

Dear Young Adults,

We need your help! For next year's youth ministry, we're doubling down on a small group model of intentional ministry. As part of that, we need **small group facilitators** to help mentor and lead our teens in the practice of the Faith. If you're interested, check out the job description below for more information. Thank you in advance for being willing to be part of the bold, new experiment with us!

What you'll bring to the table:

- Your status as a Catholic **in good standing** (not under canonical penalty, interdict, excommunication, censure, etc.). Generally, this means, having fulfilled the Five Precepts of the Church. For more info on those, [click here](#).
- **Full transparency and a willingness to be (prudently!) real** with our teens. As the great philosopher Project Pat once said, "real recognize real." Connecting with our teens will take honesty, and a genuine intention to listen to them as they open up and share their experiences and the willingness to reciprocate.
- A **working knowledge of the Faith** and the willingness to learn and explain the things you don't know or that you struggle. We don't expect you to have a Masters in Theology (that's what Oscar is for) or be penning the sequel to the Summa for this role. We do, however, expect that you can explain Church teaching to the teens and be able to be honest with us about the parts, if any, you disagree with currently /have disagreed with and how you came/are coming to accept it.
- **Your personality!** You might be Ron Swanson or Leslie Knope. You might not know the difference between the sports games TM or have very heated opinions about the alignment of the tight end on that second-down play call for your favorite NFL team three weeks ago. You might have a dry sense of humor or be the practical jokester in your office. Extroverted? Introverted? All about the feelings? Or are you Harvey Specter and feelings are for using not having. Either way, we want you to **be authentically yourself**. Bring your interests, passions, thoughts, talents, non-talents, everything you are and I promise we'll make it work.

Bonus points for:

- **Already being VIRTUS trained!** This is the official child safety training for the Diocese of Richmond. All staff and volunteers working in any capacity for the Diocese are **required** to undergo this one-time training before they work with minors or anyone else in a vulnerable population. If you don't have it already, no worries, we'll make sure you get it before you start.

- **Flexibility.** Listen, I don't know if you've heard, but there's a pandemic-revolution-end of days thing happening right now, long into the foreseeable future. So, guaranteeing that we'll always be able to meet in the same time and place is tough. Furthermore, even under the best of circumstances, we want to literally meet these teens where they are. That could mean coffee shops, the soccer fields, the mall, wherever. That could mean any of the masses here at St. Matthew or elsewhere. Virtual or IRL. Either way, time flexibility would be a HUGE bonus.

What we bring to the table:

- **Flexibility.** Plus, this model allows us to **work around your schedule**. If you only have the same time slot available every week, we can work with that! If the day and time changes weekly, because re:pandemic revolution or you know, life (which is still happening) we get that and we'll adjust on our end. We accept anything in between, and almost any time slot imaginable. All we're asking for is whatever time you can give the teens.
- **Support.** Pouring into these teens is work, we won't lie; rewarding, but definitely work. However, on our end, we promise to pour into you so that you can do that work. Whether that's knowledge and resources, or even just being here to chat about your own life, we promise to give you the support you need to thrive while you do this and to avoid burnout. After all, you can't give what you don't have, and we'll be there to help you not just survive, but thrive.
- **Community.** In a similar vein, we're hoping this is the start of a community here at the parish. This is a terrific way to meet other young adults at the parish, and build relationships with both the teens and other young adults. The Catechism tells us that we were made to be in community with other people and we're hoping to start building that here. (CCC 1879) We'll have training, get-togethers, and events just for core team members too so you don't feel like you're doing this alone.

If you have any further questions, or would like please contact Oscar Rivera at orivera@saintmatts.net. Even if you're not sure if you can commit, or how you fit in, we'd *love* to hear from you. We can't wait to hear from you and we're humbled and honored to have the gift of your presence in this ministry.