



# Parish Leader Guide

**Middle School 01**

June 23-26

**SLINGER**

St. Peter Catholic Church

**Middle School 03**

July 7-10

**FOX POINT**

St. Eugene Congregation

**Middle School 02**

June 28-July 1

**WAUKESHA**


Corpus Christi Parish

**High School Week**

July 12-17

**WEST BEND**

St. Mary's Immaculate  
Conception



# Welcome Message

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## Welcome to Love Begins Here!

Love Begins Here (LBH) offers middle and high school teens a powerful opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ through a week of local service, lived in a joyful and faith-filled Catholic community. Inspired by the life and witness of St. (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta, LBH encourages teens to serve those in need within their own neighborhoods and communities.

What sets LBH apart from other mission experiences is its local focus—students from across the Archdiocese of Milwaukee serve people in need right here in our own archdiocese.

LBH includes Daily Mass and Rosary, Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, and more! Our evening sessions include games, witness talks, evening reflections, and parish time to strengthen your teens' relationships with one another and with the Lord.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We're excited to partner with you in this meaningful ministry!

God Bless,



Andrew Schueller  
Director of Youth Ministry  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

## LBH History

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### 2009

The Diocese of Madison holds the first summer of Love Begins Here.

### 2017

The Diocese of Green Bay starts holding their own weeks of Love Begins Here.

### 2021

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee holds our first summer of Love Begins Here.

### 2025

Love Begins Here Milwaukee celebrates its fifth summer. Since its creation, 840 missionaries have given 12,000 hours of service to communities across the archdiocese.

# Glossary of LBH Terms

You may see reference to the following terms in this guide or on the mission field. Here's more information on what each term means:

- **Teen Missionary:** A youth (grades 6-12) who is attending LBH.
- **Adult Missionary:** An adult leader/chaperone (21+) attending LBH. See more in the LBH Missionaries section.
- **Core Team Missionary:** A staff member of LBH. We will have 8-9 staff members (usually young adults) who help implement and guide LBH throughout the week.
- **Parish Group:** A group coming to LBH from the same parish, along with their adult leaders. E.g. Louisa brings 6 teens from St. Elizabeth on a week of LBH. This is the "St. Elizabeth" parish group.
- **Parish Group Leader:** The Parish Group Leader is a paid staff member from the parish (Policy #6153.1) who is the main contact responsible for a parish group. They handle registration, promotion, and coordination for bringing a parish group AND serves as the "head" adult missionary for a parish group as well (if you are reading this, you are likely the parish leader!).
- **Host Parish/Home Base:** The parish where we live in community on a week of LBH. E.g. Holy Trinity is the host parish for Middle School Week 1 – during that week, the church and school are "home base".
- **Car Group:** Each week, youth are mixed into a particular car group with students from other parish groups. This is the "small group" they are in for the week, and will do many activities together, mainly their mission work during the day and any travelling that needs to happen during the LBH. A car group will be a mix of youth of different ages, genders, and parish groups.
- **Mission Manifesto:** This is the WHY of Love Begins Here, a constant reflection point for our missionaries throughout the week. It explains why, how, and what we do. See the Mission Manifesto section for more.
- **Collatio:** Latin for "coming/bringing together." This is the time, each evening, where all the missionaries come together for large group processing, a spiritual talk by a Core Team Missionary, and prayer time. This time helps our missionaries connect the service they do during the day with their relationship with Christ and His Church.
- **Parish Time:** Most nights include time for parish groups to come together and debrief their day. Because youth will be in different car groups throughout the day, this is a chance for a parish group to check-in and bond with each other.





# Mission Manifesto

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## Neighbors First.

We boldly take initiative to bring love to our neighbors, evangelizing with patience and joy. We are aware that when we close our eyes to our neighbor, it also blinds us to God. We encounter Him in those we serve. By putting God first in all we do, we live to serve others. Things of the world come last. We will find ourselves and come alive when we make a sincere gift of ourselves to our neighbors.

## Small Things, Great Love.

We work on a small scale with a larger perspective. No task is too small in the eyes of the Lord when filled with great love. We will aim for perfection in our work because our work belongs to the Lord.

