

March 2009

Dear Junior High Students and Parents:

Thank you for your interest in this year's junior high short term mission experience, Living Out Loud. Enclosed in this packet is the Student Application, Parent Volunteer Form, Permission Slip and Event Overview. Please read over all material carefully and turn in necessary materials by the due date indicated.

"Living out Loud" refers to Jesus' plea for us to be of living service to all those we meet. It is through this service that we meet the real Jesus! It is a local mission centered in the Joliet Diocese. Participants will travel to various sites to assist in service and ministry. This experience involves young people physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

The following goals have been identified for this program:

- To call young people into awareness of needs in our own community
- To recognize and name the gifts of our young people in the Body of Christ and teach them how to use them for the good of the local church and beyond
- To disciple the young as Jesus disciplined by offering them the opportunity for Christian Service and reflection closer to home.
- To build bridges of understanding, faith, and material support by immersing people of all backgrounds in the shared Gospel message.

**Please note that participation in this service experience is limited to 20 students.** No applications will be accepted past the due date. Applications can be dropped off at the Junior High Ministry Office or in the Junior High Drop Box outside the Education Center Doors. **In order for an application to be accepted it must include the Student Application, Permission Slip, Payment and the Parent Volunteer Form.**

**PARENTS, your help with this event is critical.** Due to the fact that we will actually be "sleeping over" at St. Pets, we are required by Diocesan Policy to have a youth/chaperone ratio of 5:1. We will need parents to drive (minivans), sleep over and chaperone in the evening. Since this is co-ed it is also critical that we have male chaperones. Please check your calendars now and determine how you can serve the youth of our parish. The enclosed volunteer form provides many opportunities for adults to be of service to our young people. Please be generous with your time; we really need your help!

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact me in the Junior High Ministry Office, or by e-mail at [dellapennav@stpetschurch.org](mailto:dellapennav@stpetschurch.org).

Sincerely,

Valerie A. Della Penna  
Director of Junior High Ministry

## ABOUT THE MISSION PROGRAM

### What is the Mission Experience:

The Junior High Mission Experience is a 3 day and 2 night experience for Junior High students. Each day includes work and/or activities at a designated site, prayer, reflection, recreation and of course, meals! Service activities can include, but are not necessarily limited to, painting, childcare, yard work, cleaning, etc. Students will work during the day and then have recreation time and faith building programs in the evenings.

### Who can attend the Mission Experience:

This Mission Experience is for students entering 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th grades for the upcoming school year.

### When and Where is the Mission Experience:

The Mission Experience will take place on June 17 through 19. St. Petronille Parish in Glen Ellyn will be our host site for this year. Service projects will take place in DuPage and Will Counties. Exact sites and work to be done will be available at our Parent/Student meeting.

### Times for the Mission Experience:

Students should arrive at St. Petronille Parish at 6:30pm on Wednesday, June 17. The event will end at 11:00am on Friday, June 19. Friday morning Mass will be included with our schedule.

### What is the cost of the Mission Experience:

The total cost for each young person will be \$75.00. This cost will include all meals, supplies, transportation to and from work sites, and t-shirt.

### What students should bring:

Students should bring enough clothes for the 3 day/2 night event. They should also bring the following: sleeping bag, pillow, air mattress or pad to lay on, toiletry items, bible, work gloves, bathing suit & towel, comfortable shoes, hat, water bottle, alarm clock, bug spray, sun screen, and a rain poncho/coat. Additional details as to what to bring will be given at the Parent/Student meeting.

### Application and Permission Form:

Each participant is asked to complete an application, parent volunteer form and permission form (attached) and return them to their youth minister by **Wednesday, May 6**. **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED PAST THE DEADLINE.** If more than 20 students submit their applications by the deadline, the Director of Junior High Ministry will request interviews with the applicants prior to acceptance into the program.

### Parent/Student Required Meeting:

A meeting for ALL parents and students will be held on Wednesday, June 3 at 7pm, at St. Petronille Parish (Lunchroom, door #3) in Glen Ellyn. **Important information about the experience will be given out at this meeting.** It will also be a time for parents and students to ask questions about the event.