

Youth Report for the Annual General Assembly – 15 June, 2017

The Confirmation Programme ran on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings during this Academic Year (2016-17). This year we had 48 students total enrolled in our Year 1 and Year 2 Confirmation classes. We were blessed to have 13 catechists attending classes regularly and helping lead small groups or teachings from week to week.

In addition to our weekly two-hour class sessions, the following youth activities took place this year:

11-14 year-olds

- **The WORD:** the programme had a very successful third year. Each month, approximately 40 enthusiastic students of Levels 6, 7, and 8 came together as a community and explored an aspect of their relationship with God (questions tackled include “What does it mean to be a good Catholic?”, “If he’s my brother in Christ, then how should I treat him?””, etc.).
- **Lenten Lock-In:** *(addition since last year)* At the end of March, Robby Toole led a retreat for this age group. The participants spent 24 hours in the Parish Center (including sleeping over!), listening to Lenten Gospel talks given by members of the parish (catechists and others) and enjoying activities/prayers led by previous Kairos leaders.
- **Possible Improvements or Additions:** More notice for lock-in retreat, possibly an “outing” of some sort

Confirmation Year 1

- **Mass:** as Year 1 classes happen on a Sunday, the candidates were encouraged to attend the 11:30 Mass. Around half of them did so, sitting together in the pews.
- **Via Gebennensis:** at the beginning of the catechetical year, the Year 1 class journeyed along part of the Via Gebennensis, which is an official pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela. The small section walked began at Notre Dame, crossed the Rhône at Bel-Air, headed up through the Old Town of Geneva, and ended behind Parc des Bastions.
- **Enrolment Mass:** in November 2016, the candidates publicly enrolled into the Confirmation Programme, by standing up in front of the parish community and stating their desire to begin their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. To mark this occasion, each candidate was presented with a study Bible.
- **Laser Tag and Accrobranche:** during this catechetical year, the Year 1 class perfected their teamwork by running around a darkened maze with lasers, and by taking to the trees and doing a high ropes adventure course. The participants had a blast doing these fun activities!

- **Winter ski retreat:** in February 2017, all headed up to the snowy mountains of Leysin (VD) for a weekend of talks, small group discussions, and of course, winter sports!

Confirmation Year 2

- **Affirmation Mass** (with presentation of Youth Catechisms)
- Individual Saint Project and letters to the Bishop (year two Confirmation candidates)
- **Confirmation Retreat** – Year 2 Retreat at Chateau de Bossey with a focus on the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit, healthy post-Confirmation Christian discipleship, and the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **4th Day Activity** : Pumpkin Carving, Lugeing day
- Our **Mentor Programme** continued for its second year, with great results and positive feedback from students and mentors alike. Several students chose their mentors as their Confirmation sponsors this year.
- **Kairos Retreat** (during the October break for the Year 2 candidates) Regular meetings are taking place with the current K10 team in preparation for the next Kairos retreat in October 2017.
- Additions since last year:
 - Sacre Coeur mass & collaboration with French Catholic youth
 - Pilgrimage to Taize this summer (July 9-16) along with French Catholic programme

Possible Improvements or Additions: Additional training evenings for mentors and catechists

Youth Ages 14-18 (incl. both Confirmation classes)

- Various **service projects** with the parish Advent Dinner, roles in this year's Passion Play and Kermesse, made & served dinner for Salvation Army homeless shelter
- **Bike Trip** around the lake : camping, evening reflection & prayer, biking!
- **Lugeing in Les Diablerets** – along with other churches in the English-speaking network : fondue, lugeing, day spent together
- **Speaker Andy Fletcher** returned to speak to both Confirmation classes as well as a handful of parishioners about "Life, the Universe, and Everything". All parishioners were invited this year.

Possible Improvements or Additions: A "youth group" or youth programme that runs outside of Confirmation classes

One youth mass

Summer Mission trip or Youth Camp 2018

Other Events this year

There was also one training sessions for catechists at the beginning of the year as well as additional team meetings when required and a "thank you BBQ" for all Confirmation catechists and mentors at the end of the year. Training sessions are

typically held with both classes of catechists to create one teaching team with consistent training.

The Passion Play

Our *Passion Play* event took place over Palm Sunday weekend. We had a cast of 60 people from all over the globe, 12 kids, 10 teens and lots of adults. The youth helped with lighting, props, and decorating costumes. The fundraiser brought in around CHF 5,000 for the church. For the first time, DVDs were made to be sold, which brought a positive response (*70 ordered*). We are not yet sure if we will do it again next year.

And a hearty THANK YOU to all who supported Sarah and me with our various ministries this year. To all catechists, students, families, and parishioners who volunteered in one way or another, your contributions were superb and your spirit of service admirable. Thank you!

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