## Missionary Disciples.

We are missionaries who work with passion, knowing we can bring God's love to our brothers and sisters who hunger. Love, in order to survive, must be nourished by sacrifices, especially the sacrifice of self. We refuse to settle for comfort and complacency, because we know each person is infinitely loved. We are the ones who enjoy life most, leaving security on the shore, on a mission to spread the joy of the Gospel.



# LBH Missionaries

LBH Missionaries are joyful, servant-hearted, and desire to bring the love of Jesus Christ to their neighbors!

## Middle School Missionaries

- Open to current 6th–8th grade students\*
- Cost is \$175/student.
- Middle School Weeks feature two workdays.

### 2026 Middle School Weeks:

- June 23–26, 2026: Slinger
- June 28 – July 1, 2026: Waukesha
- July 7–10, 2026: Fox Point

## High School Missionaries

- Open to current 9th–12th grade students\*\*
- Cost is \$215/student.
- High School Weeks feature four workdays.

### 2026 High School Week:

- July 12–17, 2026: West Bend

\* Current grade during the 2025–2026 academic year.

† Rising 9th grade students (those graduating 8th grade in 2026) are not allowed to attend the high school week.

# Seniors who are or will be 18 during the mission week **need** to complete the Safe Environment training to attend LBH.

## Adult Missionaries

Each parish group must have a Parish Group Leader (paid parish staff member) who is the main contact responsible for a parish group. They also must have additional 21+ adult missionaries who are passionate about their Catholic faith, working with teens, and service work.

- Parishes must have at least 1 Adult Missionary for every 6–8 Student Missionaries, adult missionaries must also be gender-specific (i.e. if you are bringing both male and female students who need at least one male and one female adult missionaries).
- Parishes will need seatbelts in your vehicles for each teen missionary in your Parish Group.
- Adult Missionaries **need to be present for the entirety of LBH**: we will not allow adult missionaries to switch mid-week or for “overnight only” missionaries.
- All adult missionaries must complete the Archdiocesan Safe Environment and Safe Driver policies. Adult missionaries will also need to complete an online LBH training course.
- There is no cost to attend for adult missionaries. We expect all adult missionaries to have gas in their reliable, clean vehicle to provide transportation during the week (your parish may choose to rent vehicles as well). Each adult missionary should also expect to spend about \$25 on taking their car group out for ice cream during the week. We encourage parishes to have a plan to reimburse their adult missionaries for these expenses.

# Sample LBH Schedule

## First Day

04:00pm - 05:00pm	Parishes Arrive, Check-In, and get settled
05:00pm - 06:15pm	Welcome to LBH, Ice Breakers
06:15pm - 07:00pm	Dinner, Dinner Clean-Up
07:00pm - 08:30pm	Evening Program
08:30pm - 09:15pm	Parish Time
09:30pm - 10:00pm	Prepare for Bed
10:00pm	Lights Out

## Last Day

07:00am - 07:45am	Wake-Up & Breakfast Adult Missionary Meeting
08:00am - 08:20am	All Missionary Meeting
08:30am - 09:15am	Mass, followed by Group Photo
09:15am - 10:00am	Pack & Clean-Up Home Base
10:00am - 11:00am	Brunch
11:00am - Noon	Closing Program Weekly Video

## Workdays

07:00am - 07:45am	Wake-Up & Breakfast Adult Missionary Meeting
08:00am - 08:20am	All Missionary Meeting
08:30am - 09:10am	Mass
09:10am - 09:20am	Depart for Worksites
09:30am - Noon	Worksites
Noon - 12:30pm	Lunch Break (onsite)
12:30pm - 03:00pm	Worksites
03:15pm - 05:00pm	Pool Time & Showers
05:15pm - 05:30pm	Rosary
05:30pm - 06:30pm	Dinner
07:00pm - 08:45pm	Evening Program
08:45pm - 09:30pm	Parish Time
09:30pm - 10:00pm	Prepare for Bed
10:00pm	Lights Out



# LBH Registration & Important Dates

## September 15 – 30, 2025: Parish Registration Open

- Parish registration opens at **9:00am** on **Monday, September 15th**.
  - Use the [Parish Registration form](#) to reserve spots for LBH 2026! We ask parishes to be realistic about the number of spots they request. We want our weeks to be as full as possible.
  - Please **DO NOT** guarantee your students spots as you may not get all of the spots you request.
- Initial parish registrations will close at **11:59pm** on **Tuesday, September 30th**.
- We will take requests and contact parishes with the number of spots available to them by **Friday, October 17th**.
- After October 20<sup>th</sup>, open spots will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

