

April 4, 2022

Dear Pastors, Chaplains, Youth Ministers, and Pastoral Ministers,

Diocesan Youth Leadership (DYL) is a unique leadership, faith formation, and pastoral training opportunity offered to youth in grades 10-12 in our Diocese. Representing our Catholic high schools and parishes, this team advocates for the needs of our young people at a Diocesan level. Members of DYL play a crucial role in spreading the joy of the Gospel at youth events, particularly at the Diocesan Confirmation Retreats, the National Catholic Youth Conference, the March for Life Pilgrimage, and the Diocesan World Youth Day. They are given the opportunity to plan, give witness talks, lead discussions, and implement creative ideas for bringing the young people of our Diocese together to advocate and pray for causes they are passionate about. Members of DYL are called to embody joyful discipleship and heartfelt evangelization in their communities. We invite you to please prayerfully consider the young people at your parishes and schools who would benefit from the opportunity of DYL.

Here's what our Diocesan Youth Leaders have to say about their experience in DYL:

1. "I have always been a leader, but there were many times when I did (not) feel like that leadership was 'doing' anything. This program allowed me to contribute to the Diocese and my faith in a way where the results were immediately evident."
2. "I love to see teens come together and work together for the greater good. It has been enjoyable to see other people and their gifts and talents."
3. "I really enjoyed working with my fellow leaders to inspire and bring others closer to God."

We would like to ask you to please **nominate 1-2 young people** in your parish or school to serve on DYL for the 2022-2023 school year. Those you nominate should be young people who will at least be going into their sophomore year, who are already actively involved in your parish or school, who are committed to living their Catholic faith joyfully, who desire to grow in their relationship with Christ, and who can commit to the leadership role being offered to them. To nominate someone, please visit the DYL website at <https://diocesefwsb.org/youth-leadership/>. On this site, you will find an application form to share with those you nominate and their parents/guardians. Alternatively, you can make copies of the attached application and information letter with team requirements for your nominees. Young people can then submit their applications to John Pratt at jpratt@diocesefwsb.org. Applications for 2022-2023 DYL will be accepted through **June 10, 2022**.

We hope that DYL helps to build the gifts of the young people in our Diocese as well as equip your teens with additional skills and experiences to better serve your parish and school communities. I would be remiss if I did not thank Kelly Coyle who has been instrumental in forming and supporting Diocesan Youth Leadership for the last three years. She will continue co-coordinating the Diocesan Youth Leadership for 2022-2023. Her enthusiasm and energy has made this leadership formation program possible for youth from across our Diocese. We also welcome Jocelyn Alcalá Gomez as the new Associate Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Jocelyn can be reached at jalcala@diocesefwsb.org.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, Jocelyn, or Kelly Coyle at coyle.kellym@gmail.com with any questions.

Sincerely,
John Pratt



April 4, 2022

Dear Youth Leaders,

We are now accepting applications from nominated youth to be a part of the 2022-2023 Diocesan Youth Leadership. The Diocesan Youth Leadership is a unique leadership opportunity that will empower you to become a more confident leader and witness to Christ at your school, in your parish, and throughout our Diocese.

You have been nominated for this role because of your joy, energy, and commitment that you have shown to building our Church and growing in friendship with our Lord. What a gift you are to your parish and the whole Church! Before submitting an application; however, please read through what will be required of you on the next page to make sure that you can fully say “yes” to this responsibility. It is important that we build a strong team where everyone can be present. Please also discuss this commitment with your parents or guardians. **If you feel called to serve on this leadership team, please submit the following application form to John Pratt at the Office of Youth Ministry at jpratt@diocesefwsb.org** After our team of youth ministers reviews your application, we will notify you if you have been accepted to serve on the Diocesan Youth Leadership for 2022-2023. We are accepting applications through June 10, 2022. Online interviews will take place during the month of June. All accepted members of Diocesan Youth Leadership will be notified before June 30, 2022.

Diocesan Youth Leaders will help plan and lead Diocesan events such as the:

Diocesan World Youth Day 2022 (August 6, 2022 at Headwaters Park, Fort Wayne)

Diocesan Confirmation Retreat

(Saturday, October 1 or 22, 2022 / a date in the Spring)

March for Life Pilgrimage (January 19-22, 2023 to Washington, DC)

Additionally, Diocesan Youth Leaders will help provide a link between parish ministry and Diocesan initiatives. Diocesan Youth Leaders will represent the youth of the Diocese to bring their needs and concerns before youth ministry leaders from around the Diocese. Finally, Diocesan Youth Leaders will also be empowered to help create and lead ideas of their own.

The 2022-2023 Diocesan Youth leadership Team will meet for a kick-off event at Pokagon State Park on July 14, 2022. We will gather to thank our team from the past year, get to know our new team and start preparing for the events of the year. If you are accepted to the DYL, we hope to see you at the kick-off and earnestly pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you and everyone else applying for the Diocesan Youth Leadership. May we do something beautiful for God and His Church through our collaboration, teamwork, and leadership development.

Sincerely,

John Pratt



Diocesan Youth Leadership Team Requirements 2022-2023

- Receive a nomination or letter of support from your pastor and/or youth minister.
- Ability to attend all/almost all formation and planning meetings (see list below).
- Ability to attend at least two of four Diocesan events for 2022-2023
(See bolded events below).
- Willingness to arrive early and stay after events to help with set up and clean up.
- Commitment to good communication: read and respond to all emails and group messages as they are sent, and let the adult leaders know if you have a conflict with a meeting as soon as you learn about it.

1. Thursday, July 14, 2022 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (in-person)
2. Monday, July 25, 2022 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (online)
3. **Saturday, August 6, 2022 - DIOCESAN WYD AT HEADWATERS PARK**
4. Sunday, September 4, 2022 - 10:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (in-person)
5. Thursday, September 22, 2022 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (online)
6. Friday, September 30, 2022 or Friday, October 21, 2022
CONFIRMATION RETREAT SET-UP in SOUTH BEND
7. **Saturday, October 1 or 22, 2022 CONFIRMATION RETREAT IN SOUTH BEND**
8. Saturday, November 12, 2022 - 10:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (in-person)
9. Thursday, December 1, 2022 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (online)
10. Saturday, January 7, 2023 - 10:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (in-person)
11. **Thursday - Sunday, January 19 - 22, 2023**
MARCH FOR LIFE PILGRIMAGE
12. Thursday, February 9, 2023 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (online)
13. Thursday, March 2, 2023 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (online)
14. Friday in March (TBD) CONFIRMATION RETREAT SET-UP in FORT WAYNE
15. **Saturday in March (TBD) CONFIRMATION RETREAT IN FORT WAYNE**
15. Thursday, April 6, 2023 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (online)
16. Sunday, April 23, 2023 - 10:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (in-person)
17. Thursday, May 11, 2023 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (online)

- Willingness to work with others and complete any tasks assigned to you by your team.
- Commitment to living a life in accord with the teachings of the Church and as a role model for one's peers.



2022-2023 Diocesan Youth Leadership Application Form

Student Name: _____ Graduation Year: 20____ T-Shirt Size: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Student E-mail: _____ Student Phone: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____ Parent Email: _____

Parent Phone: _____ School: _____ Parish: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please answer the following questions:

In your own words, describe your relationship with God.

In your opinion, what is the purpose of the Diocesan Youth Leadership?

Why do you want to be on the Diocesan Youth Leadership?

What special gifts and talents do you have that you could share with the Diocese?

