

Parish Youth Leader Call – May 2022

May 10, 2022 | Feast of St. Damien of Molokai

Congrats to our Prize Winners today! Erin, Brian, and Sandi all win a copy of *Wordle-ish* from ProjectYM for winning our game today! Also, Thaddeus wins a copy of *Throw Throw Burrito: Extreme Edition* (a summer must-have for sure).

Tales of Glory: We took some time sharing some ways we are seeing God work in our work. There is a lot to be thankful for and for which to give God glory! A couple highlights include:

- Confirmation candidates feeling the Holy Spirit descend upon them in powerful ways
- Excitement in the parish and among families about new teen nights and Confirmation processes.
- Proud catechists watching teens get Confirmed

Let's Chat About Summer Ministry! Ministry in the summer can be hard, but is so important! We shared what is working well and what ideas we have. Things shared included:

- Summer School option for formation (for families who want to engage but cannot during the school year)
- Matthew 25 – local service camp for middle & high school teens
- Lots of bonfires (who doesn't love fire and s'mores?)
- Summer Confirmation prep (again, for those families who struggle during the year)
- Senior Small Group based on practical evangelizing & human skills (writing, public speaking); these teens get to share their testimonies and more with teens throughout the summer at other events.
- Friday Excursions to hikes, beautiful churches, and more adventure-type destinations
- Extreme UNO tournaments, slip n' slide kickball, shaving cream whiffle ball, and more
 - [Check out more ideas here!](#)

General things to remember about doing summer ministry:

- Don't Skip It! - As easy as it is to plan for the school year or rest, your teens are around and summer is great opportunity to engage them in a different way than we usually do.
- Dive Deep – A common challenge with doing ministry in the summer is lower numbers (people on vacation, harder to get the word out, things are 'optional'). However, that presents a great opportunity to go deeper with your teens that do come. Building those relationships now is a great way to lay a foundation for school year ministry.
- Build on Event Success – If you're heading out on a mission trip, a conference, or camp, don't let the momentum fade when you get home! Leverage that time spent together into a small group or Bible study that continues on.
- Have Fun!! It's not class, and there are few rules. Get out there and play!
- Let teens lead/plan - ask them what they want to do, then do it!

- Measured Simplicity – you might have a small group, and you might have a large group. In the summer, it's tough to know ahead of time. So, think of things you can do that won't result in a large "sunk cost" (planning time that you don't get back for a small group) but can scale easily if you do have a large group come.
 - Example – Summer Breakfast Bible Study. We could cook breakfast together once teens showed up so I didn't over-cook and waste food and time!

Prayer Time – We spent some time in prayer, asking for intercessions and praying for one another. Keep those prayer requests coming!

Announcements – A few things to know about...

- LBH Adult Training Day – May 19
- Catechetical Conference – August 25-27
- Cor Jesu for Teens – Sunday, November 13 w/ Bobby & Jackie Angel!!
 - More details to come, but save the date for an awesome evening!
- PYL Calls next school year – *every* Second Tuesday at 1pm!
 - Next Call – September 13
- Have a great summer!