

Explanation of Excellent Resources, Retreats, Conferences etc. for Post Confirmation

T3 Bible Study (4 Programs)

This Bible Study Series is presented by Mark Hart, a dynamic speaker who has his finger on the pulse of today's Catholic teens. T3 is the foundational teen Bible study that unpacks God's Word in a manner teens can relate to by showing them the "big picture" of the Bible and giving them an overview of Scripture—and then leads them deeper into its riches. Discussion questions are available from the Office of Catechesis and Evangelization. This 8-session series uses a booklet with a fill in timeline from Ascension Press or a \$4 booklet from the original Great Adventure Series – available from the Curriculum Library.

Many Bible Studies from Ascension Press by Jeff Cavins and others are a higher level. If workbooks are purchased, the videos can be viewed online. Office for Catechesis has some of these studies for free rental.

Adventure Camp – Summer

Adventure Camp is for teens going into 7th-12th Grades. The week includes biking, high ropes, rappelling, rock climbing, canoeing (teens do what you are comfortable with), inspiring talks and prayer. Programming is done by youth ministry leaders (parish youth ministers, diocesan directors, religious, clergy) from the Diocese. Each day there is a short talk after breakfast to present the theme for the day and then a longer teaching in the evening. All campers are part of a small group in which they discuss and reflect on these teachings. A chapel, in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved provides campers with a great place for prayer and reflection during the week. There will be at least one priest at the camp at all times. This allows daily Mass, Confessions throughout the week, and a special time of Adoration on Thursday night.

YDisciple is an intuitive online platform designed to help parents and parishes work together to reach more teens more effectively with the Gospel. YDisciple offers training, streaming video content, well-crafted leader guides, and more to aid the forming and multiplication of small groups. YDisciple is not a program. It is an apprenticeship in the Christian Life.

Diocesan Virtue Program

This program helps young people develop the virtues as a response to God's love. The Theological and Cardinal Virtues form the foundation with the virtues of respect, friendship, purity, chastity, and modesty, being built upon this foundation. The virtue of respect includes an explanation of the dignity of the person.

Immersion Retreat – November

The Retreat is for teens to come together and experience their faith through prayer, fellowship, discussions, reconciliation, adoration, as well as the opportunity to enjoy the water park. We hold this retreat at the Chula Vista in the Wisconsin Dells.

Mission Trips

Mission Trips take young people out of their comfort zones and allow them to truly experience the word "service." Our diocese has offered mission trips to Lourdes, Peru, Mexico, New Orleans, Joplin and the upcoming trip to New York. There are other opportunities available through organizations such as Catholic Heart Workcamp (visit www.heartworkcamp.com). You may also participate in a service project through Catholic Charities, Habitat for Humanity, or other local agencies.

Steubenville Conferences

The summer conferences are sponsored by the Franciscan University of Steubenville. These conferences are held at various sites throughout the United States. Charisms of these events include evangelical preaching, inspired witnessing, and anointed worship – all aimed at awakening the gift of faith in Jesus Christ. At the heart of the conference weekend are the Sacraments, through which youth can experience the Father's loving mercy, forgiveness, and healing compassion. This experience will enable them to respond to the mission of rebuilding the Church and carrying Christ's love to the world. Franciscan University is also committed to providing resources for teens and youth ministers that will aid in their spiritual life as well as ministry. Various sponsoring parishes/dates/site will be included in the Catholic Updater.

Theology of the Body for Teens – Middle School Edition / You: Life, Love and the Theology of the Body

The Theology of the Body is an exciting and new understanding of the human person and God's plan for humanity that is founded upon Scripture and the teachings of the Church. It is a new language that takes us beyond the "thou shall nots" we often associate with Christianity to a fresh, new approach to the gift of human sexuality; a gift that will satisfy the deepest longings of the heart. The key points of chastity, purity, and modesty are presented in a very simple way that is easy to understand and desirable to embrace.

March for Life – January

This is an opportunity to be a witness to the dignity of life for the unborn, elderly, and those who society regards as useless. We travel to Washington, DC by bus to participate in the national March for Life.

NET Retreats

The purpose of a NET retreat is to proclaim the basic Gospel message and to invite young people to live their lives for Christ. The faith of the NET teams gives witness that faith in God is a desirable, acceptable and exciting part of their lives. The NET Retreats are provided by college age students who come together as a team and work in our diocese.

Totus Tuus – Summer

Totus Tuus is a Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through catechesis, evangelization, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. The goal of Totus Tuus is to help young people grow in the understanding of, and strengthen their faith in, Jesus Christ. Totus Tuus strives to bring forth a balance between the knowledge of the meaning of the Sacraments and Sacramental Practices, thus bringing our faith alive. Totus Tuus seeks to foster openness to vocations in the young people being served as well as among the teachers. This is accomplished by placing special emphasis on the importance and necessity of prayer, Eucharistic devotion, and Marian devotion, in addition to catechetical instruction and formation in the Catholic faith.

Discipleship Series by Christopher Ruff

Blessed Are You: Living the Beatitudes; As I Have Loved You; The Greatest of These is Love, and Who is My Neighbor include 6 sessions and are part of the Discipleship Series by Chris Ruff. The focus of the resources is to soak deeply and prayerfully in a select number of Scripture passages; See the meaning of those passages come alive in human stories that inspire; Reflect as a group on discussion questions that apply to daily living; Foster a modest commitment to love of neighbor through service; Experience the fullness of joy that only Christ can give.

Unlocking the Beauty of the Catechism: The Creed, in two parts. Each part consists of 8 sessions with prayer, summaries, vocabulary and discussion questions designed to connect the *Catechism* to daily life and to make it readable and enjoyable to study.

Dead Theologians Society

The Dead Theologians Society is a Catholic apostolate for high school age teens and college age young adults. Through the Saints of yesterday, the Dead Theologians Society inspires the youth of today to become the saints of tomorrow. Its motto is, "Dead to the World, alive in Christ!" This is inspired by Romans 6:11 where St. Paul tells us to be dead to sin but alive in Christ Jesus. Society members meet at their parishes to learn the lives of the Saints (*who are only dead by the world's standards and are certainly alive with Jesus in Heaven!*), their heroic virtue and listen to their inspirational writings. Using the interesting and engaging DTS format and through the examples of the Saints, young people are catechized and develop positive role models at a time when they are truly needed. In addition, members make use of time honored Catholic prayers, devotions and sacramentals such as, Eucharistic Adoration & the Rosary! www.deadtheologiansociety.com.

Life Teen

Life Teen is an international Catholic movement that serves the Church by providing resources and faith experiences that help lead teens closer to Christ. This is accomplished through a vibrant Eucharistic spirituality and by creating widespread opportunities for teens to grow in their faith. Check out samples from Chris Rogers.

All of these Programs are set up in a systematic approach, which means that the sessions are orderly in sequence, laying an essential foundation and building upon the previous session.