

LIGHTHOUSE

Youth Ministry is our church's response to the needs of today's adolescents. It's about forming youth as disciples, engaging them in responsible participation in the church, and helping their **personal and spiritual growth**. For more info about Catholic Youth Ministry, go to www.nfcym.org/catholicym. My name is Jennifer Hildebrand and I am the volunteer Youth Minister at Our Lady of the River. I have a Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies from the Diocese. It is my goal to help our youth become more engaged in some of the Diocesan events and retreats in addition to classroom studies. I am asking for your help and support in this effort.

You can explore more about youth ministry at www.davenportyouth.org. This page is geared more toward adults who lead parish youth ministry efforts. I have listed the Diocesan events for the year so you can mark your calendar and perhaps promote these events with your youth as they are advertised in the bulletin or classroom throughout the year. Their participation is only possibly with your gentle guidance and support. I have also included an explanation of the different retreats that are available throughout the Diocese for our youth. Please take advantage of these opportunities. They are the building blocks that **promote personal and spiritual growth for your child!**

2008-2009 Youth Ministry Dates:

- **High School Youth Rally:** Nov. 16, 2008 at Coralville Marriott
- NCCYM Conference: Dec. 4-7, 2008 in Cleveland. Go to www.nfcym.org for more information (for youth ministers)
- **Teens Encounter Christ (TEC):** Feb. 14-16, 2009 at St. Paul the Apostle, Davenport
- **Quest Retreat:** Feb. 28-March 1, 2009 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Bettendorf
- **COR Retreat:** March 6-8, 2009 at St. Joseph Parish, DeWitt
- **Quest Retreat:** March 7-8, 2009 at St. Mary's Parish, Grinnell
- **Jr. High Youth Rally:** March 29, 2009 at Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City
- Retreat for Youth Ministry Leaders, late Spring at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat Center
- **Catholics In Action:** June 28-30, 2009, home-base site still to be determined
- **TEC Retreat:** July 11-13, 2009 at Sacred Heart Parish in Newton
- **High School Youth Rally:** Oct. 18, 2009 at Coralville Marriott
- National Catholic Youth Conference: Nov. 19-21, 2009 in Kansas City, MO
- **CLI:** July 6-11 and July 20-25 2009

CLI will be again be offered twice this summer. The dates are July 6-11 at Twin Lakes Christian Center near Manson, and July 20-25 at Christian Conference Center near Newton.

Quest Retreat:

QUEST is an overnight retreat for freshman & sophomores that helps you to focus on loving yourself, loving others and loving God. It's a chance to get away from your regular routine, meet new people, talk about important issues, and have fun!

COR (Christ in Others):

Christ in Others retreats are for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. COR is a weekend full of personal reflection about family and relationships with other people in our lives. A faith-filled experience of fun and friendship.

TEC (Teens Encounter Christ):

TEC is a weekend experience in Christian living, which takes a Catholic perspective on the journey of faith, with an emphasis on the Paschal Mystery of Jesus in our lives. TEC is open to mature high school juniors, seniors and young adults who are confirmed. **This is an important retreat for those leaving high school and heading off to college or anticipating some other major change in their life.**

The [Christian Leadership Institute or CLI](#) is a week-long training event designed to teach young people the skills necessary for effective leadership with other youth and adults in a parish or school youth ministry setting. CLI offers an opportunity for leadership development through the intense period of learning and community living. The program is an in-depth experience of skills development in the areas of organization, communication, and motivation, as well as personal growth which enables young person to discover his or her own leadership style.

FOODFAST

A couple of confirmed youth have voiced interest in organizing a FOODFAST overnight retreat at OLOR during LENT for our youth. Watch the bulletin for more details!

CEW

The annual OLOR/St. Ann's **Christian Experience Weekend** is set for 2009. Mark your calendars: Women's weekend **March 6,7,8** Mens' weekend **March 20,21,22**. Gift Certificates available. For more information call Bev Heintz 285-4947 or Matt Wilson 285-9095.

BLESS THEIR SOLES!

The Confirmation students will be serving a meal at the Cafe on Vine on Saturday December 6, 2008. We will be requesting donations of food/beverages and collecting NEW, white adult crew socks to hand out at the meal site. Please help us out by dropping off a donation of socks in the box in the vestibule and/or signing up with a food donation for the meal. **THANK YOU!**