

August 31, 2007

Dear Parents of Middle School & High School Youth,

Most of you have already “settled in” with school with the early start dates. Now it’s time to think Youth Group. If you haven’t yet checked the KCC website, please do so: littleflowerchurch.org – then click on the KCC Youth logo. It’s got all sorts of information, photos and commentary on the summer mission trip, along with a program registration form and this letter.

Because of the regional confirmation celebration on September 16 for the youth prepared during the last school year, we’re starting a week later this year. First, a reminder of the dates for the youth being confirmed on Sept. 16:

Day of Reflection, **Sept. 8**, 10:00am-4:00pm, parents 10:00-11:00

Blessing of Confirmandi, **Sept. 9**, 9:30 Mass.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, **Sept. 16**, 2:00pm, JACC at Notre Dame.

Now, A CHANGE FOR THIS YEAR. Because of the increasing busyness of 8th graders and the complexities of their school schedules, we are changing the meeting time for that group. A few parents approached me in the Spring about having an alternate time, Sunday morning, for confirmation preparation. Wednesday nights simply wouldn’t work for them. Rather than have a split group, and not wanting to deny anyone the opportunity to take advantage of a Sunday morning preparation, we have decided to move the entire 8th grade confirmation preparation group to Sunday morning, 11:00-12:00noon. If it works, and there is every reason to think it will, then we’ll stay with it. The 6th and 7th grades will continue to meet on Wednesday night, but the team, in consultation with parents, will assess the viability of the day and time for those youth.

START-UP DATES

Sixth and Seventh Grades Youth Group – **Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 26, 7-8:30pm, Open Youth Center, 6:30pm.**

Eighth Grade Confirmation Preparation Youth Group – **Sundays, beginning Sept. 23, 11:00am-12:00noon.**

Middle School Parent/Youth Orientation Session – **Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7:00pm, Youth Center.**

High School Youth Group – **Sundays, beginning Sept. 23, 7:00-8:30pm, OYC 6:30pm**

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8) PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7:00pm, Youth Center. This meeting is important as it gives us a chance to discuss the change with the 8th grade and additions to the program. Also, information on the Safe Environment Training mandated by the diocese. Fr. Neil will be present to talk about some of the initiatives he is asking of youth group. **EVERY FAMILY NEEDS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE REPRESENTED.**

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Opening night bash, **Sept. 23**. Cook out, bonfire, and election time. The themes for the first few sessions are being planned now, but we will have a “ballot” in which you can vote for themes you want to deal with over the year. Also, at the suggestion of the Council of Elders, there will be more time and energy given to prayer.

CAMP EBERHART

October 6-7, high school and middle school youth. This is a great fun event which promotes community development and team building. High ropes/challenge program, group initiatives, low ropes, archery, rowing, campfire, night hike, perhaps tubing, plus the scintillating Eberhart cuisine. You can find a parent consent form on the KCC website.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please be sure to fill out completely and return the registration form. If your youth has an e-mail address, be sure to print it clearly. E-mail, the bulletin, and the web site are the best ways for me to communicate, with the added benefit of saving on postage. Please carefully fill out the second side of the form. Your involvement is crucial to the success of the program. Also, the fee is important; there are considerable expenses for the Middle School and High School programs. If the fee is not manageable, please just let me know.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Confirmation preparation is done in the 8th grade. The confirmation retreat has not been scheduled yet but will probably be in April, as usual. We will have a confirmation meeting for youth and parents on a Sunday morning in October or November.

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

We will be doing sacrament preparation for middle school and high school youth who have not been baptized, received first Eucharist, or been confirmed. As soon as we have names, we'll plan the time.

HOW TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING

Through e-mail, the KCC website, the Sunday bulletin, and written notices on Wednesday and Sunday nights. Monthly calendars will not be sent in the mail but will be posted on the website. There will be a variety of social, service, and fundraising activities going on throughout the year; I hope you will stay informed.

Thank you for all you do.

Peace,

Bill Odell
Pastoral Associate