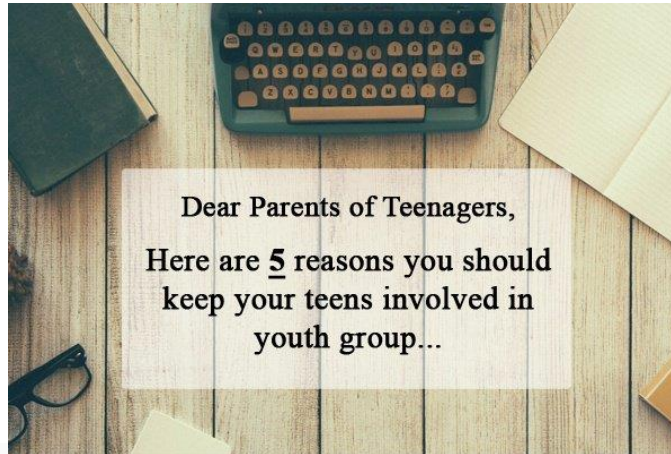


# ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO THIS MINISTRY??????

*What would it mean to volunteer?*

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." -- Proverbs 3:5-6**

## WHY TO VOLUNTEER



Dear Parents of Teenagers,

Thanks for all you do to invest in the life of your teenager(s). You probably feel like an uber driver (ready to pick them up/drop them off when they call), coach (helping them perfect their sport), tutor (working with them on homework), guidance counsellor (preparing them for the future) and, sometimes, a jockey (pushing them to cross the finish line...without a whip of course!)...all wrapped up in one!

That's why, with all the insane busyness of parenting a teen, it's easy to let youth group attendance slide off the grid. It's tempting to think, *"My kid's just too busy for a night of hanging out with other teenagers, playing some goofy games and hearing another Bible lesson."*

Believe me when I say, I understand the temptation. As a parent of a teenager (who has tons of homework, plays football and is not yet old enough to drive) my wife and I are constantly under pressure to measure every event through the lenses of what matters most. And we have decided that youth group attendance must be a priority. Although we view ourselves as the primary spiritual influence of our kids, we also believe that a strong youth ministry plays a vital role in his overall spiritual development.

With this as a backdrop here are 5 short, yet powerful, reasons you should encourage (make?) your teenager(s) go to youth group:

- 1. Teenagers need models and mentors.**
- 2. Teenagers need community.**
- 3. Teenagers need mission.**
- 4. Teenagers need theology.**
- 5. Teenagers need a safe place to confess and confide.**

# ***HOW TO VOLUNTEER***

Want to volunteer at the many St. Theresa's children based programs/events (i.e. fall picnic, youth ministry, religious education, school functions)? St. Theresa's encourages and welcomes your involvement however it requires that all volunteers be compliant. A volunteer welcome letter will be sent to your email address along with a link to fill out the online background check application. For further details please contact Connie Gilligan, Parish Child Safety Coordinator at [connie@sainttheresaparish.com](mailto:connie@sainttheresaparish.com) or call 703-729-3714.

Volunteers also need to register and sign up for the original VIRTUS course. Please go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) to register and sign up.

Or just call me to ask what you can do, how we can use your talents, or let us know your ideas. Not everyone is a Sunday night teen, maybe we can start another entirely different group (i.e. – visiting nursing homes twice a month, bringing lunches to the dayworkers one Saturday of the month, and so many more)

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Paul Dwyer

Youth Ministry Office

Saint Theresa Parish

[ymoffice@sainttheresaparish.com](mailto:ymoffice@sainttheresaparish.com)