## November 10, 2025 – March 20, 2026: Missionary Registration Open

- All individual missionary registration will be completed online through the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
  - Missionaries do not pay the Archdiocese directly. Your parish will be invoiced for the final number of missionaries who register from your parish.
- Parish group leaders will receive a **week specific** link for their parish's registration to share with families. Parishes will have the amount of spots assigned to them. Once your spots are filled, families may still register to your parish waiting list.
  - Adult missionary registration will be completed through a separate registration link; parish leaders will be updated via their spreadsheet with adult missionary registrations.
- Parish group leaders will also receive an individual link to an online spreadsheet to track registration information for all their teens. This sheet will be updated on a regular basis (about once a week, usually on Mondays).
- **After March 20<sup>th</sup>, we may reallocate unused parish spots to parishes with waiting lists.** This will depend on how many spots you have filled and how long our waiting list is.
  - Spots will be reallocated on a rolling basis (every 2 weeks or so) after March 20<sup>th</sup> until April 26<sup>th</sup> based on demand for remaining spots. We will inform you via email if any of your spots will be reallocated.

## April 26, 2026: Registration for LBH 2026 closes

- To ensure that we have adequate time to prepare for our summer program, especially having enough worksites and to verify all adult missionaries, **all teen and adult missionaries must be registered by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 26th**.
- After this date, registration will be closed for all parishes, regardless of how many spots remain unfilled. Adding teen missionaries after this date may not be possible.
- Invoices will be sent to your parish after the April 26 deadline (by May 1<sup>st</sup>) for all spots claimed. They will be due June 1, 2026.



**“Not all of us can  
do great things,  
but we can do  
small things with  
great love.”**

**- St. Teresa of Calcutta**



# Packing List

**Footwear:** Throughout the day, participants must wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes, such as tennis shoes. Sandals, Crocs, and similar footwear are not acceptable for service work. In the evenings, participants may switch to other summer footwear or sandals if they wish.

**Clothing:** Participants are encouraged to dress modestly and appropriately. Clothing that is overly revealing, such as bare midriffs, spaghetti straps, and sagging or excessively short shorts (for ladies, shorts must have a minimum 3-inch inseam) is not permitted.

- Leggings, tights, and other form-fitting pants should be paired with a skirt or shorts worn over them.
- Please refrain from bringing clothing that displays or promotes messages inappropriate for your age (e.g., alcohol logos) or that conflict with Christian values.

**Shower/Swimwear:** Participants may not have access to private shower stalls, so swimwear should be brought for showering. Swimwear will also be useful for evening activities like water games and swimming.

- **Ladies:** please bring one-piece swimwear, tankinis that cover the whole midriff, or a non-white tshirt to wear over your two-piece swimwear.
- **Guys:** no tight-fitting suits or speedos.

**Mass Clothes:** We take plenty of time to change our clothes between things like swimming and the worksite. We also take time to change into nicer clothes for Mass.

- **Ladies:** please bring a **knee-length** skirt or slacks (not jeans or sweats) to wear over your shorts for Mass. If you are uncertain about skirt length, consider bringing leggings to wear underneath.
- **Gentlemen:** bring a pair of long slacks (not jeans) and a polo shirt.

**Phones:** Student Missionaries are expected to keep their phone at home for their week of LBH.

## The Essentials

- Inflatable Mattress
- Sleep bag **OR** Sheets and a blanket
- Pillow
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant)
- Towel
- T-Shirts & Shorts for Worksites
- One pair long sleeve shirt and pants for worksite
- Underwear
- Socks
- Pajamas
- 1 - 2 Outfits for Mass
- Sweatshirt
- Swimsuit
- Closed-toed (tennis) shoes
- Rosary
- Money for LBH Merch
- Work gloves
- Sunscreen
- Cap
- Medications
- Water bottle

## Optional Items

- Box fan
- Pen & Journal
- Shower Sandals
- Stuffed Animal

## DO NOT BRING

- Drugs & Alcohol
- Weapons & knives
- **Cell Phones**
- Portable video games & music players
- Hair dryers & curling irons

# Policies & Procedures

## **Overnight Policy**

We understand that families may feel anxious about their teen sleeping overnight on Love Begins Here. Love Begins Here is an overnight program, requiring all missionaries (including adults) to participate for the entire week and stay overnight, similar to an out-of-state parish trip. However, Love Begins Here can accommodate for families who have a need for a “sleep at home” arrangement on a case by case basis. This must be discussed with us well in advance of your trip to make possible – please contact us if this is your situation!

