"NOW YOU ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST..."
2 CORINTHIANS 12: 27

A Catholic HANDS-ON Youth Mission:

2020 MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

INFORMATION PACKET
WHY GO ON A MISSION TRIP?

YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
As a young person, you know that you have the ability to make an impact in the world around you and you want to get started! Our days are filled with serving those in need whether it’s improving living conditions for a homeowner, serving at a soup kitchen, cleaning up a park area, or any number of other projects. We will show the community that no matter how young, you create positive change in the world.

YOU WANT TO FORM TRUE FRIENDSHIPS
On our mission trips, participants share life that goes deeper than a shared interest. You will have the opportunity to form friendships with students not only from St. Pius X, but with those from around the country.

YOU WANT TO BROADEN YOUR PERSPECTIVE
Often we have misconceptions of what poverty looks like or what a particular area of our country or world are like. Taking the time to meet real people and visit new places first hand can be eye-opening and help us realize that we really aren’t as different as we might have thought.

YOU TO WANT TO GROW IN LEADERSHIP
On a mission trip, everyone has a role to play. You won’t be treated like a child, but as a valued member of team. You will have to step out of your comfort zone, learn new skills, and help problem solve on your project. Each crew member has their own role to play.

YOU WANT TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST
Our work is always rooted in Christ, who calls us to love one another and serve each other. You will meet Christ in a deeper way that you may have before; through those you serve, those in your crew, through prayer, music and daily devotions. You will find that your service is more than just good deeds, but is truly what you were created for.

Together with young people from other Catholic parishes from various cities and states, and with Just5Days Mission Trips, we will be serving in Eden Prairie, MN. Our mission trip will provide an experience that includes service, travel, and retreat. Yes, it will demand hard work, but when we live for others, it is always amazing!
WHAT TO EXPECT

FAITH
FAITH is the heart of Just5Days. Our theme this summer is inspired by the scripture passage 1 Corinthians 12:27 “Now, you are the Body of Christ!” and the catholic social teaching principle of solidarity.

SERVICE
SERVICE during Just5Days places youth in direct, hands-on work that meets real needs of a local community. Our service sites include working with the elderly, those with disabilities, low income families, community soup kitchens, or assisting various nonprofit charitable organizations.

PRAYER
PRAYER begins and ends each day of Just5Days. In every community prayer service, there are opportunities for youth to have leadership roles by proclaiming the Word and by sharing their voices in song. Our week of service culminates with a celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY within Just5Days is fostered through age appropriate activities, group discussions, and simulation games. Additionally, by their direct service out in the community, youth gain a better understanding of socioeconomic and cultural diversities.

CATHOLIC
CATHOLIC is who we are! Just5Days promotes the principles of our Catholic faith, Sacred Scriptures, teachings of Pope Francis, and other holy men and women who have heard the call to follow Jesus and serve with love.

TYPICAL DAY SCHEDULE
8:00am  Breakfast
9:00am  Morning Prayer
10:00am Work at Service Sites
3:30pm  Shower and Relax
5:00pm  Team Time
5:30pm  Dinner
7:00pm  Evening Program
8:30pm  Evening Social
9:30pm  Evening Prayer
10:30pm Good Night!
WHAT ELSE TO EXPECT

SERVICE TEAMS AND WORK
Each team will have anywhere from 4 to 15 people with 1 to 3 adult leaders depending on the needs of our service sites, the size of the group on site, and the number and size of vehicles available. You will likely serve alongside teens from other parishes and states. Your team will depart together for your site at 9:30 a.m. and return to the home site by 3:30 p.m.

Some of our service sites include the following projects:
- Visiting with the elderly
- Painting exteriors and interiors
- Indoor/outdoor clean-up
- Home maintenance and repair
- Neighborhood revitalization
- Helping with children at daycare centers/boys and girls clubs
- Distributing food to the needy through community organizations
- Serving meals at community soup kitchens
- Sorting goods at thrift stores
- Working at nature preserves
- Assisting at no-kill animal shelters
- Helping with vacation Bible camps for low income families

PRE-TRIP MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES
Pre-trip meetings will be essential for receiving trip information, getting to know adult leaders and other participants, and preparing mentally and spiritually for a mission trip. Please mark your calendars for the following dates:
February 26th at 6:30pm in the Founder's Hall - Interest and Expectations Meeting
April 15th at 7pm in the Founder's Hall - Team Building Meeting
May 31st at 11am in the Founder's Hall - Logistics Meeting, parents encouraged to attend
June 21st at 10am - Send off Mass
June 22nd TBD - Meet in St. Pius X north parking lot to pack and depart!
June 26th TBD - Return to St. Pius X north parking lot.

EXTRA ACTIVITIES
Often we will enjoy a fun day as a part of our trip either on the way to or from the Mission Trip. These extra activities could include a trip Mall of America, ValleyFair, Go-Karting, water parks, tours of historical sites or other areas of interest. These extra activities will be determined with input from adult leaders and participants with consideration to our travel schedule. Usually all or part of the cost of these extra excursions will be included as a part of your camp fee.
The Middle School Mission Trip is open to current 6th-8th grade students and adult leaders (21+). All participants can register at http://piusx.org/youth-ministry.html

**Adult participants:**
Before the trip, you will be required to complete VIRTUS and have a background check on file with the parish. Drivers (25+) must take a 20 minute defensive driving course online.

**Cost:**
Full cost of the Mission trip is $420. A $25 early registration discount if registered by March 1st.

| Participants (under 21): | A $100 deposit is due at the time of your registration. ($75 by 3/1) |

Cost for Adult Leaders (21+): The parish will cover the down payment and leaders will be responsible for covering the remaining amount by participating in fundraising opportunities and/or out of pocket. If leaders fundraise they will cover most, if not all, of their final payment.

**Payment Schedule:**
- **March 1st:** Early bird deadline deposit of $75 is due by March 1st to secure your spot. After March 1st the deposit is $100.
- **April 1st:** Second payment of $160 is due (less any fundraising completed)
- **May 1st:** Final Payment of $160 is due (Less any fundraising completed)

*Sorry, we cannot issue refunds for payments.*

**Assistance and Fundraising**

**St. Pius X Student Grant:**
Our mission trip is not intended to be simply a one week summer experience, but a week to growth for Christian life. Our parish offers a $25 grant to each student who is an active member in our youth or parish ministries. Application is attached.

**Fundraisers:**
We offer several fundraiser opportunities and encourage our participants and their families to come up with their own ideas for fundraising as well. Some fundraising options include:
- **Trivia Night** ~ Friday, January 31st
- **Spaghetti Dinner** ~ Saturday, April 18th
- **Invest in Youth** ~ Spring of 2020

Funds raised for these events will be divided equally between those those who participate in the them. If additional funds remain they will used to offset group expenses such as transportation, free day activities and meals, scholarships, etc.

**Scholarships:**
It is our hope that anyone who would like to participate in a summer mission trip can do so without financial difficulty. If you participate in fundraising opportunities, but still need financial assistance, please contact Katie in the parish office to discuss either an alternate payment plan or a scholarship.
1. Please list any youth and parish ministries that you currently participate in.

2. If you have participated in a mission trip before: What impacted you the most about your previous experience? OR If this is your first mission trip: What are you most looking forward to about going this trip this year?

3. What is one personal goal that you hope to work toward during the 2020 high school mission trip?

4. Why do you feel it is important that our parish community invest in the youth of our parish - especially by sending youth on mission trip?