

# SAID ED July 16, 2017

## A Year in Review

A year ago I had the privilege of becoming Assumption's new Youth Minister. Although it wasn't my first year in Youth Ministry, I was new to the parish, the Rochester area, and the state of New York. I was welcomed with open arms and approached by countless individuals offering to help in any way possible. I was even taken in by a very generous family. I felt adopted by a loving, passionate and dedicated community. It was amazing and exciting.

As far as the ins-and-outs of the ministry goes, the past year has been a lot of hard work, long hours, and trial and error, but has yielded good fruit:

- Two teams of volunteers have been established:
  - A group to help with weekly High School Youth Group
  - An events staff who helps out with fundraisers, pilgrimages, and retreats (which includes our Youth Minister Emeritus, Mrs. Marie Claus)
- We have a new Youth Room (room 7, downstairs)
- Middle School Ministry (The Edge) is thriving
- We're building a following on social media (including Facebook & Instagram)
- CYO enrollments are up from last year and we have an outstanding CYO Board

We are in the process of:

- Revitalizing the 6:00 pm mass and weekly High School Youth Group
- Teaming up with other parishes in the greater Fairport Community
- Continuing the traditions of the past, (Stella Maris Retreats, Pasta Dinner, Steubenville, etc.)

The foundations of this ministry are based in the teachings of Jesus Christ, as well as total dependence on the Holy Spirit and our Blessed Mother. It is my hope that all who come through and are affiliated with our program will get to know Christ as their Lord, Savior, and Friend. That the importance of regular participation in the sacraments will resonate within them and that their lives will become centered in the Holy Spirit. Our rich Catholic faith is the most important work we will ever pursue. It is my hope over the coming year to instill or enhance this sense of importance in everyone who crosses paths with COTA Youth Ministry. This message is one that all are welcome to receive...regardless of background or circumstances. You are welcome! You're amazing! You matter!

God Bless You Always,  
Ted Bianculli  
COTA Youth Minister

*"Pray, hope, and don't worry..."*  
~ St. Padre Pio

