



YOUTH ACTIVITY PLANNING

“Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.” I Timothy 4:12, NAB

PURPOSE – The Youth Activity portion of the campaign is designed with the intent to accomplish a number of important benefits.

- ☐ Incorporate stewardship themes into existing youth ministries during the information and/or inspiration phases of the capital stewardship program
- ☐ Create programs/activities which help students to know the vision/mission of the church and the parish. Involve youth in brainstorming how their own programs will carry out that vision/mission.
- ☐ Highlight youth and their ministries at the Masses
- ☐ Help youth talk about how the project will impact their parish and families
- ☐ Provide take home resources for family discussions and/or prayer
- ☐ Involve youth in a prayer emphasis
- ☐ Allow youth to make a commitment to the stewardship program
- ☐ Provide opportunities for youth to participate at the Commitment/Special Event

RESPONSIBILITIES – The manual identifies some of the activities that will need to be considered and implemented.

1. **Build a Youth Activity Team** – Made up of two to four young people and several adults, this group will focus on planning activities for the youth during the campaign.
2. **Plan a Youth Prayer Activity** – A planned feature to challenge the youth to pray for the parish, its ministries, the capital campaign, and their participation in it.
3. **Prepare a Six-Week Income-Outgo Survey** – This is a month and a half period where the youth will track how they receive their money, how much they get or earn, how they spend it, and how they can change priorities and give to the parish.



4. **Provide a Youth Discovery Piece** – Similar to the one used by adults, this planning sheet, to be distributed to all young people, will help them to plan creatively and give differently to the campaign.
5. **Determine the Use and Schedule for the Three Youth Scripture Lessons** – Allow some of the young people to determine how the lessons can be used most effectively, when, and where.
6. **Plan and Implement a Youth Video Project** – Using amateur equipment, the youth can develop their own video to show an overview of youth activities, introduce new ministries, and exhibit the facilities to be built or renovated. This can be used exclusively with the youth or included in the Special Event program for all.
7. **Plan a Youth Involvement Sunday** – One of the first three Weekends of the Inspiration Period dedicated to the involvement of the youth during Mass. They can read scripture, lead in prayer, provide music or drama, serve as ushers, greeters, etc. (usually done on Weekend 2).
8. **Determine the Date and Location of a Youth Commitment Event** – A special life-changing activity should be planned to provide a context for the youth to give their money and make their commitments to the campaign (usually on Weekend 3).
9. **Receive and Report on Youth Commitments** – An acceptable method for receiving the commitments and an appropriate way to announce the results, especially at the Special Event, must be determined and provided.
10. **Have the Commitments Announced and Presented at the Special Event** – Determine the most effective way to acknowledge publicly what the youth have done, given and committed as a result of the program. Giving them a place on the Special Event program would accentuate what is happening among them.
11. **Report Regularly at all Leadership Team Report Meetings about the Ideas, Activities, and Involvement of the Youth** – This should generate much excitement for those on the Leadership Team with older children and through them to everyone else.
12. **Other Youth Activities** – The items above are a starting point. Anything else done to involve the youth and excite the parish can be added as desired.

The youth are the adults of tomorrow. This is, in some ways, the last chance the church will have to shape their sense of financial responsibility to God and church before they mature into whatever they are to be. Their sense of values in the years to come may be determined during the few weeks they are involved in this campaign. That is only one of many reasons why this campaign about money is really about so much more and of such greater worth.



IDEAS

Youth Prayer Emphasis: Plan activities and/or resources to challenge the youth to pray for the parish, its ministries, the capital program, and their participation in it.

Prepare a Three-Week Income-Outgo Survey: Allow youth to track how they receive, spend, and/or earn money. Discuss their spending habits, priorities, and how they might change priorities to give to the church.

Stewardship Discussions: Use Scripture studies, discovery piece, or other resources to focus group or class discussion time on stewardship themes.

Vision/Mission Discussions: Plan discussions to help youth identify the vision/mission of the church and parish. Allow youth to brainstorm how their own ministries/programs fulfill that vision and calling.

Plan for Youth to assist at Advance Commitment Gatherings: The youth should be asked to help with babysitting and child supervision at the time of the Advance Commitment Gathering(s) so that the parents may attend the Gatherings.

Plan a Youth Focus Weekend: One of the weekends of the Inspiration Period can be dedicated to the involvement of the students at Mass. Students might be greeters, ushers, lectors, servers, Eucharistic ministers, choir members, musicians, etc.

Plan for Youth to participate in the Commitment Weekend/Special Event. The youth will play a valuable role at the Special Event if they can provide baby-sitting for younger children or help with the games/mini-carnival for the children.

