

August 1, 2010

Greetings from the Youth Ministry Office! I hope you are having a fabulous summer, trying to stay cool!

Once again this year, the Youth Ministry programs at Saint Elizabeth are here to help you keep you and your family connected to the parish and your friends by offering programs that are faith-filled, service-oriented and tons of fun! The purpose of this letter is to provide you with all the forms and information you will need to get yourself started in our programs. It's my 3<sup>rd</sup> year now as the Youth Group Coordinator, and look forward to another awesome year! I really hope to get to know more teens and families this year!

After prayer and discussions, we have decided to make a change in the regular meeting times for the High School Youth Group. In the past, youth group meetings were every Wednesday, this year we will be moving to Tuesdays. Our time will remain the same from 7:00-8:30pm. To accommodate anyone who is busy on Tuesday nights, we are adding additional meetings this year, one Sunday per month. You will see a calendar of events for September through December on the other side of this letter with more details.

Below is an overview of our 3 types of programs, additional information about special events, retreats and trips are included on our website, online calendar and monthly e-newsletter. I encourage everyone (teens & parents) to sign up for our email communication! It's the best way to get meeting reminders, updates and forms on a regular basis!

**For the 2010-2011 Year, our theme will be: "Face to Face" – focusing on how we see ourselves, others and God in our daily lives! Our regular meetings, service projects and events will all tie into this theme.**

This year's programs are:

**F.I.S.H. (Faith In Serving Him) High School Youth Group (9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**F.I.S.H.** will meet EVERY TUESDAY at St. Elizabeth from 7:00-8:30pm. In addition there will be service opportunities, social nights and bigger events. We will also offer special Advent and Lenten programs as well as our retreats, service days and social events. Over the summer of 2011 we will continue to offer a mission retreat, fun trips and service events as well. *Proposed calendar on reverse side.*

**S.O.U.L. (Serving Others Using Love) High School Youth (9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade)**

This year, in addition to our regular meetings we will meet 6+ times per year to have strictly service oriented experiences. Our Martin Luther King Day of Service is always such an awesome experience, so we will continue that positive experience all year long! These service opportunities will occur on weekends or days that regular meetings are not scheduled. In addition to these dates, we'll spend a week on a SOUL mission retreat during the summer of 2011.

**C.L.E. (Catholic Leadership Experience) Public High School Students (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)**

The Youth Ministry Team offers Catholic Leadership Experience (CLE) to all our public high school students. Under Section 1546 of the "Public School Code" as amended by Act 175 of 1982, public school students are eligible for excused release time to attend a religion based program. Saint Elizabeth participates with 8 other parishes to provide 4 days of release time each year. We encourage parents of public high school students to enroll in CLE along with Youth Group membership! See the enclosed brochure.

\*All youth are encouraged to register for "Youth Group". By filling out the enclosed registration, teens are automatically invited to participate in ANY event that is offered whether it is FISH or SOUL! Also, all social events, trips or programs that require an additional fee will have a "registered member" rate and a "non-registered member" rate – providing an extra discount for all youth that are registered members of St. Elizabeth Youth Group.

To enable these programs to run smoothly and successfully takes a team of people in addition to myself. I am really looking forward to the upcoming 2010-2011 year but am in need of some additional assistance in planning and implementing these meetings and events. Please take some time to fill out the Stewardship form that is enclosed and help out in any way that you can!

If you have any questions, please contact me at [adeedy@stelizabethparish.org](mailto:adeedy@stelizabethparish.org) or 610-646-6550. My office is located in the St. Elizabeth Education Center, and I am available for meetings during my regular office hours on Mondays from 1:00pm – 4:30pm or by appointment. Thank you in advance for taking the time to see how the Youth Ministry programs at St. Elizabeth will be a part of your family in the 2010-2011 year. I look forward to seeing you soon!

