

Thank you so much for supporting OLPH Youth Ministry! Sharing your time and your talents with young people is key to a successful youth ministry program at our parish. To help you feel more confident in your role, here are some helpful hints:

- **Arrive early!** Spend some time visiting with the young people attending the Youth Ministry activity. This will make the travel time more comfortable for you and the youth. It also allows the Youth Ministry Coordinator to give you last minute instructions before we depart.
- **Be prepared.** Prepare just as you would for a family trip.
  - Make sure you have plenty of gas in the tank.
  - You will be provided with directions and/or a map prior to our departure. If you are unsure of the directions to the destination, don't be afraid to ask for assistance.
  - Be sure that you have your drivers license and a certificate of insurance with you and submit a copy of both documents to the Youth Ministry Coordinator prior to departure.
  - Make sure you have your cell phone (optional) and that you have exchanged phone numbers with other adult leaders on the trip.
- **Wear seatbelts at all times.** Every passenger and the driver will wear their seatbelts throughout the trip. You will only be asked to transport the number of youth who can be seatbelted in your vehicle. (No sharing seatbelts.)
- **Do not hand out any medications.** The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has recently enacted policies that forbid volunteers and employees from dispensing any medications, including over the counter medications such as Tylenol, ibuprophen and cough drops. If a child needs medications or medical attention, please have them see the Youth Ministry Coordinator.
- **Set the ground rules.** We do not expect you to make exceptions to your vehicle rules for our youth ministry activity. If you prefer people not eat, drink or chew gum in your vehicle, say so. If you have a preference of radio stations or radio volume, that is acceptable. Set your vehicle rules immediately.
- **Monitor the environment.** Don't feel that you have to be "cool" in order to fit in with the youth. If they are listening to inappropriate music or holding a discussion that includes gossip, swearing, etc. feel free to call them on it. Ask them to change the station or the subject. If the problem persists, please inform the Youth Ministry Coordinator.
- **Be flexible!** We always have good intentions of staying on schedule, but we often find ourselves changing the agenda to meet the needs of the youth.
- **Stay on track.** This may seem like a contradiction to the statement above. However, we ask that you stick to the route and do not take side trips. We've had several instances where a carload takes a detour to a local ice cream shop or drive-thru. Giving special "privileges" to one vehicle of youth and not to all causes lots of problems.
- **Don't be afraid to ask... anything!** If you have a question about what we are doing (an issue of safety, a reason for a particular rule, a suggestion to make the agenda flow more smoothly, etc.) ASK!

## OLPH Youth Ministry

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**"It takes a whole Church to do Youth Ministry!"**