



Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish

Office of Faith Formation

289 Lafayette Road
Hampton, NH 03842

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I want to take this time to tell you a little bit about the purpose and importance of our retreats. I believe that retreats are essential for a teenager's faith; retreats are a time for fun, faith, and community, which are all fundamental to forming a well-rounded faith life.

Our retreats allow the proper place and time for teenagers to emerge from the shells they are used to hiding in. The point of the retreats that will be offered is to remove the teenagers from their culture for a weekend. They are used to a life filled with noise and very little silence. God has a very hard time speaking to them under these circumstances, however, during a retreat they are no longer surrounded by constant noise. It is in this setting that they are disposed to hearing God speak to their hearts. Jesus Christ has so much to say to them. He has so much love for them, and wants them to know this love in a real way. There is nothing more than I can hope for, than for a teenager to come in contact with the love of Christ.

Our retreats provide a safe place for your teenager to encounter the love of Christ. They will be surrounded by their peers, and together, become a supportive community for each other. The adults that come and serve on these weekends are wonderful, passionate, and holy disciples of Christ, who desire to serve the youth. Retreats serve as a place where the youth are able to feel welcomed; we are not here to judge them or condemn them. Just as Christ wishes to meet them where they are at, we are ready and willing to do the same.

I hope that after reading this letter, you have a better understanding and appreciation for retreats and the purpose that they serve in one's spiritual life. Our goal is to help them to know and experience the love of God and the support of the Catholic community. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email me.

Peace of Christ,

Christopher Fortin
Youth Minister