ASAP) and Sky Zone, to open youth rooms, Rosaries for Life, and hopefully a ski outing. Please check the website under the “Parish Faith Formation” and “Youth Ministry” sections and the bulletin for the latest information and registration forms.

Enclosed you will find a Faith Formation registration form, along with a fall youth ministry calendar and Youth Ministry Kickoff event flier. Please turn your registration form into the parish office as soon as possible, or you can also mail it to the parish office, Attn: Ryan Heim, to help us better prepare for the upcoming year. Also, paintball registration forms are available on the website; the registration deadline is Thursday, September 15th – your teen will not want to miss out on our annual paintball outing for grades 7-12!!!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at rheim@cspap.org or 479-2810 or Sherry at ymreasst@cspap.org or 479-2813. I look forward to seeing all of our teens again in a few weeks at the Kickoff, and then being blessed to continue to grow in our faith together on Wednesday evenings during our Faith Formation program.

Yours In Christ,

Ryan

Enclosures