

2008 Youth Convention

Every year youth from our parish are invited to take part in a weekend long convention at Bellevue Community College put on by the Archdiocese of Seattle. Many youth, myself included, know from personal experience that this weekend is jam packed with workshops and general sessions given by inspirational speakers from around the country that easily grab the attention of the teens and keep them entertained while still growing and learning in their faith. The workshops help teens learn how to have a strong relationship with God through their high school careers and onward. On Saturday night the Bishop celebrates Mass, Reconciliation is available, and other exciting activities (a dance, inflated obstacle courses, video games, movies, etc.) are put on for the teens. Also that night, STM always hosts other churches, inviting them to spend the night using the parish facilities. The entire weekend is one that changes the lives of the participants forever. Whether it's through new or renewed faith or new friendships, people are touched in one way or another from the empowering experiences shared during the weekend.

Interview with Maeve Cullen

Maeve Cullen is an incredibly active youth in our parish, committed to helping make this community an even better one. She is also a member of ACCY (Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Youth) and recently helped carry out Youth Convention where she received the Eagle of the Cross award and Youth and God award. On November 6th I sat down and interviewed her about her role in Convention, and how being involved has strengthened her faith.

Isabelle: *What was your role during Convention specifically?*

Maeve: I led the Faith In High School workshop, which helps teach youth how to stand up for their faith at school. I also performed in a dance and helped teach the moves to all of the youth. I took part in two skits: the introduction which explained the mystery theme of convention this year, and a prayer skit that featured a teen facing many common temptations but having the power to overcome them through Jesus.

I: *How has being involved in ACCY, the bridge between the youth and the Archbishop, helped you grow in your faith?*

M: Going to Convention always helps me because I have the opportunity to relate to other youth, I realize that I'm not alone in my faith. It's an inspiring experience to see changes in people's faith taking place; not just a one time high, but one that lasts forever. Leading a workshop and receiving awards this year really helped my self-esteem and made me realize I do have an impact on people. Getting to meet everyone and helping people grow in their faith really let me share my leadership abilities and gain

Upcoming Events

Jan. 16: Hockey Game
Jan. 18: Community Potluck
Jan. 22: March for Life
Feb. 5: STM Confirmation

**As always, we meet Sundays
after Life Teen Mass and the
Edge on Mondays in Dalton
Hall at 6:30!**



WE NEED YOU!

**VOLUNTEER TO BE A
CORE TEAM MEMBER
AND JOIN IN THE FUN!**

Contact Angela @ [ange-
lan@stmp.org](mailto:angelan@stmp.org) or @ 743-2929
x106

The Life Teen Connection

January 2009



What's this?

My name is Isabelle Mullen and I have been an active youth participant at St. Thomas More for almost five years now. I have fallen in love with community service through the church and all the opportunities it has to offer. I am a senior at Meadowdale High School and for my Senior Project I have decided to create this newsletter that will inform the parish of the happenings in Life Teen. This warm and faithful community has taught me so much about my faith and myself. It is my hope that this newsletter will be accepted as a form of thanks to the parish and a way to give back for all the blessings God has given me. When I first met with Angela to discuss my Senior Project, my first thought was to create a yearbook including pictures and a brief description of the Life Nights and events from each month. However, my goal for this newsletter is to inform people of the happenings of the youth and encourage teens and adults to become active in the community. The yearbook couldn't have been presented until June, therefore defeating my purpose of drawing more people toward the youth program during the year. So, I decided that a newsletter would be the best way to keep people informed and hopefully bring more members into the youth community. After I graduate, this newsletter will continue and hopefully become a tradition through the Leadership Team. I plan to include details of past events and Life Nights, upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, interviews with active youth in the parish, fun facts, updates on The Edge, and more! This newsletter will be found in the bulletin and church website every two months, the next one being available at the end of January. If there is anything you wish to see in this newsletter, or have suggestions on how I can improve, I would love to know about it! Please contact me at isabellemullen@hotmail.com

Peace and God Bless!

Isabelle Mullen

What's Happened?

Convention: (See back)

Corn Maze: The youth took a field trip in October to Stocker Farms to get ready for the Fall season. Some were brave and traversed through the Haunted Maze, while others chose the safe route. This annual youth group tradition is a great time for teens to bond and meet new people outside of the church campus.

Issue Night: The Leadership Team planned and carried out a special youth group called an issue night, hoping to educate the youth about political issues before Election Day. Issue nights are great opportunities to have the youth from the Leadership team educate their peers on current topics that are possibly affecting their lives and how the Catholic Church guides us to act on these issues.

Community Potlucks: The Youth Commission have planned and hosted two family potlucks, providing an overall fun community bonding experience! Our next potluck is January 18 after Life Teen Mass. Bring a dish and come join in the fun! All are welcome!