

Youth Report for the Annual General Assembly – 24 June, 2018

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 fourth year. Each month, approximately 60 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 “why we should care for child refugees” on People’s Sunday and “Vocation: let your youth not block you from considering what God is calling you to do” on Vocation Sunday.
- **Advent Retreat:** *(addition since last year)* At the beginning of December, we offered a one-day retreat for the 11-14 year olds. The participants spent the day here in the Parish Center listening to short talks given by our leadership team and enjoying activities/prayers led by previous Kairos leaders. We made Christmas cookies, wrote and performed skits, watched film clips and played games. It was a meaningful and warm retreat for both the youth *and* leaders.
- **Super Follower Spring Retreat:** *(Addition since last year)* A day-long retreat, including mass, lunch, talks/activities and an outing to Go-Karting in Annemasse. We had 22 students participate from ages 11-14 and four older student leaders.
- **Possible Improvements or Additions:** Bi-monthly “youth group” for middle school-aged students during the week (Friday evening suggested)

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 2017, 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 2018, all headed up to the snowy mountains of Leysin (VD) for a weekend of talks, small group discussions, and of course, winter sports!
- We are looking into holding a **Taize retreat** for our first year candidates in November 2018 instead of the Winter retreat. The aim is to keep programme costs to a minimum while encouraging class bonding at an earlier stage.

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, Sushi Making Christmas party
- 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.
- **Other Retreats:** Pilgrimage to Taize this summer (Aug 19-26) along with French youth

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, Samedi du Partage, Kermesse
- **Youth Group!** (*New since last year*) We came together once per month for Vigil mass, dinner and a youth group meeting. We had evenings like Human

Battleship & pulled pork sandwiches, Ice Skating & Fondue, and Living Stations with Vegetarian Chili.

- **Living Stations of the Cross** – the Youth did a beautiful job presenting the 14 stations in a “shadow station” way, with short reflections and songs throughout the event on the Friday before Palm Sunday. There were around 20 young people involved in this event.

Stay tuned...

- Next year we are looking to add a **youth mass** for every other Saturday, followed by dinner and a “Life Night”. These masses will be open to any youth ages 14-18.
- We are also looking into walking a section of the **Camino de Santiago** during Easter break next year. More details to come.
- The next **World Youth Day** will be in Panama at the end of January 2019. We will be going along with the group from the Diocese. As always, we welcome anyone age 17 and up as well as chaperones! We will have several fundraisers in the fall to raise money for young people to go to Panama!

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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