

ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH

LIFE TEEN YOUTH MINISTRY CORE TEAM

APPLICATION & MEMBER COMMITMENT FORM



Here are a few important facts about being a member of the Core Team:

- Ø Team members must be at least college rising sophomore age or older.
- Ø Team members should possess the following qualities: a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, an unconditional love for teenagers, a love for the Catholic Church, regular participation in Sunday worship, a personal prayer life, freedom from serious sin, regular reading of Scripture, and an openness to using the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Ø Team members must continue to possess the above mentioned qualities throughout the duration of their commitment. Team members are free at any time to unconditionally terminate their relationship as a Core Team member. At the same time, the ministry of St. Mark Life Teen Youth Ministry retains the option to ask you to step out of this ministry if it becomes clear to us that the Lord is not calling you to this specific ministry, or if mitigating circumstances make it unwise for you to continue in this ministry.
- Ø Team members who have left the ministry must wait for a period of three years before reapplying to serve as a team member.
- Ø Team members must, before ministering in any capacity with teens, attend a Virtus Seminar, complete a background check, and fulfill all requirements related to the protection of children in the Diocese of Charlotte.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

Full Name _____ DOB ____/____/____ Sex M or F (Circle One)

COMPLETE ADDRESS

Street Address _____ City _____

State ____ Zipcode _____ Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Parish Church _____ E-mail _____

School _____ Grade Completed _____ Grad. Date _____ Occupation _____

I have read over all the information and filled out the appropriate responses on the application form and I am interested in becoming a member of the St. Mark Life Teen Youth Ministry Core Team. I understand that my answers will be held in strict confidence by members on the St. Mark Life Teen Youth Ministry staff.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please type or print your answer to the following questions on separate paper. Be sure that your answers are listed under the proper heading and are numbered correctly. It is highly recommended that you read through all of the questions before you try to answer any of them. This will save you the problem of duplicate answers. The purpose of these questions is so that we can get to know you on a more personal basis and on different levels. Rest assured that all information will be held in strict confidence by the staff of the St. Mark Life Teen Youth Ministry program.

PERSONAL LIFE AND FAITH

1. Briefly recount how and when it was that you came to know the Lord Jesus in a more personal way?
2. What are some concrete examples of how your life has been changed through your relationship with the Lord?
3. At this time, what are some areas of your life that the Lord is still working on?
4. Describe your prayer life. Include when and how you pray and what spiritual resources you may be using to deepen your faith.
5. Describe five strengths you possess in relating positively with others.
6. Describe three weaknesses you possess in relating positively with others.
7. At this time, what do you most enjoy about life?
8. At this time, what are your greatest struggles in life?
9. What did you most enjoy about high school?
10. What did you least enjoy about high school?
11. How are you currently employed?
12. What do you see as the primary purpose of youth ministry?
13. Why do you want to be on the St. Mark Life Teen Youth Ministry Core Team?

FAMILY

1. Briefly describe your immediate family.
2. Briefly describe your relationship with each member of your immediate family.
3. What about your family do you most appreciate?
4. What about your family do you most struggle with?
5. What part does God play in your family life?



HEALTH

1. Please describe any health problems for which you are being treated.
2. Please describe any medication, which you are currently taking.
3. Describe any health or mental health conditions that we should be made aware of.

CATHOLICISM

1. What do you most value about Catholicism?
2. If you could, how would you change the Catholic Church?

YOUTH MINISTRY SKILLS

1. What experience, if any, have you had with doing youth ministry work?
2. Please list any youth ministry activities (i.e. life nights, rallies, conferences, and retreats) which you have attended as a participant.
3. Briefly recount your most profound youth ministry experience.
4. Other than actual youth ministry work, please describe any jobs or volunteer experience which you have done which might help you in youth ministry.
5. Please make two lists on your answer sheet, "Skills I possess" and "Skills I Need Help Developing". Place each of the following youth ministry skills in the appropriate list

Praying with youth

Acting out skits and dramas

Providing Christian entertainment

Planning retreats

Relating to the "culture"

Planning prayer services and liturgies

Doing one-on-one faith sharing

Developing and giving talks

Relating to adult moderators

Developing skits and dramas

Conversing with teenagers

Leading small group discussion

Bilingual

Singing

OTHER ISSUES

1. Have you at any time been accused of child abuse? If yes, please provide in detail the date, the place, and an account of the circumstances surrounding each allegation of child abuse.
2. Did any administrative or judicial proceedings arise out of the allegations of child abuse? If yes, please identify the agency or court in which the proceeding was brought and its location, the parties to that proceeding, the docket number of the proceeding, and any judgment or resolution that was entered or reached.
3. Are you under the supervision of any federal, state, or local agency as a result of any allegations of child abuse?

