



SAINT DOMINIC PARISH + NEW ORLEANS

Dear Parents,

I want to welcome your son or daughter into the St. Dominic CYO! The Catholic Youth Organization is an active part of parish life here at St. Dominic and in the archdiocese, and I hope that our new members become a part of that active community. Comprehensive youth ministry, as directed by the American bishops in their pastoral letter, *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*, seeks to program a wide range of activities for teenagers in order to strengthen their relationships with each other, with the parish and Church, and with Jesus Christ. CYO activities include spiritual development such as our monthly “Coffee & Christ” Scripture reflection and two annual retreats, service projects such as those at nursing homes and food banks, social activities including summer trips and our lock-out, and archdiocesan athletic leagues for flag football, cabbageball, volleyball, and basketball. Opportunities for leadership exist through the Youth Board, Peer Ministry Team, 8th Grade Leadership Team (C.O.R.E.), and the Freshman-Sophomore Leadership Team.

Each month, your son or daughter will receive a newsletter detailing all of the activities for that month. Three times a year they will receive a seasonal/semester calendar in order to help everyone plan ahead in being involved in the CYO. Both the calendar and newsletter are available on our website at www.stdominiccyo.org. We also send e-mail and text message reminders to them, as well as maintain a St. Dominic CYO social media presence on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook to promote activities.

Please help your teen to keep up to date on activities and to respond by requested deadlines. The cost of some “away” activities are typically in the \$10 - \$20 range with the retreats and summer trips costing more; the parish subsidizes certain events such as the service projects and retreats. Also, each new member is assessed annual dues which cover annual archdiocesan insurance fees and their CYO T-shirt. Many dedicated adult advisors including Jason Joubert, Kathleen Funck, Donnie Midkiff, and others assist me on a regular basis with chaperoning and coaching. You may be called upon occasionally to assist with our activities.

At this time, I need your help to complete your son or daughter’s CYO registration. Enclosed is a **medical consent form** and a form acknowledging that you have received the member Code of Conduct. **Please complete, sign, and return the forms to Church Office within one week of receiving this packet. The office is located at 775 Harrison Avenue and is open 8 AM – 4 PM, Monday thru Friday; after hours place envelopes through the front desk mail slot.** The medical form will need to be updated only once a year while each event away from the parish will require a simple permission form that will be enclosed with the monthly newsletter or can be downloaded from our website at www.stdominiccyo.org. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me at 504-813-3003 or info@stdominiccyo.org. Thank you for your support of our parish youth ministry efforts.

Sincerely,

John Smestad, Jr.
Youth Minister