

Courageously Living the Gospel

Youth Ministry Report

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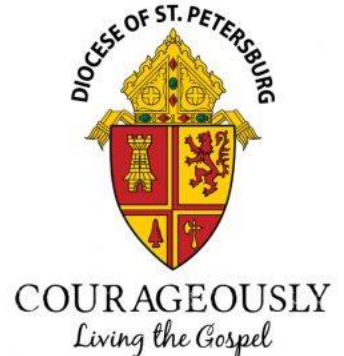
Strategies for improving our Youth Program

- Recruit 4-6 adult volunteers to support the various youth activities
- Establish a youth leadership training program
- Conduct semiannual youth retreats
- Conduct semiannual youth oriented social events

The members of the Youth Ministry team are Mylene Taylor, Olga Heineman and Todd Cleaver. After reviewing the results of the parish wide survey and of an additional survey targeted specifically at OLG youth it became clear that, while we do have an active youth program in place at OLG, there is a tremendous desire to expand the program by adding more activities and opportunities for a more active participation. Additionally there is a need to provide activities that draw additional youth into the program and provide them with more opportunities for leadership training to assure the long term sustainability of the program.

Four strategies were chosen to meet Bishop Parkes Vision of enhancing the youth program at Our Lady of Grace. These strategies have been submitted to the diocese for review by Bishop Parkes and we have been given the orders to proceed with implementation.

Most of us would agree that it's hard to overstate the importance of our youth in the future success of anything we hope to accomplish, even in the future of the Church itself. Without them and their continued participation in the faith what will the future bring? Yet at the parish level the growth of our youth program is constrained by a lack of adult volunteers. We are dependent on the continued support of a



very small number of adult volunteers.

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What is Courageously Living the Gospel?

In June of 2018 Bishop Parkes announced a bold new initiative called Courageously Living the Gospel. This initiative calls on all Parishes in the Diocese of St. Petersburg to develop an individual Parish Action Plan that addresses three areas of priority: Youth Ministry, Family Ministry and Missionary Discipleship.

Our Lady of Grace has been actively working to develop the strategies needed to make Bishop Parkes' Vision a reality in our Parish. Fr. Erwin established three teams, one for each of the three priorities of the Vision. These teams are charged with identifying needs related to the three priorities (Youth Ministry, Family Ministry and Missionary Discipleship) and to develop plans to address those needs.

Much work has been done and over the next few weeks each team will be reporting on the progress so far.