

Youth Report for the Annual General Assembly – June, 2019

The Confirmation Programme ran on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings during this Academic Year (2016-17). This year we had 51 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:

Childrens' Ministry

- **Easter Choir:** we had an Easter Choir prepare and sing for the Easter mass this year. We had just under 20 children participate in the rehearsals and/or mass, with enthusiasm and positivity from our young singers! They did a wonderful job!
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** We held an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the parish on Easter Sunday. We had over 100 children participate, many arriving on the day to join in the festivities. There were also additional activities, including egg dyeing, coloring, card making, face painting, cookie decorating and the hunt itself! It was a very joyful and successful event for our young ones!

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.
- **Enrolment Mass:** in November 2018, 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:** During this catechetical year, the Year 1 class perfected their teamwork by running around a darkened maze with lasers. The participants had a blast doing this fun activity!
- **Taize Fall retreat:** in November 2018, all headed over to the beautiful Christian Prayer Community of Taize, in France. We had a weekend of talks, activities, small group discussions, and of course, beautiful moments of prayer and reflection with the monks. This was an improvement on cost from our ski retreat in previous years.

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 one-day 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. We were blessed to have Fr. Phillip Scott with us, who led the retreat for our youth and inspired us all to continually seek growth in our faith.
- **4th Day Activity** : Pumpkin Carving, Cupcake-decorating Christmas party, Ice Skating (January)
- **Kairos Retreat** (during October break for Year 2 candidates) Regular meetings are taking place with the current K13 team in preparation for the next 3-day Kairos retreat in October 2019.
- **Other Retreats:** Pilgrimage to Taize this summer (June 28-July 7) along with French youth from the Diocese

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

- **Service Projects:** We had a large number of service projects this year, as we encourage each student in Confirmation to complete 10 Service hours each year. Our service opportunities included:
 - Music/Liturgy Team for Youth Masses (All year)
 - Samedi du Partage (November 2018)
 - Advent Dinner Servers, Childrens' Corner Helpers, Musical Performers (December 2018)
 - Easter Activities Helpers (April 2019)
 - Contest for Laudato Si Goblet Design (April/May 2019)
 - Dinner for the Homeless Cooking Team (May 2019)
 - Dinner for the Homeless Serving Team (May 2019)
 - Kermesse (June 2019)
- **LIFE TEEN! (*Addition since last year*)** This year, we began a youth mass once/month, with the youth leading the music, doing the readings & bidding prayers, and participating actively in the Saturday Vigil mass. Afterwards, we came together in the parish centre for dinner & a Life Night. We had a great response to this, with teens looking forward to the next Life Night & bringing a non-Catholic friend occasionally.
- **Social Activities:** We spend lots of time learning & deepening our faith, but we also like to let out our energy. Activities this year included movie night, ice skating, laser tag, kickball, and a closing picnic for all Confirmation families.

Youth Ages 18+

- **Theology-on-tap:** We began a ministry for our recently graduated youth and Confirmation Alumni, which ended up spreading to the entire church community! We invited speakers each month to deliver a talk on a given

topic, followed by discussion groups or Q&A. We served beer and 'pub snacks' to compliment the discussion. We had quite an enthusiastic response from the community, drawing 60-90 people for most sessions. Here were the speakers and topics of 2018-2019:

- **Fr. Mark Doherty** – Science and Faith: *Do theology & scientific evidence have to be at odds?*
- **Fr. Obiora** - Part I: The Role of Young People in the Life of the Church & Part II: Encouraging Youth Toward the Next level in their Faith
- **Dr. Deacon Michael Puscas** - Heavenly Pursuit: *The Joy of Everlasting Life and How to Attain it*
- **Dr. Michele Schumacher** - Catholic Sexual Morality: *A Different Kind of Sexual Revolution*
- **Evan Lemoine** - Love Without Walls: *The 5 Main Walls that separate us from the communion of love, and the means to overcome them*
- **Fr. Mark Doherty** – Discernment or Decision Making: *Are you Following God's Lead?*
- **Fr. Kevin White, SJ** – Beyond Left & Right: The Strangeness of Catholic Moral Teaching
- **Fr. Philip Scott** – To Live, not as an orphan, but as a favorite son or daughter in the Father's House

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!

Emily Toole
Youth Coordinator