

## **Youth Ministry**

Every parish develops its own unique style of youth ministry. Resurrection has developed youth ministry in accordance with the National Vision of Youth Ministry. Youth Ministry seeks to help young people grow and develop in their faith in three distinct ways.

- 1) Youth Ministry works to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.
- 2) Youth Ministry seeks to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community.
- 3) Youth Ministry empowers young people to become disciples of Jesus Christ who witness to their faith by living and working for justice, peace and human dignity.

The seven components of youth ministry: word, worship, creating community, guidance and healing, justice and service, enablement and advocacy. These components are included in the curriculum throughout the year.

**There are many aspects of Youth Ministry. Youth group is just one aspect.**

### **Youth Group:**

A group of teens and adult leaders meet weekly on Wednesdays, from 7:30-9:00pm. Youth Group is ONE way of ministering to the youth. No two meetings are alike. The meetings are open to all high school age students. No registration or membership is required. Some teens never miss a meeting, some come every few weeks when their schedule allows. The doors are always open. The meetings are planned and led by teens and adults.

### **Retreats:**

Retreats are a vital component of the youth ministry program at Resurrection. There is a fall and spring retreat. The fall retreat sets the tone for the rest of the year, focusing on building a sense of community. The spring retreat focuses on a deeper sense of spirituality.

### **Sacraments:**

Many high school students arrive at youth group with the intention of receiving Baptism, Communion, and/or Confirmation. Because some teens have attended many years of religious education and others have not, it is necessary to meet individually with the youth minister to determine the best plan for each individual. Typically the youth participate in youth group in the freshman year, attend the fall and spring retreats and begin the sacrament preparation. Depending on the situation the sacraments may be received during the second year.

**Leadership:**

There are many opportunities for leadership development. There is a core team comprised of high school youth, college age and adults. This team is trained in comprehensive youth ministry skills. The team develops the curriculum for the weekly meetings, facilitates the meetings, develops the fall and spring retreats and other experiences.

**NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference):**

Every other fall a group attends the National Catholic Youth Conference where 25,000 teens gather to play, sing, pray, dance, attend workshops, keynotes and learn about their faith in creative ways. Resurrection has sent delegates to this event since 1993.

**Los Angeles Youth Day:**

The school year where we do not attend NCYC in the fall we attend the LA Youth Day event in the spring at the Anaheim Convention Center with 15,000 teens. The following day the group attends Disneyland.

**Santa Rosa Diocesan Youth Ministry:**

There are many opportunities provided by the diocese that we include in our program when possible.