

Queen of Heaven Parish

1800 Steese Road
Uniontown, Ohio 44685

August 1, 2009

Dear Families with Teens entering the 9th Grade:

I would like to invite you to continue growing in your relationship with Jesus Christ. Here at Queen of Heaven Parish, we seek to offer you quality religious formation programs. Your parish is committed to make sure that the most current and best of programs are available to you. We truly are concerned about you as a person and as a Catholic Christian. **In this letter, I seek to inform you of two (2) programs available to you –Life Teen and Confirmation preparation.**

You are invited to be part of our **LIFE TEEN** Program. Life Teen is an international program specifically designed to lead you to Christ. Through experiential-based, non-classroom model of catechesis, you have the opportunity not just to learn about Jesus Christ but to develop a relationship with Him that impacts your daily life. Life Teen helps equip you to live as a Catholic Christian destined for life with God eternally while providing you answers to questions when your friends call into question the Church you have been attending.

Life Teen presents:

- **THE TRUTH** by exposing you to the person of Jesus and the Roman Catholic Church teachings; We will tell you the Truth and nothing but the truth that you seek.
- **EXPERIENCE** by providing powerful liturgies designed to help you experience the love of Christ in the **Eucharist**, the Word of God and in others;
- **ACCEPTANCE** by providing an environment where you will be accepted for who you are surrounded by people who really care about you everyday.

Life Teen is Queen of Heaven's parish catechetical and faith formation program offered for our teens. The program is centered around the Eucharist and dedicated to Blessed Virgin Mary. I encourage you to register and not to miss out.

The enclosed calendar highlights our meetings. Each Sunday evening, we begin with a spirited Mass at **5:00 pm**, followed by a light supper. In our meeting time (**Life Nights**) we will provide you the truth, address Teen issues, provide opportunities to socialize and to reach out to others in service. Our evening concludes at **8:00pm**. In addition, three weekend **retreats** are offered to develop and deepen your relationship with God and others. (Please note Life Teen Mass and meeting times have changed for 2009-2010).

This is an exciting program which is not offered in every parish. Life Teen is staffed by committed young adults and adults who love to be with teens. Two overnight retreat experiences will be offered this year in the Parish Life Center. All new formats and reduced costs.

But that is not all...

Sacramental Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

As a ninth grade teen, we offer you the opportunity to celebrate a Sacrament that completes your initiation into the Church and strengthens you. **Confirmation** is a celebration of the ongoing power of the already-present Holy Spirit in our lives, the Spirit first received in Baptism. Confirmation deepens and intensifies the gift of the Holy Spirit and its seven-fold gifts. The Most Reverend Roger Gries O.S.B. will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 7, 2010 at 7 pm here at Queen of Heaven Church.

Confirmation preparation is a separate program from the Life Teen experience. Both faith formation and sacramental preparation are vital components in the process of becoming Disciples of Christ; thus, each program is offered separately. While it is not required that you participate in both programs, you are highly encouraged to do so. Confirmation preparation is about immediate preparation for a candidate to celebrate the Sacrament. Life Teen is our weekly program to help our teens grow in relationship with Christ and learn about what it is to be a Catholic disciple.

An exciting *new program* has been designed for Confirmation preparation for 2009-2010. This program will be explained in the ***Information Meeting for both parents and teens on November 30.*** That night, information will be provided and the teens will have the opportunity to meet one another and those directly involved in the program.

Here are important dates to be aware of regarding the Confirmation program to help you plan:

Date	Event	Time
November 30 th	Information Meeting for Parents & Confirmandi	7:00 – 8:00pm
January 13 th	Confirmation Session 1	7:00 – 8:30pm
January 27 th	Confirmation Session 2	7:00 – 8:30pm
February 10 th	Confirmation Session 3	7:00 – 8:30pm
March 3 rd	Confirmation Session 4	7:00 – 8:30pm
March 17 th	Confirmation Session 5	7:00 – 8:30pm
May 1 st	Day of Reflection	10:00am – 4:00pm
May 7 th	Confirmation	7:00pm

In addition to the above meetings, **Confirmation Candidates will be required to participate in ONE overnight retreat experience.** Teens are to choose one retreat experience that will be offered either at Queen of Heaven Parish or an off-site location.

These **retreat opportunities** include (but not limited to):

CYO Search weekend	October 2-4	Camp Christopher	\$70
Life Teen Fall Retreat	November 21 & 22	Queen of Heaven PLC	\$30
CYO Search weekend	February 26-28	Camp Christopher	\$70
Life Teen Spring Retreat	March 28 & 29	Queen of Heaven PLC	\$30
CYO Search weekend	April 23-25	Camp Christopher	\$70

Enclosed you will find a registration forms for both Life Teen and the Confirmation program. Please complete and return them to the parish office if you wish to participate in these exciting faith formation and sacramental programs.

Please note that there are retreat opportunities prior to the first informational meeting on November 30. Registration forms will be made available in the Gathering Space bulletin boards and on the parish web site. Registration forms for Life Teen and the Confirmation program will also be posted on the web site www.queenofheavenparish.org

Realizing the economic conditions that are present, all program expenses have been reduced for this year. If any family is in need of financial assistance, they are asked to contact me.

Take the time to examine both program's calendars and register. If you have any questions, give me a call or email me at frthom@queenofheavenparish.org I will gladly help you understand what is being offered for our teens this year.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Thom Kowatch

Coordinator of Life Teen Program
Coordinator of Confirmation Program
Queen of Heaven Parish
frthom@queenofheavenparish.org

Enclosures:

Life Teen Calendar
Life Teen Registration
Confirmation Program Registration