

Diocese of Victoria

Office of Youth Ministry

On-Site Retreat Information

The Office of Youth Ministry conducts two diocesan-wide Confirmation retreats a year. The dates and particular information for these retreats are distributed in mid-October. These retreats facilitated by the Office of Youth Ministry and the Youth Leadership participants is limited to the first 100 people registered. The cost of these retreats are \$10.00 a person and includes lunch, snacks and all supplies.

In addition, the Office of Youth Ministry conducts retreats as requested by parishes as scheduling permits. Particular emphasis is placed on assisting the parishes without full time youth ministers in offering retreats for their students. This information brochure lists the type of retreats that are most commonly requested. However, we do try to tailor the retreat for your parishes needs.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING THE RETREAT PROGRAM

What is the fee? We do not charge a fee; this is a service the Office of Youth Ministry provides. If you schedule a retreat that lasts over 4 hours, the host is required to provide a meal and/ or snacks for the retreatants and the retreat team. You can choose to charge a fee if you like to cover those expenses.

How much in advance must the retreat be scheduled? As soon as possible, especially for weekend retreats, as weekend availability is limited with the office's other on-going programs.

What about lock-ins and overnight retreats? The office is not equipped at this time to offer facilitation of this length of retreat.

Any requirements as to where these retreats can be held? We do obviously need a room big enough for the amount of retreatants, and it is nice but not essential for the place we meet to be different than the area the meal is served. It is recommended, and seems to be more conducive to the concept of retreat, if the retreat is held away from the parish. I realize that is not always possible, but it does give more of a retreat feel if it is not in their traditional meeting space.

Can we invite other parishes to join our retreat? Absolutely, that is a wonderful way for young people to interact with other like-minded young people.

Any size limitations? For on-site retreats, we prefer less than 60 young people.

What about chaperones? We provide the programming and facilitation, so you will need to provide the chaperones. There needs to be a 1 to 8 ratio of Safe Environment adults to young people, not including anyone from our team. These chaperones sometimes act as small group leaders, which provides a valuable link for the parish to the retreat experience. All group questions are provided to the small group leaders.

Other Things to consider:

- We need access to the location at least one hour prior to the start time.
- We need to be aware of any special circumstances prior to the retreat.
- The retreats are typically 5 hours of "retreat programming" that does not include Mass or meals. If you choose to have Mass (always a good idea) or other sacraments celebrated during the retreat, please arrange for the amount of Priests needed.

CONFIRMATION RETREATS

God's Call

The two diocesan - wide retreats utilize this theme. This retreat focuses on the Scripture John 15:16 - *You did not choose me, but I chose you...* This retreat focuses on the sacrament of Confirmation itself as well as listening and responding to God's call in all of our lives.

Being the Body of Christ, the Church

This retreat explores our connection to the Body of Christ, compelling participants to a knowledge of our Church's roots in Scripture as well as exploring their call to make a difference as members of a eucharistic community.

Gifts of the Spirit

This retreat offers youth an opportunity to experience God as the great "I am", and empowers them to deepen their relationship with God in their everyday lives. Through a focus on the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and the importance of community, the retreat encourages young people to seek out their God-given gifts and those of their peers.

Catholic Identity

This retreat invites high school young people to reflect on their identity as Catholic Christians and to help them articulate why their faith is important to them and how it impacts their life on a daily basis.

Spirit of God, Source of Strength- a sponsor/parent and confirmand retreat.

This intergenerational retreat with the candidate and either the confirmand's parent or sponsor in attendance fosters communication, and support with the people joining them on this important spiritual journey.



OTHER RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

Theology of the Body

Based on the catechesis by Blessed John Paul II: *Man and Woman, He created Them: A Theology of the Body*, this retreat looks at sexuality through the lens of human dignity.

Social Justice

This retreat challenges young people to take a look at the world around them and to become more aware of social justice concerns. Social justice is presented as the responsibility of each person and an important part of living as a Catholic Christian.

Created in the Image of God

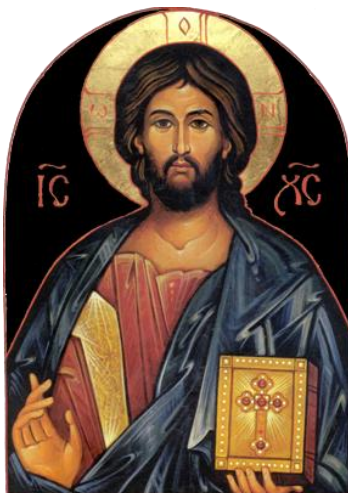
This one day retreat gives youth a better understanding of what it means to a person of faith, to be created in the image of God.

Celebrate you, Celebrate me

This retreat starts with an appreciation of self and moves on to explore relationships with family and friends. The scope then widens to community. Woven throughout is an understanding of how our relationship with God touches and enhances all other relationships.

Where are you headed?

This retreat is designed to invite participants into a process of discovery and discernment regarding their future vocational call. Through numerous activities, and prayerful reflection, participants will be guided to look and listen for God speaking to them about their gifts, their journey and what difference their lives will make in this world.



On Site Retreat Form

Contact person			
Phone Number		Cell Number	
Parish/school			
Location of Session			
Type of facility for session (ie. Gym, large classroom etc.)			
Is breakout space available:			
Date of retreat	Start Time	End Time	
If the session extends over 4 hours will a meal be provided?		If yes, time of meal?	
Will a snack be provided for the participants:		If yes, time of snack?	
Desired Topic:			
Your goals for this session:			
Approx. no of Participants:		Age/ Grade of Participants	
Is this a new topic for them			

Will any of these items be available to us: (If not, do not worry about securing them, we will provide them)

<input type="checkbox"/> Dry erase board	<input type="checkbox"/> Screen	<input type="checkbox"/> Extension Cords	<input type="checkbox"/> Sound System
<input type="checkbox"/> DVD player	<input type="checkbox"/> CD Player with Aux port		

Additional Information

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Requirements of the office:

- *One adult for every eight young people present throughout the duration of the session.*
- *Access to the location at least one hour prior to the start time.*
- *It is important for us to know of any special situations prior to arriving.*

Please return to the Office of Youth Ministry at least one week prior to the scheduled event.

1505 E. Mesquite Victoria, Texas 77901 361-573-5725 (fax) Phone: 361-573-0828 ex 2232 or 2250