

YOUNG DISCIPLE COVENANT

I, _____, am honored to respond to my baptismal call by serving in this Life Teen ministry. Life Teen is a Eucharist-centered, relational teen ministry striving to LEAD TEENS CLOSER TO CHRIST. We serve teens by building Christian relationships with them and leading them, by example, into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. I understand that much is asked of me, including the following:

COMMITMENT TO MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

I will develop my personal relationship with God through prayer and the Sacraments. I understand that Life Teen ministry is very challenging and I will succeed only by the grace of God through prayer.

I will abide by the teachings of the Catholic Church. Because I am representative of the Church, I will actively study to understand the teachings of the Church, especially if I have an issue with a certain Catholic teaching. I will pray for wisdom and obedience in seeking the truth. If another teen shares a Catholic teaching concern with me, I will invite them to explore the true Catholic teaching with me.

I will actively seek opportunities to pray with other Young Disciples, other teens, Core Members and friends.

I will take advantage of the opportunities given to me for the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.

I will strive for an active relationship with God through daily prayer, Scripture, etc.

As a Young Disciple, I understand that I am called to live a Christ-like life. There are sacrifices that we make because of our love for God and our desire to serve teens:

I will not engage or encourage others to engage in drugs, drinking (especially drunk driving), smoking or other things that would be harmful and dangerous.

I will maintain clean, appropriate and positive social media pages (facebook, twitter, etc.) and I will encourage the teens to do the same.

In light of my position as a peer role model and a person who is seeking the fullness of God's love, I will be careful of the influences I put into my mind and body including the movies and TV that I watch, the music that I listen to, the language that I use and the way that I talk to and about others (gossip, sarcasm, etc.).

COMMITMENT TO YOUNG DISCIPLES

I will develop Christian relationships with all the members of our team, knowing that the teens will model the relationships that they see and experience with the YDs. I am committed to living relationships characterized by compassion, patience, forgiveness, reconciliation, service and charity.

I will seek opportunities to do relational ministry with other Young Disciples—especially YDs that I do not know well.

I understand the importance of our Young Disciple team functioning as a unified team, a model family of God. If I have a conflict with another YD, either personally or in ministry, I will lovingly confront that YD individually. If I cannot resolve the conflict one-on-one, then I will bring my concern to the YD Coordinators or Directors of Life Teen.

I understand that I am only given three chances to miss YD Meetings—unless otherwise arranged (well ahead of time) due to sports, work and other commitments. I understand that if I miss more than three unexcused meetings this year that I will be asked to step down from the team for the remainder of the year.

I will make every effort to attend spiritual and social gatherings for the Young Disciples including the annual YD Discernment.

COMMITMENT TO THE OTHER TEENS

I will develop Christian relationships with all high school teenagers in the program. All my relationships with teens will be Christ-centered. If I am 18 years old, I will follow all diocesan & VIRTUS policies regarding teen ministry.

I will make outreach to new teens a priority in my ministry. At all times I will develop new relationships with teens and foster old ones.

In the area of crisis intervention, if a teen shares something with me where the teen or someone else may be in danger of being hurt, then I will let the teens know of my obligation to tell the Directors of Life Teen and go straight to the Directors. If I am not sure, then I will tell the Director as well.

SUNDAYS

On Sunday evenings, my focus will be to help Lead Teens Closer To Christ. I will make every effort to grow in relationship with other teens during this time. I understand that this is not the time to be cliquey amongst the YDs or Core.

MASS

I will dress appropriately for Mass.

I will sit with the teens (unless it's tradition to sit with my family).

I will get involved with at least one liturgical ministry.

I will fully participate in the Mass & encourage the teens to do the same.

LIFE NIGHTS

The function of Life Nights is to provide a safe environment for teens to explore their faith, grow in community and fall more deeply in love with Christ. As part of my commitment, I will do my best to attend all Life Nights. I will do my best to be a team player and set a respectful and positive example for the other teens.

I will help teens understand that they are expected to come on time and stay through the closing of the night.

After the Life Night, I will mingle with teens and introduce myself to those I don't know. I will seek out the teens that look disconnected or alone. I will help clean up after each Life Night.

RETREATS

I will actively and excitedly do my best to attend all retreats throughout the year. I will offer up help wherever and whenever it is needed.

I will never be the one that has a cell phone or any other item that I know is not wanted or allowed at a retreat. I will do my best to set a positive example at all times.

In response to my baptismal call, I commit to serving the teens as a Young Disciple for the coming academic year. If my commitment changes before the end of the year, I will meet with the YD Coordinators and the Directors of Life Teen to discuss my position.

Print Name

Signature

Date