

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH APOSTOLATE
7th and 8th Grade Confirmation Formation Program

#1 "GOAL" - Our main purpose is to begin to open the eyes and hearts of our students to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They need to know that God loves them with an everlasting and unconditional love. They need to know that their church is a place of hope. They need to know that a Christian Community is one that will support and guide them in their adolescent years and after.

#1 "RULE" - ALWAYS OPEN WITH PRAYER. MAKE SURE YOU SET UP A PRAYER SPACE EVERY WEEK IN YOUR ROOM. USE YOUR BIBLE EACH WEEK ~ during opening prayer and the lesson. PLEASE! Your lesson plan sometimes provides prayer experiences related to the lessons, but please, add to these prayer experiences, experiment and find out the best way for your class to pray together. A prayer table or corner should be set up **before** your students arrive each week. Place a different item on the table *each week* - something that goes with your lesson or prayer experience or even something that might symbolize an experience of God for you during the past week(s) since you met. If your space allows, have students gather around your prayer table rather than remain in their desk for prayer.

THE PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT is a prayer I would like you to help your student learn. This prayer is on the cover of the student folder. Let's set a program goal; every 7th and 8th grade student will know this prayer by the time they are confirmed.

#1 REQUEST FROM MARTA - If you need to miss a class, please call one of the substitute teachers on your list and let me know which class you will be missing and who the substitute will be. If none of the listed substitute teachers are available, let me know as soon as possible. **It is a requirement in our Junior High Program to have two people present in the classroom for every session.**

#1 REQUIREMENT - Arrive fifteen minutes before your class is to begin. Remember you are setting up your prayer table before your students arrive. If you are able to greet each student as they walk into your classroom, you have already gained "control" of your class for the evening.

#1 SUGGESTION - After your opening prayer, spend about five minutes to let kids "debrief" from the past weeks. Tell them something about your week and ask if anyone wants to share something about their week with the class. What about asking them how they have been or if they have any special prayer requests, etc. ~ or, have a pre-planned "sharing question" that everyone has to answer. **Be careful though - limit this gathering time!**

#1 WAY FOR US TO PASS PAPERS BACK AND FORTH! - Each of you will have a file folder with your name printed on it. Each week, I will place any notes to you, handouts for students and materials you may need for that particular class in the folder. These folders will be on top of your teacher bin. **PLEASE** return the folder to me **EACH WEEK** at the end of class with any paperwork, notes, etc. that need to come back to me. Even if your folder is empty, I still need it returned please.

#1 WAY FOR US TO BE IN COMMUNICATION ABOUT YOUR CLASS - I will be available at least one half hour before class either in the religious education office at the school or in my office in the parish center. It is difficult for me to have a conversation after class. I meet with High School students for our weekly gathering and Rosary beginning at 8:30 PM. Of course, you can always call St. Joseph Parish Center at 964-0216 x1210 or my cell at 234-0434. I will meet with you at your convenience.

#1 WAY FOR US TO SUCCEED!! - Pray, pray, pray. Rely on God and the Holy Spirit.

#2 WAY FOR US TO SUCCEED!! - Prepare, prepare, prepare. Know the lesson. Prepare early in the week ~ watch the lesson on your DVD ~ and then review on the day of class. MAKE SURE you communicate with your co-teacher and *share responsibility* to prepare lesson plan and *share responsibility* for presenting the lesson. You will be an effective teacher this way...guaranteed.