## **Late Arrival/Early Departures**

We request that missionaries and families treat Love Begins Here as they would an out-of-state mission trip, even if you are nearby. Late arrivals or early departures are typically not permitted, nor are mid-week pickups for activities like sports practice or try-outs. We understand this may require some sacrifice, but we believe it is a sacrifice worth making! Our experience shows that teens who arrive late or leave early struggle to connect with the community.

## **Cell Phone Policy**

Student missionaries are expected to keep their cell phones at home during Love Begins Here. Cell phones prevent students from fully entering into the mission experience AND they pose a privacy risk in the sleeping quarters. Adult Missionaries and LBH Core Team will confiscate phones if found.

Adult Missionaries are expected to bring a cell phone to communicate with the LBH office and provide for the safety of their car group and parish group. Additionally, Adult Missionaries are asked to limit their usage to LBH purposes, and not to use them during evening programming.

## **Refund Policy for 2026**

We aim to ensure that finances do not become a burden for any parish or family, and we strive to alleviate any concerns. We are committed to working with any family requesting a refund for this summer, following these guidelines:

- Cancellations for other reasons may be made without penalty through April 26, and these will be reflected in your parish's invoice. After April 26, your parish will be responsible for all registrations on file. Since each parish collects funds from families, it is up to each parish to decide how or if to refund individual families.
- To receive a refund, our offices must receive an email indicating your wish to cancel a registration before 11:59pm on April 26.
- Cancellations made after April 26 for reasons such as personal decisions, scheduling conflicts, or friends dropping out will not qualify for refunds from Love Begins Here; your parish will still be invoiced for those spots.
- As registration closes on April 26, spots become non-transferable after this date. While it may be possible to find another teen to take someone's place, this will incur an additional registration fee. Depending on our capacity, we may waive this fee and facilitate the transfer.



# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **Why Love Begins Here?**

In her 1979 Nobel Prize acceptance speech, St. Teresa of Calcutta encouraged us to “find the poor here, right in your own home first. **And begin love there.**”

Love Begins Here focuses on the needs right here in our own Archdiocese. While it is great to travel across the country and world to serve those in need, God has willed for us to be in this time and this place for a reason – to be His hands and feet to those directly around us. LBH seeks to facilitate an encounter between our youth and those in need in our own homes, parishes, and neighborhoods.

## **Can I still sign-up if my parish is not sending a group?**

Yes! We have a limited number of “Free Agent” spots for teens who join us without a parish group. To register as a Free Agent, find the registration link on the main LBH page once registration opens!

## **Where do we stay?**

Missionaries stay at a host parish throughout the week where we will eat, sleep, and pray in community. Typically, we sleep in school classrooms (separated by gender), and eat in the parish hall. Missionaries are strongly encouraged to bring an air mattress or mattress pad to sleep on.

## **What sort of work will we do?**

LBH emphasizes doing small things with great love. Mother Teresa said that the world longs for love more than it longs for bread, so while we work hard, the focus is much more on building relationships with those we serve. Missionaries serve at different service sites throughout the week. Our work can include weeding, painting, visiting and playing games with nursing home residents, lifting items, cleaning, raking, yard work, landscaping, sorting clothes/food for local shelters, trimming, cleaning windows, and simple acts with great love for those in the community.

