

DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL (DYC) APPLICATION FORM

Department for Youth and Young Adult Engagement
Secretariat for Catholic Education and Evangelization
2900 Noblestown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205



The **VISION** for the DYC is centered on section #47 of Pope John Paul II's Post Apostolic Exhortation, *Ecclesia in America*. In this document, Blessed John Paul II stated the, "young people are a great force in society and for evangelization" and that the "formation process for young people must be constant and active, capable of helping them find their place in the Church and in the world." The Holy Father further reminded us that all "young Christians, trained to have a mature missionary consciousness, must become apostles to their contemporaries."

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission and purpose of the Diocesan Youth Council is to gather high school youth for formation in discipleship, preparation for the apostolate, and an informed discussion and consultation with the diocesan bishop and his pastoral staff.

Members commit to the following:

1. Pray for the youth of our diocese.
2. Act in both word and witness on behalf of the youth of our diocese.
3. Serve as an advocate and resource for youth ministry and/or Catholic high school ministry.
4. Promote and participate in local, regional, and/or diocesan youth ministry initiatives.

MEMBERSHIP

A one (1) year renewable term is open to high school *sophomores* and *juniors* for no more than two (2) years total.

- Parishes – twelve (12) members from each Vicariate (North/South)
- Schools – one (1) member from each Catholic High School.
- Special Ministries – two (2) members from Catholic Scouting (Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts)
- Animators – representatives serving at least one year on the DYC may be invited to apply for this peer leadership role.

Dues are \$150.00 per member and are traditionally paid for by the sponsoring Parish/School/Special Ministry. Please make checks payable to the "Diocese of Pittsburgh." Check No. _____.

EXPECTATION AND COMMITMENT

The following expectations are binding and held in common to accomplish the above purposes. All members are expected to attend the events listed below; failure to do so may result in your removal from the DYC. Parent support is necessary; therefore, consent is a prerequisite for enrollment.

1. Members will serve a 1-year term, with an option for another year if agreeable with the member, the party he/she represents, and the diocese.
2. Members must be connected and actively participating in their parish youth ministry program, if one exists, and/or their high school ministry team. This includes participation in at least one "Matthew 25 Project" through local parish ministry.

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3. Members must attend the following mandatory events in their entirety and are responsible for transportation to and from each venue. The tentative dates are as follows:

a. **Retreat – July 2021**

This weekend retreat, held at Villa Maria, is an exploration of Christian discipleship in light of the annual theme. We will discover what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ with the intention of calling forth and affirming disciples in preparation for ministry. The days will include community building, scripture study, the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, small groups, prayer, and recreation.

b. **Training – October 2021**

This 1-day experience, held at OLMC Camp & Retreat Center, is designed to form a community of disciples, equipping them with the tools needed to be young apostles and missionaries sent forth in Christ. The day includes presentations, small groups, and prayer.

c. **In-service – January 2022**

This overnight in-service, held at the Martina Center, includes prayer, guest speakers/lectures, round table discussions, witness talks, and small group work projects focused on and in preparation for the forum with the Bishop.

d. **Forum – March 2022**

The forum will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center and will include prayer, presentations on our annual theme, and conversation with the Bishop.

e. **St. Timothy Awards – May 2022**

A national award given annually to twelve (12) high school youth throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The student must be a junior or senior and should exemplify the purpose of our Catholic youth programs by showing particular zeal in the improvement of their own youth ministry program, high school ministry team, or youth work in general within the Diocese. The nominee must be a practicing Catholic and exemplify the qualities of moral integrity, prayer, good works, and Christian leadership.

MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT (Due by May 31)

Member Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Youth Ministry Leader/Campus Minister/Teacher/Mentor Signature

Date

Pastor/Principal/Sponsor Signature

Date

*I attest to the character of this young person and stand behind their decision to apply for the DYC.
I will support them and agree to meet with them occasionally throughout the school year.*