

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

