



SAINT DOMINIC PARISH + NEW ORLEANS

April 14, 2009

Dear Sophomore and Junior CYO Members,

Seven years ago, St. Dominic CYO created a Peer Ministry Team, much like those that exist in Catholic high schools and a few parishes to lead discussion and faith-sharing groups, staff retreats, and act as mentors for younger members. The commitment involves the two annual retreats and approximately five planning meetings for each of those. Additional activities such as assisting with Confirmation retreats, prayer services, etc. may be possible. Peer Ministry is a significant part of the CYO because of the impact it has on the younger members, especially in our two annual retreats.

I am inviting you to apply to be on the CYO Peer Ministry Team. Because of the importance of the work and the high hopes we have that this will continue as a significant and special part of our youth ministry programs, having the most dedicated and qualified teenagers is of the greatest importance. Following are some of the criteria that will be used to select the teens (5 girls and 8 boys) for the CYO Peer Ministry Team to take the place of those graduating:

- 1) must be completing either their sophomore or junior year of high school this May
- 2) should be teens who actively practice their Catholic faith by attending Mass, receiving the sacraments, taking time for prayer, and striving to live the Church's moral teachings
- 3) are actively involved in a variety of CYO activities
- 4) can demonstrate emotional and intellectual maturity in relation to their peers
- 5) must demonstrate openness to all peers, whether personal friends or not
- 6) have a high level of dedication to the mission and work of the Peer Ministry Team

The team will be selected by a committee that includes myself, adult advisors, two graduating seniors from the current team, and a past Peer Ministry Team member now in college. In addition to meeting the above criteria, you must also:

- 1) **complete the enclosed application form and return it with a letter of recommendation to the St. Dominic Rectory Office or at St. Dominic Rectory, 775 Harrison Ave. , NOLA 70124 by May 5, 2009.**
- 2) **Attend an orientation meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 2008, at 6:00 PM at St. Dominic**
- 3) **attend a mandatory training retreat on Sunday, September 6- Monday, September 7, 2009, at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center. The dates are on Labor Day weekend.**
- 4) **staff the CYO retreats of December 26-28, 2009, and March 19-21, 2010, and keep a commitment to the team for at least one year, till May 2010.**

Please contact me if you have any questions; thanks for your dedication to CYO.

Sincerely,

John Smestad, Jr.
Youth Minister