

April 22, 2024

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, and other regional and diocesan events. 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. In the last two years, members of our team have started an annual retreat day for young women titled, "Beloved Daughters" to help young women aged 16-22 in their discernment. Our team members saw a need, made recommendations, and have felt empowered to help bring about something new. Other members of DYL served on a "Rise-up" team at WYD 2023 in Lisbon planning the catechesis days at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church in Lisbon, PA. 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 personally invite 1-2 young people in your parish or school to serve on DYL for the 2024-2025 school year. Those you personally invite 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. Please share the following application form to those who you think would benefit from this opportunity. We are continually humbled by how abundantly the Lord blesses the enthusiasm, energy, and initiatives of our Diocesan Youth Leaders. Young people can then submit their applications to John Pratt at [jpratt@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:jpratt@diocesefwsb.org). Applications for 2024-2025 DYL will be accepted through June 10, 2024.

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. We would like to thank Kelly Coyle who will be supporting our DYL team for a sixth year,

John Pratt [jpratt@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:jpratt@diocesefwsb.org)  
Jocelyn Jalcala [jalcala@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:jalcala@diocesefwsb.org)  
Kelly Coyle [coyle.kellym@gmail.com](mailto:coyle.kellym@gmail.com)

Sincerely,  
John Pratt  
Jocelyn Alcala



April 22, 2024

Dear Youth Leaders,

We are now accepting youth applications for the 2024-2025 Diocesan Youth Leadership. 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 and beyond.

Thank you for your interest in applying to be a part of Diocesan Youth Leadership. Before submitting an application, however, please read through the expectations 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](mailto: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 2023-2024. We are accepting applications through June 10, 2024. Online interviews will take place during the month of June. All accepted members of Diocesan Youth Leadership will be notified before June 30, 2023.

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

- National Eucharistic Pilgrimage
- Diocesan Confirmation Retreats
- Posada w/ Bishop Rhoades
- March for Life Pilgrimage (January 22, 2025, to Indianapolis, IN)
- Beloved Daughters: A Retreat for Young Women

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 2024-2025 Diocesan Youth leadership Team will kick-off the 2024-2025 year by participating in the Eucharistic Pilgrimage on Monday, July 8 from Waterloo to Auburn. You will participate in this historic and unprecedented cross-country Eucharistic Procession and following we will gather to thank our team from the past year, get to know our new team and start praying for the upcoming events of the year. If you are accepted to the DYL, we hope to see you at this Eucharistic Procession. May we do something beautiful for God and His Church through our collaboration, teamwork, and leadership development.

Sincerely,

John Pratt  
Jocelyn Alcalá



## Diocesan Youth Leadership Team Requirements 2024-2025

- Ability to attend all/almost all formation and planning meetings (see list below).
- Ability to attend at least three of six Diocesan events for 2024-2025 (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. **Monday, July 8, 2024 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE: St. Michael Waterloo to Immaculate Conception, Auburn).**
2. Thursday, July 25, 2024 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (online)
3. Sunday, September 1, 2024 - 10:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Warsaw)
4. Thursday, September 19, 2024 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (online)
5. Friday, October 18, 2024 CONFIRMATION RETREAT  
SET-UP in SOUTH BEND
6. **Saturday, October 19, 2024 CONFIRMATION RETREAT IN SOUTH BEND**
7. Saturday, November 9, 2024 - 10:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (in-person)
8. Thursday, November 21, 2024 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (online)
9. **Sunday, December 15, 2024 POSADA W/ BISHOP RHOADES (Fort Wayne)**
10. Sunday, January 12, 2025 - 10:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Warsaw)
11. **Wednesday, January 22, 2025  
MARCH FOR LIFE PILGRIMAGE**
12. Thursday, February 6, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (online)
13. Thursday, March 6, 2025 - 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 3, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (online)
16. **Saturday, April 26, 2025 BELOVED DAUGHTERS RETREAT**
17. Thursday, May 8, 2025 - 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.



## 2024-2025 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?

