



Office of Youth Ministry
St. Theresa Catholic Church
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Dear Saint Theresa Families,

Attached to this letter you will find Registration Forms for the St. Theresa LIFE TEEN program. Please complete and return with the appropriate fees, by August 1, 2009. Registration received after August 1, 2009 carries a \$30 late fee. Note that LIFE TEEN tuition is calculated separately from RE tuition.

The Office of Youth Ministry is very excited to offer your son or daughter another year of spiritual growth and learning through our LIFE TEEN program. LIFE TEEN's format emphasizes "Relational Ministry." Relational Ministry does more than provide young people with information about our Catholic Faith; it engages them to better understand how our Faith affects their daily lives. A small-group format is used where the group leader guides participants through open discussion explaining what the Church teaches, why this teaching matters to each of them individually, and how it should affect the way they live their lives. Each small group ideally provides a close-knit setting for 10-12 students, where they can speak openly and honestly with one another.

In addition to religious education, LIFE TEEN encourages young people to take a more active role in parish worship and liturgical celebrations. It utilizes contemporary worship music and other aids to help them grasp what the readings from the Mass mean for their lives today and introduces teens to new forms of prayer and spiritual devotion.

The heart of what LIFE TEEN seeks to accomplish is realized perfectly in its motto: "Leading Teens Closer to Christ." This motto is in complete unity with what the Church has been trying to accomplish for nearly 2000 years, namely, helping believers to understand the person of Jesus Christ and develop a deeper relationship with Him. LIFE TEEN focuses on helping young people fall more deeply in love with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Never are we more closely united with Our Lord than when we receive Him in Holy Communion. LIFE TEEN places the truth of the Eucharist at the center of all its pursuits.

Regular meetings for any parents or volunteers who wish to help the LIFE TEEN program are held the first Saturday of every month. Please check the Church bulletin for further information.

In order for LIFE TEEN to serve our parish's young people the best it can on their spiritual journey, the active participation of many adults serving in various volunteer areas will be required to bring this work to its fullest potential. All volunteers in LIFE TEEN must have the required Diocesan paperwork processed and cleared prior to volunteering. Online Virtus registration and sign up is required in order to get credit for the course. Go to www.virtus.org to register today! LIFE TEEN volunteers are as follows:

- **CORE:** Adult men and women, who form the backbone of LIFE TEEN in a Parish, prepare the weekly LIFE Nights, where they serve as catechists, small group leaders, skit performers, and many other roles.
- **Music Ministry:** This team of volunteers brings their talents with singing, musical instruments, sound system technology, and musical direction to worship our Lord and help build community through music.
- **Priests** provide the most powerful spiritual nourishment of the LIFE TEEN Program, celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, leading talks about different issues, leading times of Eucharistic Adoration, etc.
- **Youth Minister** coordinates all the different people and groups within the LIFE TEEN Program, ensuring that everyone works together to best serve the teens' spiritual needs.
- **Parents** support the Youth Minister and CORE team in creating an environment where the social, emotional, and spiritual growth of the teens can be met by preparing for different events throughout the year.
- **Teen Leaders:** Teens respected by their peers fill leadership positions in the Program, assisting the CORE in their regular weekly tasks.

As a final note, in the midst of all the preparations taking place for the new school year to launch in September, the one thing everyone can help with is prayer, and lots of it! Please remember to keep our LIFE TEEN Program in your prayers, so God will bless this ministry and all those involved with it! May Our Lord continue to richly bless all of you!

Sincerely in Christ,

Larry F. Bayne
Coordinator of Youth Ministries