



Year End Newsletter

Dear LifeTeen Parent,

As the official LifeTeen year comes to a close I wanted to, once again, give you a look into what your teens experienced and learned about at LifeTeen this last month. We wrapped up the year with two more LifeNights based on Apologetics and our end of the year LifeTeen Olympics.

The first LifeNight of the month was called Big Brother Big Sister and was all about the Churches teaching on the Communion of Saints, our Big Brothers and Sisters in Christ. The night began with a trivia game where the teens had to match up questions and answers about the Saints. The game led into the teaching which reminded us that the Saints were just people like us that kept their eyes fixed on Christ. The Saints are in heaven praying for us and with us and most of all they are our heroes in the faith. They have reached the ultimate goal of Heaven. The next portion of the evening was devoted to helping the teens “adopt” a Saint. The teens went around the room reading about different Saints. Once they decided upon two-three Saints, the core team interviewed the teens about why they wanted to “adopt” these particular Saints. After the interview the teens chose one saint that they would develop a relationship with and ask for prayer support from. To our delight, the teens really took the process seriously and most of them were genuinely excited about their adopted Saint.

The next night of the month was called In God We Trust and answered the question, “How do we know that the Catholic Church holds the Truth?” The night began with a rousing game of “Simon Peter Says” which led into a video clip called *Epic* that speaks to the 2,000 year legacy within the Church. You may view it at this link - <http://www.catholicscomehome.org/> It's a nice reminder for us all! The teaching of the night looked in detail at why we believe the Church has the Authority to teach Truth. We looked at the Gospel of Matthew in Chapter 16 where Jesus says to Peter “Thou art Peter and on this rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell will not prevail. . .” The teaching authority of the Church comes from this unbroken line of Shepherds beginning with Peter and the apostles and the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit which is called Apostolic Succession. The teens broke into their small groups to discuss the topic as well as review the other issues we studied throughout the semester. We closed the evening with a time of affirmation and prayer for our incredibly hard working and devoted core team.

The last night of the year began with a beautiful celebration of the Mass. We enjoyed free pizza and then began our LifeTeen Spring Olympics. There is one thing that this group is really good at and it's competition! We broke the teens into 6 groups and played a variety of games, from Tape Head Scripture Races to Name that Tune to a Clothespin Relay. I have NO clue who won but it was a great time and we found out that we learned a little this year in the midst of it all☺ We closed with a special blessing for our 10th graders and then a blessing for the entire group.

As always, I want to say thank you for your support and prayers throughout the past year. The core team and I have had a wonderful year ministering to your teens and are anxious for the opportunities that summer will bring. Remember that the best gift you can give your child is your example of faith in Jesus and the Church. Actions ALWAYS speak louder than words! “Preach the gospel at all times and use words when necessary” ~ St. Francis of Assisi

Have a safe and blessed summer and we hope to see you at Mass!

Peace in Christ,

Heather Gilbertson & the LifeTeen Core Team