

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At the beginning of the year I challenged you all to encourage your child to really take a leap and dive into their faith full-on this year by signing up for one of our summer events. For the middle schoolers in grades 6-8, we are going to **Extreme Faith Camp in Rhinelander, June 17-22**. For the high schoolers in grades 9-12, we are going to a **Steubenville Conference in Rochester, July 13-15**.

This year we have changed our suggested requirements for religious education students to include that every youth goes to Extreme Faith Camp *at least once* during middle school, and goes to a Steubenville Conference *at least once* during high school. So why not attend THIS summer!

These events are not just something we're doing to add another box to the check list of all the things you need to do before Confirmation. The reason we want to make sure every youth has these experiences and no one gets left out is because they are SO influential for a teenager's faith. Getting out of our own parish and getting to know teens from around the Diocese and even other states can really open their eyes to universality and richness of our Catholic faith. They also hear from amazing speakers and get new ideas presented to them in a really engaging way, by people who relate to them and exemplify how to live out the faith with joy. And they are always pleasantly surprised by how much FUN they have and all the awesome activities that happen on these trips (they are anything but boring).

Now, if your child is like most teenagers (and how I was), they're decision may be pending on who else is going... and that's okay. We are built for community and it is a natural reaction to want to make sure other friends will be going. So my answer: "Hopefully everyone else who in a teen in this parish will be going!" But instead of just hoping, **please help us make it happen**. Please talk to you child and your child's friends and their parents to get them excited and get everyone to be in this together and go as a group! Also know that we are more than happy to take youth who are not members of our parish or who are other faith denominations. They can invite any friend to come.

Also, chaperones have just as much (if not more) fun than the youth at both of these events, so let me know if you're willing to come along as a chaperone.

*Please DO NOT let money be the only thing that deters your child from going.* If it is hard for you to come up, simply let me know and we'll get you a scholarship!

Lastly, here are the websites where you can learn more and see videos for each event:

<https://catholicdos.org/extreme-faith-camp> ; <https://steubenvilleconferences.com/youth/>

**Please return the enclosed Pre-Registration form to me by Wed, Jan 31<sup>st</sup>.** Let me know if you have questions. I can't wait to dive deeper into our beautiful Catholic faith with your child(ren) this summer!!!

Sincerely,



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