



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

September 2017

Greetings from the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry!

First, I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to let you know about the upcoming **Immersion Retreat** at the **Wintergreen Resort in the Wisconsin Dells** that will be held **November 10-12, 2017**. The Immersion Retreat is a time for young people in **grades 9-12** to come together to grow closer in their relationship with Jesus Christ, to understand their faith on a deeper level regardless of where they are in their faith journey, and to connect with other Catholic young people from around the Diocese of La Crosse and beyond. The theme for this year's retreat is **"Thrive!"** We encourage all attendees to reflect upon Proverbs 13:19-25,

"Souls who follow their hearts thrive; fools bent on evil despise matters of soul. Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces. Disaster entraps sinners, but God-loyal people get a good life. A good life gets passed on to the grandchildren; ill-gotten wealth ends up with good people. Banks foreclose on the farms of the poor, or else the poor lose their shirts to crooked lawyers. A refusal to correct is a refusal to love; love your children by disciplining them. An appetite for good brings much satisfaction, but the belly of the wicked always wants more."

**Keynote Speakers**

**Jonathan Blevins** says, "I thrive on being around people that I love. If I could eat tacos for the rest of my life I would be totally OK with it. I am a Detroit Lions fan and I want to be the patron saint of fans of losing football teams...those two things may or may not be directly related. I thank God every single day for giving me a wife that loves me more than I could imagine and two sons that enjoy eating, football, and laughing as much as I do. I am the Co-Director of Catechesis & Evangelization for Saint Paul the Apostle Parish in Gurnee, IL where I am blessed to be able to lead some of the coolest teens I have ever met. Wanna be my friend? Buy me coffee."

Jonathan holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theology from Silver Lake College and a Master's Degree in Religious Education with an emphasis in Youth and Young Adult Ministry from Fordham University.

**Chika Anyanwu** is an up and coming Catholic speaker from Ontario, California who loves sharing the Gospel through words and actions. She is a two-time alum of the National Evangelization Teams Ministries (NET Ministries) and is an Area Contact for Life Teen in the Diocese of San Bernardino, CA. She recently left serving as a parish youth minister to pursue her dream and the Lord's commission to make disciples of all the nation and is doing so through sharing talks with youth and young adults. Chika is part of a big Nigerian family, loves strong coffee without cream or sugar, and can't wait to meet to meet with you!

### Cost

**The “Early Bird” Price:** The “Early Bird” price is **\$145 per person**. This applies to each person in your group whose forms and money are in our office by the **October 30, 2017 deadline**. So if you have people register late, for whatever reason, only those late registrations will forfeit the “Early Bird” price and not the entire group. This cost includes: lodging, t-shirt, water park pass, meals, and the retreat itself.

**Regular Price:** Forms and money that come in **after October 30** will be charged the regular price of **\$165 per person**. These people will not be guaranteed a t-shirt, and may be required to bring a sleeping bag to sleep on the floor depending on room capacity.

Transportation to and from the Wilderness Resort, as well as, dinner Friday and lunch on Sunday, will need to be worked out by individual parishes. The rooms sleep four people. Adults will not be staying in the same room as the youth.

Please keep this retreat in your prayers as well as the participants who will be there. Thank you for all you are doing and know that my prayers are with you and the ministry that you do. Please call or email us with any questions.

Peace,



Chris Rogers

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

\*If you are the person who originally received this packet, and it should have been sent to someone else, please contact us so we may update our records.