

High School Ministry:

My name is Krysti Roehler and I'm writing about why I'm involved with the High School Ministry. Just to give you a little background on myself: I've been involved with the parish youth ministry program for 13 years. I started out my first 3 years being a member myself, and then I graduated to being a leader and eventually moved on to being a team leader. From there I have also been involved with the Celebration Singers Choir, conferences (in-house and in other parishes), sacramental preparation, fast-a-thons, fund raisers, camps and retreats. I also met my husband of 2 years, while being involved in the youth ministry program.

The high school ministry has only had two meetings this past year, but by September we are looking to have regular monthly meetings. I have decided this year, that I will step down from my role as Team Leader of the grade school youth group, and put my focus on the high school ministry. I enjoy working with high school aged youth because they are closer to my age, as opposed to the grade school kids. I enjoy hearing how strong their faith is, or the times that they have struggled with their faith.

Students attending high school don't really have a place to be involved with our parish unless they are blessed with the talent of leading. What happens to those who don't have that talent? That was the whole point of starting up this ministry. It is also meant for those who are already involved with youth ministry. It seems that we are constantly giving of our time, treasure and talents, but when do we take time to re-fuel ourselves? As youth ministers, we are always looking forward to the next retreat or conference to get re-focused, if we could get this ministry going, we would have the opportunity for that every month instead of a couple times a year.

I feel that I can be a role model to them, having a bit more life experience than them, but being close enough for them to relate. Hopefully, some of the regular youth ministry leaders will bring friends that aren't already involved in the parish, so that our group may grow and flourish. We would like to focus on growing their faith and prayer lives, while adding social time and fun gatherings. Just because we're Catholics, doesn't mean we can't have fun! We hope to reach out to the youth who are lost and are searching for meaning in their lives. It's important, especially in high school, to feel like you belong, to feel like you matter, and to know the love of God.

I really think that this ministry will fill a void that our parish has had for some time now. That's the hope of this ministry, and with your prayers and support, I'm sure we can get this new and exciting ministry off the ground!