IDEAS FOR THE SPECIAL EVENT

Work with the Children's and the Special Events Teams and Parish Staff to answer the following questions in regard to the Special Event:

- ☐ Are activities inside or outside?
- ☐ Are youth with families or segregated into their own activities?
- ☐ Are youth activities for the Special Event on-site or off-site?
- ☐ How long are youth activities expected to last?



-
- ☐ Is there food service involved?
 - ☐ Are youth a part of the liturgies?
 - ☐ Is there one event for the whole parish family, or are these celebrations an open invitation that spans several liturgies and times?
 - ☐ Will youth be able to help with baby-sitting of toddlers?
 - ☐ Will youth be able to help with games/mini-carnival for the children?
 - ☐ Are we enhancing an existing ministry for these celebrations (like student choir) or are we creating a new event/activity?
 - ☐ Are there opportunities for students to serve? (as hosts, as greeters, servers, lectors, Ministers of Communion, choir members, musicians, etc.)

Additional Ideas:

Family Carnival Theme:

With activity booths, clowns, magicians, music, drama troupes, etc.

Student Concert:

A “Battle of the Bands” has proved an effective way to draw many students to an event and to showcase the talent within the parish.



MEETING OF CAMPAIGN AND PARISH YOUTH LEADERS

Meet with Campaign Team Leaders, parish Youth Ministry Leaders and other interest adults to determine:

- ☐ Number of current youth groups
- ☐ Average attendance of these groups
- ☐ Formats these groups are accustomed to following
- ☐ List of the leaders/teachers of these groups

Begin to discuss at this meeting:

- ☐ Share and prioritize ideas for youth initiatives
- ☐ Determine timing for youth initiatives
- ☐ Review and/or develop resources for youth initiatives
- ☐ Discuss possibilities for a Youth Focus Sunday
- ☐ Set date and time for the next Youth Team meeting



BUDGET REQUEST FORM

ITEM	ESTIMATED COST	APPROXIMATE DATE OF EXPENSE
Facility (If Needed)		
Down Payment		
Final Payment		
Food		
Equipment		
Materials		
Decorations		
Entertainment		
Other		
Total		



YOUTH INCOME/OUTGO PLANNER

I TIMOTHY 4:12

SIX-WEEK RECORD OF YOUR INCOME AND SPENDING

WEEK OF _____

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNTS	TOTALS FOR WEEK
Income		
Giving		
Savings		
Food/Drinks		
Computer Games		
Clothing		
Music/CDs		
Car/Gas/Insurance		
Sports		
Movies/Concerts		
Gifts		
Personal (hair/make-up/jewelry)		
Other:		
Other:		



YOUTH COMMITMENT CARD

Understanding that all I possess is a gift from God ...

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Grade _____

Make your commitment for one year. Then, renew or change your commitment for the following years. Please indicate the amount of your commitment in the space provided below.

\$ _____ weekly for 52 weeks = \$ _____

\$ _____ monthly for 12 months = \$ _____

I will begin my giving on _____. Signature _____

TYPICAL COMMITMENTS YOU CAN MAKE OVER A ONE-YEAR PERIOD

\$1 weekly	=	\$52
\$2 weekly	=	\$104
\$3 weekly	=	\$156
\$4 weekly	=	\$208
\$5 weekly	=	\$260
\$6 weekly	=	\$312
\$7 weekly	=	\$364
\$8 weekly	=	\$416
\$9 weekly	=	\$468
\$10 weekly	=	\$520

Changing Spending

Cola	\$1
McMeal	\$5
Movie	\$10
Pizza	\$15
CD	\$20
Make-up	\$20
Date Cash	\$50
Designer Shirt	\$40
Computer game	\$60
Designer Jeans	\$60
Hair Highlight	\$80
Trendy Shoes	\$90
Cell Phone	\$100

Changing Income

Babysitting
Yard Work
New Chores
Tutoring
Pet Sitting
Part-time Job
Seasonal Job
Start a Company
Yard sale



YOUTH DISCOVERY

... A PERSONAL CHALLENGE ...

GOD IS GETTING READY TO DO SOMETHING
TOTALLY COOL IN YOUR PARISH!

Do you want to be a part of this awesome opportunity to be a part of something that will affect the lives of people for years to come?!

PRAYER! GOD! CHURCH! \$\$\$MONEY\$\$\$ HOLY SPIRIT!! JESUS! YOU!!! STUDENTS!!! SACRIFICE! COMMITMENT!! THE BIBLE/ *What do all of these have in common? Take the "PERSONAL CHALLENGE"! Read on if you dare!*

Take this time to begin to discover the incredible joy of God revealing to you what God wants to do through you to fulfill God's will in your church!

