

September 2007

Dear Teenagers:

This fall St. Ignatius is putting together a program for Parish teenagers and their friends. I hope you can be a part of it. Depending on your interest, you may be one of its foundational members, a member of its first leadership team or a published blogger. You will get to know other high school students from the NYC area and together recruit others to be a part of this intentional community. Or, already overwhelmed by your extracurricular commitments, you may just want to show up once a month when you can, and by early next year be able to log onto the website whenever you have a free moment. That's fine too. You just won't get as much free food.

So what exactly is IT (Ignatian Teens)? I'll tell you my design for the group, but I do so with the awareness that things change and you'll bring ideas I've never even thought of. But here's where we start: in some ways we are going back to our Christian roots by gathering in small groups, praying together, having mass together, finding creative ways to be of service to those in need, going on peer-led retreats and being a small but powerful community for each other and the wider world. In other ways we are looking ahead, discerning where the Spirit is leading us, staying on the cutting edge of urban life, finding technological means of reaching vast audiences and creating a larger e-community. And of course accomplishing both, by paying attention to our here and now and being a genuine support to each other as we negotiate our way. High school life can be tough, and we gather in the spirit of someone who wants to make it feel lighter.

This program is not a sacramental preparation program, nor is it a form of catechesis. We assemble in the firm faith that God is present "wherever two or three are gathered in God's name" and the more we let God into our lives, the more fulfilling our lives will be. You have nothing to lose. Maybe a few Thursday evenings, a Saturday here and there or a weekend or two if you feel like it. You'll enjoy this stuff, and if you don't, tell me why and we'll see what we can do. Bring your friends or come by yourself. All are welcome.

Check out the events calendar and take a chance on IT. You will be glad you did.

Alison Donohue