

Has NET made a difference for you or a teen you know?

If so, I invite you to read and pray over the following and contact me about serving on Core Team.

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Core Team Ministry

At the heart of being a teen is a sacred desire, a natural longing God has put into their hearts to be close to each other. To hang out and be present to each other. The desire to be with friends is fundamentally a sacred movement that God has put into their hearts. All of us long to be united to each other, to feel supported, to feel respected, to feel important, to feel like we belong. We seek to meet the need for "connection" that is already present in people hearts. In a world that offers immediate and 3 second connections via text or facebook teens are being starved for interpersonal connections. It is a real NEED that must be met through a connection with Jesus through other real interpersonal relationships.

Changing the youth world happens one teen at a time. Teens do NOT connect to programs; they connect to people. The most effective way to influence teens is through a significant relationship with key people in their lives. It is not the words they recall 20 years later, but the person. It is not the data of our faith but the relationships of faith that often make all the difference. Our goal is to develop leaders who will walk the journey to Christ with teens. We seek to do that through teens (peer ministry) and adults (Core Team). A successful model of youth ministry needs to meet teens where they are and move them closer to Christ. This model must include large and small group settings where teens can be engaged on lots of different levels but always with the goal of moving them towards smaller settings where faith can be personalized, shared, and more directly nurtured. A model that goes from one large event to the next fails to give teens the opportunity to be disciplined on a personal level. Jesus did not call 120 adults to hang out with Him; he called 12 and from those people relationships of faith were created and fostered resulting in billions coming to know God's love through Jesus Christ.

A successful youth ministry must provide opportunities for teens to connect with persons of faith (Core members). Faith is not born in a vacuum but through an encounter with Christ. The best events and programs are only as good as the opportunities they create for that encounter and the direction they provide after it. The Core team philosophy does not measure success by numbers but by the faith journey of one teen at a time. Therefore, the progression in the Core team model moves from larger settings to smaller settings. Success is more than one conversion or an event that draws lots of people, it is a process where people become more and more like Christ. Where they become Saints!

Teens need adults who will:

- Love God and live for Him
- Be interested in their lives
- relational in focus and want help move teens deeper in faith
- Take the initiative to spend time with them
- Pray for them
- Be authentic (real)
- Say encouraging words
- Believe in them
- Laugh
- Go to "their world"
- Remember their names and care for them
- Share God's love through personal experience
- Be consistent to the programs
- Be patient
- Enjoy life and live the seven essential values (Love, Evangelization, Joy, Vocation, Affirmation, Authenticity, and Eucharistic Spirituality)

Immediate Core Member Team Needs at All Saints

Small Groups

- **NEED 2 females and 2 males by December** to partner with NET members; Becka (Senior High group), Shelby (Freshman and Sophomore group), Alex (High School group), Zack (High School Group)

DT Groups

- **NEED 2 females and 2 males ASAP** to partner with NET members; Dan (Jr. and Sophomore group), Missy (Sophomore group), Kayla (Jr. and Senior group), Daniel (Freshman group)

MOVE! Core Team currently consists of 7 adult volunteers. Additional adult volunteers welcome to this strong team.

Core Team Ministry Basics

Three focus areas of ministry for Core members to choose:

Core members are able to choose a specific program or approach for working with teens. The goal for all three is to move teens towards discipleship with Christ. The degree of relational ministry and interpersonal discipling increases from youth groups to small groups, to DT (discipleship training) groups. Currently NET team members provide main leadership and direction for small groups and DT groups. New Core team members will be mentored and supported assuming leadership for small groups and DT groups.

1. Youth Group Nights-MOVE! Or Middle School Youth Nights

The number of teens that participate in these groups is between 15-25 teens. Teens may come regularly or occasionally. The sessions are open to specific age groups and typically involved large group presentations, focused prayer time, games, and discussion. The topic or focus of the evening is determined and facilitated by Core adults and Peer Ministry teens.

- MOVE! is a weekly gathering of senior high teens (Wednesday 7-8:30pm) that provides formation, fellowship, and prayer and seeks to engage teens around faith issues/topics. Ect Life, Justice, Virtue, discipleship, Politics, History, Stewardship, Sexuality, Dating.
- Middle School Youth Nights are bi-monthly gatherings for middle school teens (1st and 3rd Fridays 6pm-9pm). The first Friday is themed and has activities focused around that theme. The third Friday is an open youth room type night with various games and activities. Peer Ministry teens provide most direct leadership for these nights.

2. Small groups:

Small groups are evangelistic based groups, consisting of 3 to 12 teens (same gender; led by 2 adults). They will be more so focused on forming and building relationships with the teens, as well as introducing them to Christ through prayer, the Church, and the Catholic community. These groups will meet weekly; they will be themed, so you will pick a topic that you are interested in/are passionate about (i.e. Man Cave, Princessology, Basics of Prayer, Theology of the Body, Brotherhood, Narnia, Lives of the Saints). These groups are a place where you will be encouraging them to grow in deeper relationship with God by having a clear goal of encountering Christ. NET members currently provide primary leadership for small groups and Core Team members will be supporting them and carrying on small groups.

3. Discipleship Training groups:

Discipleship training groups are groups for teens that are seeking a deeper, more mature faith, which has inspired in them a love for the Lord and a desire to grow closer to him. These are teens that WANT to BE disciples, by holding them accountable for attendance, prayer, and commitment to goals of the group; they are ultimately devoted to spreading the gospel. The group consists of 3 to 7 teens (same gender; led by 2 adults) who commit to weekly meetings together. They will use the program YDisciple, which focuses these weekly meetings on all aspects of youth ministry. These aspects consist of relational, intellectual, pastoral (service), and spiritual formation. You are helping to make them Catholic disciples! NET members currently provide primary leadership for small groups and Core Team members will be supporting them and carrying on small groups.

- Arrive on time to your scheduled events.
- participate in monthly formation 3rd Wednesday 5:30-6:30pm
- Receive guidance and direction from NET team and Director of Youth Ministry (DYM).
- Be prepared for each gathering by knowing beforehand what needs to be done.
- Create a Catholic environment where openness and depth are embraced.
- Work as a team to clean up at the end of the night in an efficient and joyful manner.
- Participate on a planning team as needed.
- Communicate with other leader, teens, and parents about group meetings
- Work with Core team/peer ministry teens to present topics when applicable
- Support and give feedback to Peer Ministry leadership in doing PMAs (Primary Ministry Areas; Leadership, Hospitality, Prayer)
 - PMAs parts are used currently for MOVE, but not necessarily for Small Groups or DT groups.