



SAINT DOMINIC PARISH + NEW ORLEANS

May 3, 2010

Dear Sophomore and Junior CYO Members,

Eight 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 (6 girls and 4 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 (preferably from a school faculty member) to the St. Dominic Rectory Office or at St. Dominic Rectory, 775 Harrison Ave. , NOLA 70124 by May 20, 2010.**
- 2) **Attend an orientation meeting on Wednesday, May 26, 2010, at 6:00 PM at St. Dominic's Aquinas Hall**
- 3) **attend a mandatory training retreat on Wednesday, August 4, 2010 – Thursday, August 5, 2010, at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center.**
- 4) **staff the CYO retreats of December 27-29, 2010, and February 18-20, 2011, and keep a commitment to the team for at least one year, till May 2011.**

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

Sincerely,

John Smestad, Jr.
Youth Minister

St. Dominic CYO
2010-2011 Peer Ministry Team Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

School _____ Current Grade _____

What qualities/experience do you bring to the team that would be an asset to its work?

Why do you wish to be on the Peer Ministry Team?

What do you think are important topics that teens most want to talk about in a setting like discussion/faith-sharing groups, retreats, etc.? Be specific.

Please attach a letter of recommendation from an adult who is not in your family and not an advisor to the St. Dominic CYO. Teachers, coaches, and club moderators from school are suggested for the letter and will be given more weight in evaluating your application.

The application and letter are due at the St. Dominic Rectory Office, 775 Harrison Ave. New Orleans LA 70124 by May 20, 2010. Decisions will be made by May 24 and you must be available to attend an initial meeting on Wednesday, May 26 at 6:00 PM at St. Dominic AND the training retreat on August 4-5, 2010. You should also be available to work the CYO retreats on December 27-29, 2010, and February 18-20, 2011.