

St. Susanna Youth Ministry

FYI - Faith Youth Initiative for Families 09

As heads of family, parents are responsible for educating their children. Social, academic, athletic, financial and religious are areas that children will learn from parents through words and actions. A significant number of programs and people are available to support these topics. However, faith formation is too important to limit religious support accessible only through age-specific programming. The St Susanna Working Youth Board has developed a program designed to empower parents and their children to discuss and develop both short-term and long-term faith and religious practice goals for the whole family.

Examine faith as a family

- Prayerful personal examination of where we are today and where we want to grow into tomorrow both as individuals and as a family
- Age appropriate questionnaires for each family member participating (Currently we are beginning with parent(s) and 7th grade children but we hope to develop 9th and 11th grade surveys as well as one for young adults a year out of high school.)
- Parent(s) and child dialogue facilitated by a trained volunteer mentor from the Working Youth Board

Plan the faith journey by setting realistic goals as a family

- Where does the family want to be in 6 years? (This incentive is designed to work with the family until after the current 7th grade child is one year out of high school.)
- Where do the individuals want to be in 6 years?
- How can St Susanna Parish support your journey? (Individual or programmatic response required?)

Execute plan as a family

- Commit to growth with the family's plan as a guide
- Scheduled periodic reviews with the volunteer mentor in order to stay accountable to the process (Currently we are asking of a formal review every two years.)
- Adjust plans and/or goals as necessary

The Working Youth Board with the support of Fr. Bob and the Archdiocese Office of Youth and Young Adults is very excited to launch FYI in November with more than a dozen families piloting the process. We also feel that this type of family dialogue has the capacity to make such a strong positive impact of Catholic faith formation and religious practices that we are putting the surveys and discussion tools online. We hope this will allow families ready access and respect their privacy. Please do give your feedback. Any family who wishes to participate more formally in FYI should certainly contact Jenny Williamson or Jodi Mott.