



DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE
OFFICE OF CATECHESIS AND EVANGELIZATION
OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

September 12, 2014
The Holy Name of Mary

Dear DRE, CRE, and Youth Minister,

In response to a request by catechetical leaders, we are presenting a plan for High School Religious Education/Youth Ministry. The first attached sheet is a list of resources that are categorized according to the Diocesan High School Religion Curriculum and the second sheet includes a brief description of each resource. A worthy goal to consider is that each parish or deanery will have a High School Program, from grades 9-12.

Proper formation of young people is vital to the life and future of the Church. However, a longtime concern is the national epidemic of the attendance of young people drastically declining after they have been confirmed. The remedy for this grave situation is to awaken in young people the desire, written on their heart, to know the Truth, who is Jesus Christ and to see that their relationship with Christ and His Church needs to be a top priority as it affects every aspect of their lives. This is achieved through the young peoples' consistent participation in Religious Education programs and Youth Ministry programs both pre and post Confirmation.

When religious education and formation is coupled with youth ministry, we see our work with young people being very fruitful. Religious Education teaches the young people about Christ and leads them to union with Him through personal prayer and above all in the Holy Eucharist (cf. *On Catechesis In Our Time*, by Pope John Paul II). Youth ministry allows young people to further develop their prayer life and to receive additional catechesis for their age level as they are encountering the fundamental questions about life for the first time. Teens need to receive the basics presented in ever-deeper and creative ways as the answer to their questions.

This knowledge of the Truth of Jesus Christ can then be applied to their lives through offering their specific and irreplaceable contribution to family life and participating in local service projects, mission trips, rallies, conferences, and regular meetings as a youth group. These

experiences foster the opportunity for teens to receive Christ's love and then to share His love with others through a life of service in their God-given vocation. In order to assist young people in this process, we are called to consistently walk with young people in their journey of faith. The following is a quote from Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day 1995:

What is needed today is a Church which knows how to respond to the expectations of young people. Jesus wants to enter into dialogue with them and, through his Body which is the Church, to propose the possibility of a choice which will require a commitment of their lives. As Jesus with the disciples of Emmaus, so the Church must become today the traveling companion of young people...

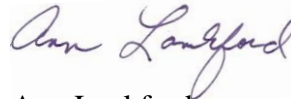
The information that we are sending is designed to help parish leaders to be the traveling companions of young people by engaging them with resources that are proven to work well. These resources are available from our office to preview with a two-week limit.

It is our desire to assist you in your apostolate, with your feedback being most welcome. Please be aware that we are continually updating information on our website as well as through emails such as the Youth Ministry Updater. If you do not currently receive the YM Updater or the LaCrosseRoads, please call or e-mail Chris to be added to the list. Thank you for your dedication in giving your time and talents to serve the children and young people of our Diocese.

Sincerely,



Chris Rogers
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry



Ann Lankford
Director of Catechesis and Evangelization

Attached:

- **Religious Education and Youth Ministry Resources**
- **Explanation of Resources**