



Dear YF Team Member,

Let us begin by saying thank you for your patience with us as we find ourselves in both times of pandemic and transition. We know that each of you have given much of your time and your heart to the implementation of the new vision for youth formation over the last couple of years. As we find ourselves now with a new Pastor and a new Coordinator of Youth Formation, it is important that you know that the vision and the mission have not changed. Our mission is still to make disciples. We're still committed to YOUR formation- the adults in ministry. We still desire to form our young people intellectually as well as humanly, spiritually, and communally. That just has to look a little different this year. We have to be creative.

In the past couple of years, you've heard us say that we want the vision to drive the timeline. We want to be very intentional with our time. We promised that we are no longer "doing things just for the sake of doing them". This year is no different. In pursuit of the best possible formation for our young people, we will delay the start of youth formation until January. We will use the Fall to transition well and to focus on regrouping and forming the team.

What are our priorities in the Fall?

We will continue our search for a new Coordinator of Youth Formation and use the coming months to make sure that the new leadership is able to transition well. Part of that includes time with YOU... we want to be able to prioritize time for the team to get acquainted with the new CYF as well as with Fr. Alex.

We want to be able to invest in the team, too. We want to foster discipleship and a culture of community among this group so that we can invite your children into that in January. We want to focus on a healthy team so that we can model holiness for our children. We want to make sure that you feel equipped for ministry, especially ministry in the midst of pandemic. We hope to take lots of time for us to grow in relationship with each other, in relationship with God, and in confidence in ministry.

We also hope that this gives your family time to settle into new school routines and to navigate this "new normal". We know that this time may be overwhelming for many of our families, and we hope that a slow pace in the fall will help us all settle into a new rhythm and routine.

There is a temptation to look at a January start and feel like the kids are being left behind, but by taking this time to focus on YOU and to support our parents, the opposite is true. We are investing in a firm foundation for our young people. We believe our time together in the spring semester will bear much fruit because of it.

What happens in January?

At this time, we do not know exactly what formation will look like in January. Much of that depends on where we are in light of COVID-19. At this time, we are exploring in-home and virtual options, as well as resuming on-site formation. As January nears, we will better be able to identify which of those options, or combination of options, will be the safest and most fruitful for our young people and their families. While we do have some guidelines, there is also a lot of room for creativity! We would love to have the opportunity to explore these options with you in more depth, to hear your honest feedback, and to get creative together!

What happens now?

We want to hear from you! We're hoping to be able to meet more formally (either in person or via zoom) soon, but in the meantime we've got a little survey. We'd love to hear a little bit about how you're feeling right now. Whether you're excited about moving forward or a little apprehensive about all of the unknown, we'd love to hear from you. We hope that this little survey is the first step in more intentional communication between us as a team.

Lastly, we ask each of you to pray. Pray that the Lord brings the right person to serve as Coordinator of Youth Formation. Pray for the parish during the time of transition. Pray for the young people and their families and for all that may be on their hearts during this time. Know that we're praying for you and that we can't wait to be with you again!

Please open the link below to complete a short survey. This survey will help in discerning options for January which will help in deciding how best to serve our youth while maintaining safety for everyone. Your feedback is valuable to the process!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtY1Tf_KRdEfIKdAy4df_0GCJsIO8DOeiXKNhdSEImZO9DQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Youth Formation Registration form can be found on our website:

www.ctr-htdiocese.org/youth