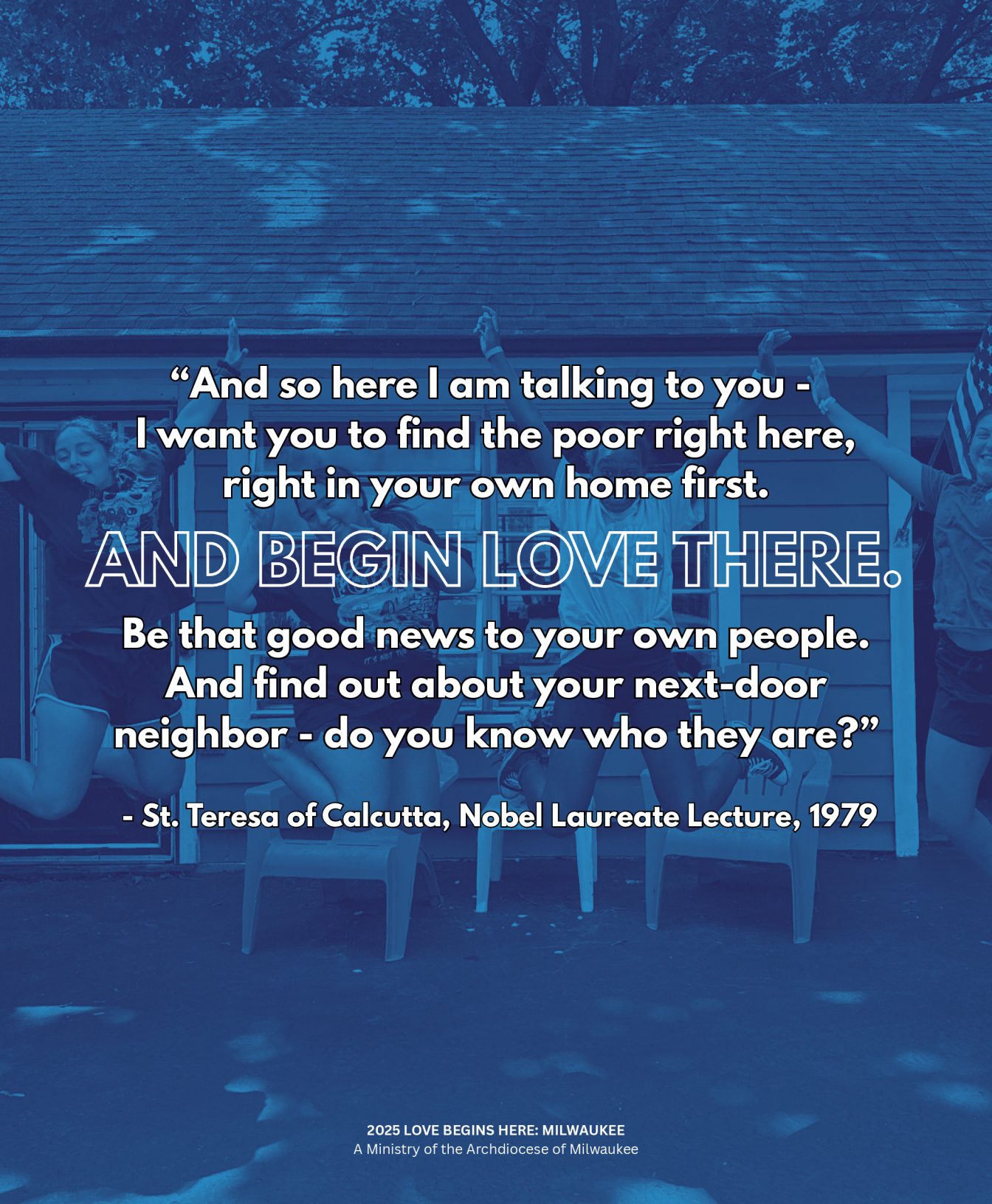
## **Can teens or adults leave during the week for other commitments or sleep at home?**

Love Begins Here is a mission experience. Just like we wouldn’t be able to return home if we went on an out-of-state mission trip, Love Begins Here wants to emphasize how important it is to detach from our normal and chaotic daily activities. We ask that all teen and adult missionaries sleep on site and stay for the entire experience.

At the same time, we are always willing to talk about needs that our teen missionaries have. If staying at home might be a need for your missionary, please contact our staff to discuss.

## **How can parish groups mix?**

Due to safe environment guidelines, it has become common place on mission trips that teens can not be mixed with other parish groups. As this is a local mission, all adult participants complete the same safe environment training and are certified through the archdiocese, not just their local parish.



**“And so here I am talking to you -  
I want you to find the poor right here,  
right in your own home first.**

**AND BEGIN LOVE THERE.**

**Be that good news to your own people.  
And find out about your next-door  
neighbor - do you know who they are?”**

**- St. Teresa of Calcutta, Nobel Laureate Lecture, 1979**