

Youth Ministry



“He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope.”

—Pope Francis,
Christ Is Alive,
2019



The Office of Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministries believes that the most important ministry with young people happens at the parish level. Therefore, they provide regular trainings and resources to help each parish Director of Youth Ministry (DYM) to be as effective as possible in helping young people grow in their faith and remain active in the Church for the rest of their lives. This past year there was a strong emphasis on training adults and young people on the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

- The Office works hard to ensure that each event attracts young people from all cultures. In addition, there is an emphasis to make each event welcoming to young people with disabilities so that all young people may participate together at each event.
- WorkCamp 2022 was a highly successful return to the traditional week-long service project that has been growing in the Diocese for more than 30 years. This year, 600 teens, 300 adults and 100 young adults repaired 84 homes across the Winchester, VA area. This Intentional Christian Community gathered each morning for Mass, served the less fortunate, and then participated in an evening program of music, formation, prayer, and fellowship.
- The office was able to return to an in-person RALLY with over 700 people participating in this day of faith and fellowship! This event is designed to help students deepen their relationship with Christ and love for the Church by participating in a large Catholic celebration with hundreds of their peers. Highlights from this year's RALLY include a listening session with Bishop Burbidge in preparation for the 2023 Synod of Bishops.
- Nearly 900 students from 22 parishes competed in the largest ever Spring Track Meet sponsored by this office. In addition, thousands of young people returned to participate in the diocesan basketball leagues. Through these programs, coaches and parents are trained to reflect upon how the faith can be incorporated into sports.
- Hundreds participated in Catholic Campout 2022 at Camp Snyder in Haymarket, VA. Scouts of all varieties and other families participated in the weekend event filled with outdoor faith-filled activities and Mass with Bishop Burbidge.
- BASH 2022 for junior high students returned as a beautiful day of faith and fellowship for more than 675 youth! It is a great event for Confirmation-aged students to experience a joyful celebration of their faith and encourage them to remain connected to their parishes during their high school years.

MY SOUL *Rejoices* IN THE *Lord*