

Dear Teens,

Hey! Do you know how awesome you are? Well, let me say it: you are AWESOME! You are wonderful, you are beautiful, and you are God's.

I wanted to write you this letter as a Youth Minister who admires, respects, loves you and deeply cares about your soul. Even if I don't know you personally, I genuinely want the best for you. I wanted to invite you to join Our wonderful Youth Ministry. No, I am not trying to guilt you into coming to youth nights. I recognize how busy you are with practices, recitals, homework, college applications, and more. I get it. And I understand the temptation to skip another night of what you may think of as just "bible stories and prayers" so you can catch up on TikTok or download another game.

You should know the Church needs you...our youth ministry needs you. St. John Paul II said, "You are unique and unrepeatable." You (yes, you) offer something that no one else offers. You are the only you! Never underestimate the power of your example.

As a youth ministry, it's important to be intentional. It's also important to hold each other accountable. Scripture says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24,25). In short—We need each other.

Do I want you to come to youth night? Absolutely. More than that, I want you to know that we care about you and we're here for you. While your parents play the role of the primary spiritual influence in your life, I firmly believe that your parish youth ministry plays another vital role in your overall spiritual development.

No matter who you are, what car you drive, where you live or where you are from, there is a place here for you. I challenge you to get involved. Bring friends and meet some new ones. God has an amazing plan for your life. Let's find out what it is. Join us.

God bless!

Margaret Kozak *Youth Minister*

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