

# Life Teen Core Covenant

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am honored to respond to my baptismal call to serve in this Life Teen ministry. Life Teen is a Eucharist-centered, relational teen ministry striving to lead teens closer to Christ. We serve teens by building Christian friendships with them and leading them, by example, into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. I understand that much is asked of me including the following:

## **COMMITMENT TO MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

- I will develop my personal relationship with God through Prayer and the Sacraments. I understand that Life Teen ministry is very challenging and I will succeed only by the grace of God through prayer.
- I will abide by the teachings of the Catholic Church. Because I am a representative of the Church, I will actively study to understand the teachings of the Church, especially if I have an issue with a certain Catholic teaching. I will pray for wisdom and obedience in seeking the truth. If a teen shares a Catholic teaching concern with me, I will invite them to explore the true Catholic teaching with me.
- I will actively seek opportunities to pray with friends, teens, and other Core members.
- I will frequent the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.
- I will strive for an active relationship with God through daily prayer, Scripture, etc.
- As a Core Member, I understand that I am called to live a Christ-like life above and beyond my peer group. There are sacrifices that we make because of our love for God and our desire to serve teens:
  - I will not use drugs.
  - I will not get drunk. I will never drink enough to where I cannot drive.
  - I will not smoke at any Life Teen functions and will never smoke with teens.
  - In light of my position as a role model for teens and as a person who is seeking the fullness of God's love, I will be careful of the influences I put into my mind and body including the movies and TV that I watch, the music that I listen to, the language that I use and the way that I talk to and about others (gossip, sarcasm, etc.).

## **COMMITMENT TO CORE**

- I will develop Christian relationships with all the members of our Core Team, knowing that the teens will model the relationships that they see and experience with the Core. I am committed to living relationships of compassion, patience, forgiveness, reconciliation, service and charity.
- I will seek opportunities to do teen contact ministry with other Core members – especially Core that I do not know well.
- I will go out of my way to be welcoming to people who are checking out Core. I will introduce myself to new people and invite them to participate with me in ministering to teens.
- I understand the importance of our Core team functioning as a unified team, a model family of God. If I have a conflict with another Core member, either personally or in ministry, I will lovingly confront that Core member individually. If I cannot resolve the conflict one-on-one, then I will bring my concern to the Youth Minister.
- If I am unable to attend a meeting or I am going to be late, I will call the Youth Minister as early as possible.
- I will make every effort to attend spiritual and social gatherings for the Core team including the yearly Core retreat.

## **COMMITMENT TO TEENS**

- I will develop Christian relationships with high school teenagers. All my relationships with teens will be Christ-centered and above question.
- I will make outreach to new teens a priority in my ministry. At all times I will be developing new relationships with teens and fostering old ones.
- In the area of crisis intervention, if a teen shares something with me where the teen or someone else may be in danger of being hurt, then I will let the teen know of my obligation to tell the Youth Minister and go straight to the Youth Minister. If I am not sure, then I will tell the Youth Minister.

## **MASS**

- I will dress appropriately for Mass.
- I will sit with teens and not with other Core members at Mass and help them to feel included. I will fully participate in the Mass and invite teens to do the same.

## **LIFE NIGHTS**

- The function of Life Nights is to provide a safe environment for teens to explore their faith, grow in community, and fall more deeply in love with Christ. It is vital that we as Core give these nights the time and energy that the teens deserve. As part of my commitment to the teens, I will attend every Life Night and plan the nights assigned to my Life Night planning team. I will do my best to be a team player. I will involve teens in the planning process from the first meeting through the cleanup of the Life night.
- I will help teens understand that they are expected to come on time and stay through the closing prayer of the night.
- After the Life Night, I will mingle with teens and introduce myself to those I don't know. I will seek out the teens who look disconnected or alone.
- I will help clean up after each Life Night.

## **LIFE NIGHT PLANNING PROCESS**

1. Read Catechism and scripture references and then meet with team and teens more than two weeks prior to the night (invite assigned teens to all meetings).
2. Develop a plan that includes: Title, Goal, Environment, GATHER, PROCLAIM, BREAK, SEND and a promotional idea.
3. E-mail the planning sheet to the Youth Minister two weeks prior to the night.
4. After the Youth Minister reviews the night and gives feedback, meet and assign tasks and recruit help from Core, Band, Parent Life, Teens, Priests, and others.
5. Love the teens and simply execute the plan.
6. I will help teens understand that they are expected to come on time and stay through the closing prayer of the night.

## **DURING THE WEEK**

- Each week, I will commit to one ministry opportunity with the teens beyond Sunday night ministry. I understand that my primary function is to reach out to teens and let them know that they are loved. The teens who are not at church need me more than the teens who are at church with other Core. The power of invitation is important; if you are planning to come to a weekly teen event, take some time and invite teens that usually don't come.

## **DISCIPLINING TEENS**

- Disciplining teens is one of the most difficult things that we do because we do not want to be parental or authoritarian. The best scenario in disciplining a teen is to have a good relationship with them and to address the issue with the teen individually. If these conditions cannot be met, I will do my best as a representative of the Church to lovingly redirect the energies of the teen(s).

## **RETREATS**

- I will lead the Fall and Spring Retreats, which may involve taking a day off of work, and will attend all retreat planning meetings. I will attend Core Retreats. I will also attend other retreats and overnight events as my schedule allows.
- In response to my baptismal call, I commit to serving the teens as a Core Member for the coming academic year. If my commitment changes before the end of the year, I will meet with the Youth Minister to discuss my position.

---

Signature

---

Date

Jesus, I love you and want to be more like you. Please give me the grace this year to keep my commitments.

*I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me. - Phil 4:13*

Mary, our loving mother, Patroness of Life Teen and Queen of Peace, pray for us.