Youth Ministry Leaders’ Monthly Gathering Minutes  
September 1, 2020 – Virtual Online Meeting


I. Opening Prayer led by Tommy Fallon.

II. Updates:
   - Mental Illness Awareness Week Project
     - Background – This is a response to what was discovered in the NCYC 2019 Evaluations and our discussions over the past few years about the stress and pressures experienced by our young people.
     - Schedule & Speakers – see the attached flyer.
     - Resources – To be posted on the MIAW webpage: a Toolkit for parishes and schools along with a number of articles, curricula and youth night outlines, and other web-based resources.
     - Becoming a Sponsor – All programs are being offered free of charge (live-streamed on either Facebook or Zoom), but expenses for this project need to be covered. Clergy, ministry leaders, parishes are being invited to become sponsors of the week. Check out the attached Sponsorship Opportunities information sheet for sponsorship levels and instructions on how to become a sponsor.

III. Discussion: Diocese of Davenport E-Communication Policy
   A number of conversations have taken place over the past month expressing questions and concerns about this recent policy. A discussion took place that was recorded and shared with Deacon David Montgomery where questions and concerns and with examples to illustrate those concerns were presented. To listen to the recording contact Don Boucher.

IV. Announcements
   - Next meeting:
     - October 6 will be the first workshop of Mental Illness Awareness Week, so no regular meeting in October.
     - Next regular meeting is November 3.
Mental Illness Awareness Week 2020

“Whoever suffers from mental illness 'always' bears God’s image and likeness in himself, as does every human being. In addition, he 'always' has the inalienable right not only to be considered as an image of God and therefore as a person, but also to be treated as such.”

Saint Pope John Paul II

Peer pressure, academic stress, uncertainty about their future, parental pressure and technology are just some of the more common causes of stress and pressure on young people today. Now add the effects that Covid-19 is having on our lives, and it’s little wonder why 1 in 5 teens experience some form of Mental Illness. It is for this reason that the Diocese of Davenport Office of Faith Formation will be providing parishes and schools with resources to observe MIAW 2020 as well as Live-Virtual Events with expert presenters on the topic of mental illness and ministry with young people.

Our Presenters

Roy Petitfils

Roy Petitfils is an internationally recognized expert in understanding and raising teenagers. While he resides in Lafayette, Louisiana where he works as a therapist at Pax Renewal Center, he is an internationally sought after speaker who uses humor, passion, clinical and life experience to help adults connect with teens and teens to know, understand and love themselves. Roy holds a Masters in Mental Health and School Counseling from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette. Roy is an award winning author with several accomplished books concentrating on teenagers.

Sean Robinson

Sean Robinson has worked in the Diocese of Columbus Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for over eleven years. During that time he helped to coordinate diocesan-wide summits to address the opioid epidemic, trauma-informed pastoral care in parishes and schools, and suicide prevention/ intervention/post-vention. Sean has also chaired the NFCYM Youth on the Margins Project Team in the development of Restoring Mercy and Hope to All Young People; A Process for Developing a Comprehensive Pastoral Plan.
HELPING HURTING TEENS

Tuesday, October 6th
10-11:30 AM for Clergy/Ministry Leaders*
7-8:15 PM for Parents & Adults

Anxiety, depression, self-injury, sexual orientation, suicidal ideation. These are just a few things ministers, catechists, teachers, parents and others involved in the lives of today’s teens face. It can be daunting to help teens who are dealing with these issues. Many adults think “I’m not a psychologist…How can I help these teens?” While there are limits to what non mental health professionals can do, there is much more you can do than you probably think. You’ll leave this session with a better understanding of these issues and with a clearer understanding of the critical role you can play in pastorally caring for today’s hurting teens.

CAUGHT BETWEEN THE ROCK AND THE HARD PLACE: WELLNESS 101

Wednesday, October 7th
10-11:30 AM for Clergy/Ministry Leaders*
7-8:15 PM for Parents, Adults & Teens

It’s no secret that life is demanding and if we’re not careful, we can lose our mental, physical and emotional health in the process. That is not God’s will for us nor ministry. In this workshop you’ll learn processes and gain tools for greater self-awareness, more effective boundary setting, personal psychological hygiene, develop better professional and personal relational habits as well as explicit spiritual and religious tools that support them all.

DEVELOPING A PASTORAL RESPONSE PLAN

Friday, October 9th
10-11:30AM: Clergy/Ministry Leaders*

How does a parish or school respond to the signs of mental illness? This workshop will explore the key considerations and resources for developing a pastoral response plan built around a team approach that includes: 1) Fostering Well-Being. 2) Prevention & Awareness. 3) Intervention, Response and Referral. 4) Post-vention & grief support. 5) Self Care Plans.

* Pre-Registration required. Register at www.davenportdiocese.org/miwregistration.

Evening Programs Live-Streamed at Diocese of Davenport Facebook Page
Daytime Programs conducted on Zoom
Mental Illness Awareness Week

If you're concerned about the pressures and stress that young people experience in their lives, then this is your chance to do something about it! Become a sponsor for the Mental Illness Awareness Week Project and help provide **free access** for parents, clergy, ministry leaders and youth throughout the Diocese of Davenport to all of the Project's programs featuring Roy Petitfils, internationally-recognized clinical counselor of young people, and Sean Robinson, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Columbus.

**To Become A Sponsor…**

1. Review the sponsorship information in the table below.
2. Select a sponsorship level.
3. Visit the MIAW Donate webpage, enter your contact information, your sponsorship level, and either pay your sponsor fee or indicate your payment by check.
4. You will then receive a confirmation of your sponsorship along with any pertinent follow-up information.

For more information, contact Don Boucher (boucher@davenportdiocese.org or 563-271-3946)

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**Sponsorship Benefits**

- **Exclusive sponsorship of one evening livestreamed program.**
- **Choice of either two sponsor-provided 30-second video commercials or audio recognition by program host along with a screen graphic at the beginning and end of program.**
- **Shared sponsorship of one daytime livestreamed program.**
- **Recognition by program host with a screen graphic along with sponsor logo at the beginning and end of program.**
- **Copy of Roy Petitfils’ book: *What Teens Want You to Know (But Won’t Tell You).***
- **5 each of St. Dymphna and St. John of the Cross—patron saints of mental illness—prayer cards**
- **Name/business listed on the MIAW diocesan website and scrolled during each program.**