

WHAT WE HOPE FOR

When your student is a graduating senior, what impact do you dream their experience with us will have had on their life?"

1. They'll have a heart for the poor and hurting.

They'll have the heart of Jesus- who spent almost all his time and ministry energy on desperate people.

Relig: We welcome strangers and outcasts. Adult & student leaders model

2. They'll know how to communicate with God intimately.

Prayer is like breathing. Your day is a running conversation with God.

Relig: If prayer is just a bookend at the start and end of your regular activities, we may be teaching kids to compartmentalize it. Treat God as a member of your group- ask for his input and participation as often as you do others in the group.

3. They'll be a veteran servant and outreach participant.

Kids grow into a deeper faith commitment, through intense action: work camps, mission trips, and outreach projects transform them from ministry consumers into ministers.

Relig: We offer many diverse ministry opportunities. We work with organizations that do the logistics well so kids are freed to minister and grow.

4. They'll know how to shoulder real ministry responsibilities.

Involved in teaching or leading, kids learn at a deeper level.

Relig: Brainstorm all our needed leadership functions, plug kids in somewhere.

5. They'll have many memories of their parents' involvement in their youth ministry activities. Parents' impact on their children's faith is dominant.

Relig: We are motivated to serve and equip parents for ministry to their own kids

6. They'll understand bible basics well enough to defend their faith.

Relig: Include the scriptures more frequently in all we do.

7. They'll be captain of their ongoing relationship with God.

They won't depend just on church activities, or parents' input for their growth.

Relig: Offering training in personal, spiritual disciplines as well as church activities.

8. They'll be clearly "in the world" but "not of it."

Their "gospel truth" filter kicks in when making decisions.

Relig: Using popular culture as a ministry hook we build culture-influencing Catholics. We start discussions using films, songs, news, and TV shows.

9. They'll appreciate the sacraments. They'll experience and treasure Jesus' saving grace through the celebration of the sacraments.

Relig: We develop youth's understanding of the celebration of the sacraments.

10. They'll believe that they are the Church. They'll be motivated for lifelong participation in Jesus' saving work through the Church. They will have an appreciation of their participation in the Communion of Saints, the Body of Christ.

Relig: we motivate students to participate regularly in parish life.

11. They'll have a moral code to follow for life. The commandments & scriptures will guide their decision making process. They will know what is the right way to live that will not damage their souls.

Relig: We are clear in sharing the teachings of the Church; the moral code that Catholics follow.

Students have clear appreciation for the applications for their lives now & in the future.

12. They'll know the love and mercy of God. They will value the reality of reconciliation with God, and will extend this mercy and forgiveness to others in their lives.

Relig: We manifest and teach the love and mercy of God in our interacting with youth. We offer them opportunities for healing & reconciliation