**"Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity."
1 Timothy 4:12**



BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF DISCOVERY

Everyone in your parish is being invited to take on the personal challenge through this process of discovery! Prayerfully done, this journey will lead you to make a number of spiritual and practical decisions. The following worksheet is designed to help you work toward that destination. As you answer the questions, look up the Bible verses provided for insight and guidance. Read on if you dare!

FIRST... What are some reasons to give toward this project?

(I Kings 5:5; Mark 8:2-3; Romans 13:7-8; II Corinthians 8:11-12)

SECOND... What attitudes does God love to see when we give?

(Exodus 25:1-2, 35:4-5, 20-24, 29; I Chronicles 29:17; I Corinthians 13:3; II Corinthians 9:7)

THIRD... What does it mean to give sacrificially?

(II Samuel 24:24; I Chronicles 21:24; and Mark 12:41-44)

FOURTH... What would a “sacrificial” commitment require of you?

(Romans 12:1 and II Corinthians 8:3-5)

FIFTH... What would you be willing to do in order to contribute sacrificially?

(I Chronicles 29:1-3; Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-37; and II Corinthians 8:1-4)

FINALLY... As you have traveled along this spiritual journey, before making a commitment, make one final stop along the road and pray to God saying: “Lord, what do You want to do through me to fulfill Your will for my parish?” Listen now to what God says. Thank God for the journey!



DISCOVERING WAYS TO GIVE

About your commitment, think and pray about these things:

SACRIFICE... *What does “SACRIFICE” mean to me?*

Is my commitment built on the theme “**Not Equal Gifts but Equal Sacrifice**”?

Does my commitment demonstrate my own sense of sacrifice?

PROCESS... *What am I willing to do or do without?*

What is my plan of action in “sacrificing”?

AMOUNT... *What kind of commitment will my sacrificial efforts generate during the next year?*

Remember, you will be setting a standard of sacrifice for others to follow.

Take a personal inventory. Consider as many areas as possible:

- Income... How much can I budget from income to give? (See Youth Income/Outgo Planner)
- Time and Talent... What can I do to make additional income?
- Assets... What items of value do I own that I can give to my parish? (Used CDs, baseball card collection, car, stamp collection, computer, bicycle, old sports equipment, video player, etc.)
- Sacrifice... What can I give up, do without, postpone, or alter in order to give to my parish? (Video games, CD player, a few less CDs, etc.)



DISCOVERING A PLAN FOR GIVING

I could give...

Weekly \$ _____	Monthly \$ _____
Other \$ _____	
Total	\$ _____

Other possibilities

4	ASSET	VALUE
	Part-time Jobs (babysitting, yard work, tutoring, etc.)	\$ _____
	Personal Items (used CDs, clothes, stereo, bicycle, etc.)	\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

Sacrifice
What could I do
without.....

Postpone.....
Alter.....

Total

POSSIBLE YEAR TOTAL

--



IMPACT / ACTION SHEET

☐ YOUTH INVOLVEMENT WEEKEND

- Weekend III
- Lector / Ushers / Prayers
- Special Music/Drama/Testimonies
- Presentation to parish on behalf of youth (mural / banner)
- Expressing gratitude to parish for project, when applicable

☐ STUDIES ON STEWARDSHIP

- Scripture References (Handout from O'Meara Ferguson)
- A study from the US Council of Catholic Bishops. The study may be found at:
<http://www.usccb.org/bishops/stewardship.shtml>

☐ PRAYER EMPHASIS

- Personal prayer journaling
- Special Youth Prayer Events

☐ RESOURCES / SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION

- STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION
 - "Youth Discovery: A Personal Challenge"
- VIDEO / PHOTO ALBUM
 - Information video for youth by youth
- YOUTH COMMITMENT EVENT – ALTERNATIVE SPECIAL EVENT FOR THE YOUTH
 - Alternative event prior to Parish Special Event
 - Commitments offered and amount announced at the Parish Special Event
- BUDGET PLANNER
 - Youth keep track of income and spending habits
 - Think of ways to sacrifice, save, and give to God
- SACRIFICE STORIES

Letter from Youth Leader to youth asking for sacrifice stories and also showing models of the sacrifices youth make
- PROMOTION – NEWSLETTER
 - One newsletter sent out to youth
 - Contain schedule of events
 - Commitment Card (sample)
 - Ideas for participation in campaign
 - Scripture references
- COMMITMENT
 - One Commitment Card with worksheet
 - Pledge to give portion of income made from parish-related services to campaign



YOUTH PRAYER JOURNAL

Pray for one another James 5:16
Pray without ceasing 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Date	Prayer Request(s)	Answer to Prayer