



## SAINT DOMINIC PARISH + NEW ORLEANS

April 20, 2024

Dear Sophomores and Juniors,

Over twenty years ago, St. Dominic CYO created a Peer Ministry Team to lead discussion and faith-sharing groups, staff retreats, and act as mentors for younger members. The main commitment involves the two annual retreats and approximately four planning meetings for each of those. Peer Ministry is a significant part of the CYO because of the impact it has on the faith life of our members.

**I am inviting you to apply to be on the CYO Peer Ministry Team.** Because of the importance of the work and the high hopes we have that this will continue as a significant and special part of our youth ministry programs, having the most dedicated and qualified teenagers is of the greatest importance. **Please carefully review whether you can meet the expectation outline below:**

- 1) completing either sophomore or junior year of high school this May
- 2) actively practice your Catholic faith by attending Mass, taking time for prayer, and trying to live the Church's moral teachings
- 3) actively involved in CYO activities or plan to become active going forward
- 4) committed to the team and its mission regardless of changes in friendships, dating relationships, etc., with those on the team
- 5) open to all CYO members, whether personal friends or not
- 6) committed to the team for one full year from May 2024 – April 2025

The team will be selected by a committee that includes myself, two graduating seniors from the current team, and a past Peer Ministry Team member now in college. If you feel you can meet the above criteria, **complete the application form and return it with a letter of recommendation (preferably from a school faculty/staff member) to the St. Dominic Church Office, 775 Harrison Ave., NOLA 70124 by May 5, 2024.** You may also e-mail scanned/pdf documents to [info@stdominiccyo.org](mailto:info@stdominiccyo.org). If you are selected for the team, you must:

- 1) **Attend a short meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 7:00 PM** at St. Dominic (this is immediately after the Confirmation meeting for rising juniors)
- 2) **attend a mandatory training workshop on Sunday, August 4, 2024 – Monday, August 5, 2023, at the William J Kelly Retreat Center in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.** A commitment to CYO leadership must be treated the same as a commitment to a school extra-curricular activity or sport. Last-minute cancellations for the training will result in your removal from the team. You must communicate with family, jobs, etc. NOW to ensure you are available for the mandatory training.
- 3) **staff the CYO Winter Retreat on December 27-29, 2024, and the Spring Retreat on March 28-30, 2025, both at Camp Abbey.** (Team is expected at both retreats. First night is team-only. Missing one can be discussed. If you cannot work either retreat, do not apply for team.)

Please contact me if you have any questions; thanks for your dedication to CYO.

Sincerely,

Johnny Smestad  
Youth Minister

St. Dominic CYO  
2024-2025 Peer Ministry Team Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you wish to be on the Peer Ministry Team?

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What qualities/experience do you bring to the team that would be an asset to its work?

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Describe your prayer life. How does prayer fit it to your daily life? What is rewarding about prayer? What is challenging about prayer?

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Have you attended a St. Dominic CYO Retreat and/or a school-based retreat? If so, what did you personally invest in the retreat experience? What did you get out of it?

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What do you think are important topics that teens most want to talk about in a setting like Bible-study, faith-sharing groups, retreats, etc.? Be specific.

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How will you handle your commitment to PMT given the inevitable changes in high school friendships and relationships that happen and that may result in your having to work with peers with whom you are not close?

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Do you understand the commitment required (calendar and team mission) and have you discussed this with your parents?

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Please attach a letter of recommendation from an adult who is not in your family and not an advisor to the St. Dominic CYO. Teachers, coaches, and club moderators from school are suggested for the letter and will be given more weight in evaluating your application.

**The application and recommendation letter are due at the St. Dominic Church Office, 775 Harrison Ave. New Orleans LA 70124 by May 5, 2024, or scanned and e-mailed to [info@stdominiccyo.org](mailto:info@stdominiccyo.org) by the same date.**

**Decisions will be made by May 7<sup>th</sup> and you must be available to attend an orientation meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 7:00 PM.**

**You must attend the mandatory training retreat on Sunday, August 4 – Monday, August 5, 2024, at the William J Kelly Retreat Center in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Late arrival or early departure must be discussed in advance. Complete absence will result in removal from the team.**

**You should be available to work at least one, if not both, of the CYO retreats on December 27-29, 2024, and March 28-30, 2025. Both will be at Camp Abbey.**