

New Leadership in Our Youth Ministry

Since 2016, we here at the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul have been very privileged by Debbie Cliche, who so graciously volunteered to help establish our Youth Group. Up until that point, we had no set offering for our youth, *per se*, but lots of families were asking for something. Debbie jumped in with thirty years of experience in Atlanta and gathered around herself not only youth, but great adult volunteers, to help make our youth group one of the best in the deanery. I cannot express enough how grateful I am for the work that Debbie did and continues to do for the youth of our parish. However, due to things going on in Debbie's life, including taking care of an elderly parent, and a desire to serve in other capacities, we began looking for another way to administer our youth program.



God has shown his Providence once again in bringing to us, in our time of need, the perfect person to carry on this good work. God's Providence was made manifest in Kalista Bartee, a recent addition to our parish, who moved to Chattanooga with her husband and small children from Florida just last year. She happens to be working with a man named Michael Marchand, who owns a company called ProjectYM, which has nationwide outreach for youth minister development, and it is based right here in Chattanooga. She felt the Holy Spirit's movement and approached me about the possibility of taking on the responsibility of our Youth Ministry at the Basilica. I invited her to get to know the Core Team members of the Youth Ministry, and everything seemed to click just right. She herself comes with a background in Youth Ministry, and I have been able to happily invite her to take leadership of the Youth Ministry here at the Basilica, with the assistance of Michael Marchand and ProjectYM support. Please join me in welcoming Kalista and Michael into this ministry! I also want to thank the many adult volunteers who are so essential to the success of this program by all the work they do behind the scenes. At a certain point this summer, we will have Kalista stand up before the parish and say a few words about the Youth Ministry for this next coming year.



ProjectYM is a company that Michael Marchand started to assist and equip youth ministers for success in their apostolate. You can find more about them on their website: ProjectYM.com. Indirectly, you may have come into contact with them by way of Fr. Blatchford's Beard Balm. :-)



Catholic Balm Company, which makes beard balm, lip balm, lotion bars, and beard oils, exists as a company to fund the work of ProjectYM. Every dollar you spend at Catholic Balm Company furthers this ministry of the Church. If you're interested in supporting, indirectly, the youth ministry here at Sts. Peter and Paul, visit catholicbalm.co to find out more about their product line, and perhaps find a nice present for Fr. Blatchford or somebody else that you know that needs Holy Handlebar Mustache Wax or Little Flower Lip Balm. :-)



New Resident Priest at the Basilica

Fr. Nick Tran has been appointed Chaplain of the Vietnamese Community in Chattanooga beginning July 15, moving here from Connecticut. He will be in residence here at the Basilica. This was announced by Bishop Stika in the latest round of clergy assignments that came out on Wednesday, May 29th. The Vietnamese community has been meeting at St. Stephen parish and they are currently looking for another standalone location on their own, and this is part of the reason why Fr. Tran is coming to Chattanooga. I will keep you informed about how this might affect our parish in future Pastor's Notes, but until then, please join me in praying for a fruitful transition for Fr. Tran to the Diocese of Knoxville and to our fair city of Chattanooga.

Rev. J. David Carter

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