

Youth Ministry Sunday - Why do we celebrate in Niagara?

The primary goal of Youth Ministry Sunday is to celebrate youth ministry in our parishes and in the diocese. Each parish is unique in its approach to youth ministry. It is these efforts that we celebrate today. The celebration allows us also to thank the parishes and volunteers who support youth ministry at the diocesan level. The Diocesan Youth Ministry programs touch over 400 youth representing all six regions each year. Youth Ministry in Niagara is a vital, exciting movement encompassing a large number of people and a broad variety of programs and resources. This year we would like to highlight the new Youth Ministry Mission Statement found on the cover.

aWay An intimate spiritual retreat for youth aged 14-24 highlighting Life Changing Worship, Outstanding Leadership for Ministry, and a Continuous Culture of Innovation which takes place in takes place in January or February and is an opportunity for young people to explore their spirituality in the quiet of an intimate small group in a rural setting.

Youth Leadership Training Program (YLTP) A three-year leadership training program (now in its third decade) held during March Break to develop youth leaders who can offer Outstanding Leadership for Ministry. In addition to an emphasis on developing servant leadership skills, participants experience and create Life Changing Worship and focus on a Generous Culture of Stewardship.

Youth Synod The largest youth ministry program in Niagara with a dual focus on Prophetic Social Justice Making and Outstanding Leadership for Ministry offers youth delegates ages 13-21 the opportunity to debate and strategize about issues important to their faith and their communities as well as providing opportunities to experience Life Changing Worship; takes place in early May.

Youth Synod Council drafts motions for the upcoming Youth Synod, follows up on motions post-Synod, and functions as the voice of youth in the Diocese of Niagara between Youth Synods; participants develop Outstanding Leadership for Ministry skills and broadening their understanding of Prophetic Social Justice Making and Generous Culture of Stewardship.

Niagara Youth Conference (NYC) The cornerstone event in youth ministry in Niagara with a multiple focus on Life Changing Worship, a Continuous Culture of Innovation, a Generous Culture of Stewardship, and Prophetic Social Justice Making - takes place the week before the Labour Day weekend and is full of fun, learning, worship, spirituality, peer support, and lots of community building.

Diocesan Synod: Youth Delegate Orientation & Residence offers training, support and community for youth members to Diocesan Synod allowing them to provide Outstanding Leadership for Ministry.

The Gathering is a youth-created and youth-led worship service featuring the NYC Band. These events embrace a Continuous Culture of Innovation, Life Changing Worship, Outstanding Leadership for Ministry, and a Generous Culture of Stewardship.

Resources

Christyn Perkons, Director of Congregational Support & Development, is available to answer questions, suggest resources, lead workshops, facilitate visioning & planning sessions and provide on-site consultations.

Other resources are available for loan through the Diocesan Resource Centre and are detailed on the Youth Ministry website.

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee supports and evaluates diocesan youth events, responds to initiatives from parishes and regions, recruits volunteers and is committed to a vision of youth as a vital and active part of the whole church.

Contact:

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Check us out at www.zipsqueal.com



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Archbishop Tutu reflects:

God's love is all inclusive;
no one is outside God's embrace.
Jesus said, "I will draw all –
with an incredible divine embrace of love
that won't let you go"
God says,
"...please help me to make my world
more hospitable through gentleness...
help make my world more hospitable
to caring, to compassion and to sharing."

May 13, 2012 address to graduates of
Gonzaga University, Spokane WA

Youth Ministry Sunday 2012