



DIOCESE OF WINONA-ROCHESTER

YOUTH MINISTRY AND FAITH FORMATION
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- YOUTH LEADERSHIP
- TOTUS TUUS MISSIONARIES NEEDED
- NEXT FIRE MEETING

QUICK LINKS:

FEBRUARY 2022



FAMILY FORMATION WORKSHOP

Family Formation is based out of the Church of St. Paul in Ham Lake, MN, and they are hosting an experiential workshop to learn more about their family faith formation resources on Saturday, Mar. 5 from 8:30am - 3:00pm. Come and see how Family Formation builds disciples through the domestic church. This workshop is free, and located at the Church of St. Paul in Ham Lake. For more information please visit familyformation.net.



INTO THE DEEP THEOLOGY OF THE BODY RETREATS

Into the Deep Retreats infuse outdoor adventures with Theology of the Body insight. They offer outdoor activities for families, couples, middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adults. Bring a group or promote to your parish for individual registration, and find out more about I.D. (Into the Deep) Retreats at idretreats.org/why-outdoors.



VOCATIONS AWARENESS

It's never too early to talk about Vocations with young people. Vianney Vocations is offering a new VBS program called Vocation Bible School. For more information, see vocationbibleschool.com. IHM Seminary is also hosting a Come and See for high school or older men on March 12-14 and March 19-21. For more information, contact Fr. Jason Kern at jkern@dowr.org.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



It is not uncommon to hear the saying, "Youth are the future of the church." While this is very true, we cannot forget that youth *are* the church *right now*. How can we empower young people, especially confirmed teenagers, to be leaders in their church today?

You may already have pipelines for youth leadership in your parish. I've seen this played out in many ways through youth-led events, groups, or other initiatives. Youth involvement in Mass ministries (readers, greeters, ushers, choir members, etc.) speaks volumes to the wider church community and other parish youth, that there is no need to wait until they are adults to participate. Young people are hard wired to make a difference in the world, and let's help them start by making a difference in their church.

With any leadership role, it is wise to offer training to help our leaders feel more confident in their role. One avenue of youth leadership training occurs during Camp Summit, our annual Catholic adventure camp, through the Dream Team or Fiat Team. For more information on Camp Summit High School Leadership, click [HERE](#). LifeTeen is also offering a Leadership Conference for incoming juniors and seniors in high school at Benedictine College. More information can be found [HERE](#). The Benedictine Catholic Youth Conference (BCYC) also has a week long leadership conference with multiple tracks (athletic, political, Catholic, pro-life, business, etc.), and more information is [HERE](#). Let us continue empowering youth to be the church of the future and the church today!

YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED!

Do you know a young adult who loves the Lord, loves young people, and wants to serve others? If so, they would make a wonderful Totus Tuus missionary for the Diocese of Winona-Rochester this summer. Totus Tuus Missionary applications are due Mar. 1. Each Totus Tuus team is made up of two women and two men who lead youth at a local parish in a week long camp focusing on the Mysteries of the Rosary and Virtues. Named after Pope St. John Paul II's Papal Motto, Totus Tuus means "Totally Yours," which speaks to our need to give our lives over to the Bl. Mother, Mary, who always leads us to Jesus. If you know someone you would like to recommend to be a Totus Tuus Missionary, visit our website (dowr.org/tt) for the Missionary Recruitment Packet, video, and application. You can also send them the direct link to apply online at <https://forms.gle/ZmMjcdRRXztHz2v2A>.



FIRE MEETING FEB. 22

Our next FIRE Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 22 from 10am to 2:15pm at Good Shepard Catholic Church (311 N Sverdrup Ave, Jackson, MN 56143). The meeting will focus on addressing growing mental health concerns in youth holistically and in conjunction with our faith. We will also be discussing gender identity and how to walk with individuals and families struggling with gender dysphoria. To register, click [HERE](#). For information on previous FIRE Meetings, click [HERE](#). For the complete FIRE Meeting schedule, click [HERE](#).



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