AVAILABILITY

1. Please list any activities or commitments, which might prohibit your availability to help with retreats, including school, work, extracurricular activities, sports seasons, other volunteer efforts, prayer groups, family commitments, etc. Please list dates and times of these commitments.
2. How would you feel if, after having completed the application form, interview, and/or training for the St. Mark Life Teen Youth Ministry Core Team you were not selected?
3. When would you be available to meet with our staff for an interview?

COMMITMENT TO ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH & YOUTH MINISTRY



1. The Pastor, priests and ordained ministry of St. Mark Catholic Church are the spiritual fathers of our parish community. As such, they are spiritually responsible before God for the salvation of the souls of every person within our parish boundaries, not the least of which are the youth whom I join in their mission to minister to. As a member of the Core Team, I understand and agree that I am to be the helping hands and feet of the Pastor reaching out to the youth and their families. I promise that I will always act in accord with the mission of St. Mark Catholic Church, and the mission of the spiritual father of the parish, the Pastor.
2. As a member of the Core Team, my immediate authority is the Coordinator of Youth Ministry (CYM). I will use my gifts, talents and experience ministering to youth and families of the parish to help the CYM.
3. Realizing that I am an official representative of not only St. Mark's Parish, but the Diocese of Charlotte and the Holy Roman Catholic Church, I promise to follow strictly the Diocesan guidelines and norms that are in place through the Virtus and Protecting God's Children programs. In relation to this, I promise to strictly respect the proper boundaries with young people.
4. I acknowledge that I am obligated by law, and the Diocese of Charlotte, to immediately report to the proper authorities any information a youth may share with me concerning possible abuse issues, or issues related to a teen potentially inflicting harm on him/herself or others.
5. As a person gifted by God with a certain personality and temperament, I promise to reach beyond this to not only reach out and minister to those youth that I feel comfortable with, but with all the youth participating in the Life Teen program. I promise to not only live this myself, but to encourage and model this for the youth involved in the program.
6. I agree to act according to the following guidelines in relation to my communication with teens.
 - a. No personal residence, business or cellular phone numbers are to be given out, including for text messaging. If a teen needs to reach me as a Core Team member, they are to leave a message with the CYM, who will forward it. If a youth (s) already has my phone number(s), I will ask them to refrain from using it, and to contact me by e-mail, or thru the CYM in the future.
 - b. For all e-mail conversations between a Core Team member and a youth, the CYM must be cc'ed. This protects not only the youth, but the Core Member as well, and holds everyone accountable.
 - c. Any meetings that take place must be on-site at St. Mark. I will contact the CYM if and when the need arises. If a particular situation arises, and it seems important to meet off-site, I will first contact the CYM for permission, and proceed from there based on his or her judgment. Parents must always be kept informed, as per number eight below. Again, diocesan child protection guidelines apply here.
 - d. Facebook, My Space and other social networking sites, including instant messaging, are not allowed as a medium of communication between Core Team and youth.
7. I understand that I am acting supplementally with the parents of the youth to help these young people to become Saints. I will always keep the parents informed of what I am doing in my ministry with their children, and never usurp or counter their authority and responsibility as the primary educators of their children.

IN CONCLUSION

At the bottom of the last page of your answer sheet your signature and the date of your signature is required. Your signature will be considered an acknowledgement of the following: "I agree that all of the information on this application form is true to the best of my knowledge, and I agree to abide diligently by the above commitments to St. Mark Life Teen Youth Ministry. In addition, I grant permission to the St. Mark Life Teen Youth Ministry staff to contact, in connection with this application and periodically thereafter, the Department of Family Services and any other governmental agencies, organizations, corporations, entities, or individuals that it deems necessary in order to verify the continued accuracy of information given in connection with this application, and I agree to complete, in connection with this application and periodically thereafter any and all forms required by the St. Mark Life Teen Youth Ministry Core Team (including, but not limited to, an application for child abuse/neglect screening form to be submitted to the Department of Social Services)."

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this application. You will be contacted soon to set up an interview. And we have enclosed the following checklist for you so as to remember to send all the information we need to begin processing your application.

Signed _____ Date _____

CYM _____ Date _____

Priest _____ Date _____