



NET MINISTRIES

**Parish Contact Person
Instructions
2010-2011**

***Challenging Young Catholics To Love Christ
And Embrace The Life Of The Church***

Thank you for inviting NET Ministries to your parish or school!

These instructions have been updated for 2010-2011 and will help you make the best use of the NET team. Please read these instructions even if you have hosted a team in the past. They will answer your questions and guide you through the process of hosting a NET team. Thank You!

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Thank You . . .

Thank you for inviting NET Ministries to conduct a retreat in your parish or school. We are grateful for your willingness to join us in our efforts to lead young people to Christ. We pray you will receive great blessings from our Lord as you serve Him and we pray that your reward will be great in Heaven!

Here's what to do now:

By the time you're reading these instructions you have already worked with the Diocesan Contact Person (**DCP**) to book a specific date and timeframe for the NET team to come to your parish. Now, it's time to take care of the details.

1. _____ Set the exact times for the retreat: Page: 6
2. _____ Do you want to have Reconciliation and/or Mass on the Retreat? Page: 6
3. _____ Select a retreat theme: See pages 7-13
4. _____ Completely fill out the enclosed **Retreat Information Sheet (RIS)** using black ink. Use a **separate** retreat information sheet for each retreat you are hosting.
5. _____ Return the RIS to your DCP by the established deadline. Returning the RIS on time confirms your retreat date and enables the DCP to complete the other arrangements for the team's schedule.
6. _____ Start publicizing the retreat: See page 14
7. _____ Budget for the cost of the retreat: See page 14
8. _____ Reserve the facilities and equipment needed for the retreat: See page 16
9. _____ Read housing guidelines & secure housing for the team: See page 17
10. _____ Notify host families of the number of evenings they will host the team and the meals for which they are responsible.
11. _____ Verify number and times of meals (at retreat facility). See page 16
12. _____ Solicit volunteer help as needed (meals, clean-up, etc.)

As the retreat day approaches...

1. _____ Meals:
 - _____ Prepare menu
 - _____ Purchase Groceries
 - _____ Verify availability of cooks and clean-up staff
 - _____ Prepare bag lunches for team (if needed)

2. _____ Facility
 - _____ obtain necessary keys
 - _____ verify the times site is available
 - _____ verify availability of cooking facility/equipment (if needed)

3. _____ Housing
 - _____ Confirm housing with the host families
 - _____ Make a map and/or directions to host homes for the team
 - _____ Fill out the **Host Family Worksheet** with all the requested info *except* the team members' names. Hold onto the worksheet until the team arrives. The team leaders will assign team members to the homes.

4. _____ Talk with the NET Team Leader (He or she will call 7-10 days before the retreat)



Retreat Information . . .

Retreat Length and Time. The ideal length of a one-day NET retreat is six hours. We *recommend* that a retreat be at least four hours, but not longer than 10 hours unless it is an overnight or weekend retreat. Please follow the guidelines below to show courtesy to the host families and ensure adequate rest for the team:

- NET Teams may not travel before 7:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m. (including pickups from host families in the morning).
- **Retreats cannot begin before 8:30 a.m.** (*Even if your school day starts earlier*)
- The team cannot travel more than 300 miles on a retreat day.
- The team cannot to travel more than 450 miles on any day.
- The team must arrive at the retreat site a minimum of one hour prior to the start of the retreat.
- The team may only do one retreat with one group of youth on any given day.

Group Size and Ages. The size of the group greatly affects the quality of the retreat and the experience the youth have on the retreat. Please consider the following:

- The ideal size is 60 youth. The absolute maximum is 150.
- If your group has less than 20 youth, you may want to consider inviting youth from a neighboring parish to join your retreat.
- If your group has more than 150, you must schedule multiple retreat days and divide your group accordingly (by age or grade).
- We recommend you provide separate retreats junior high (grades 7-8) and senior high (grades 9-12), allowing the team to focus all retreat content to a particular maturity level.

Reconciliation and/or Mass on Retreat. We think it's great if you'd like Mass and/or Reconciliation to be included as part of your NET retreat. It's up to you and, of course, the availability of your local priest. Indicate your preference on the RIS.

The team will work with you and your priest to make Mass a meaningful part of the retreat. When the team leader calls to coordinate the retreat, you can discuss music, readings, and other logistics.

Offering Reconciliation as a part of any retreat is a great option. We highly recommend Reconciliation be available on all overnight and weekend retreats. Please provide one Confessor for every 12 young people to ensure Reconciliation will not run too long.

Please note: The team will generally schedule Prayer Ministry to happen at the same time as Reconciliation. This time begins with a drama and two team testimonies. We typically allow about 15 minutes of team time with the youth before the priests begin hearing confessions.

Retreat Themes for 2010-2011...

Please note: The following outlines are part of retreat materials developed by NET Ministries, Inc. They cannot be reproduced or altered for any parish's private use. They are provided here to help you choose a theme for the retreat you're hosting.

Tip: **Don't limit yourself!** Are you bringing the NET team in to do a **Confirmation Retreat**? Great. All of our themes are appropriate! The goal of the NET Retreat isn't to catechize the young people about the Sacrament as much as it is to encourage them to grow in their relationship with God. Even if the retreat is being used to fill a "Confirmation requirement," you'll find any of our themes effective in inspiring the young people to take Confirmation and their faith seriously. Just tell the team leader the retreat is for Confirmation and they'll adjust the talk and the testimonies team members give appropriately.



Why Faith?

What's the big deal with this "God stuff" anyway? This retreat addresses four common reasons young people don't seem interested in their Catholic faith and challenges young people to reconsider their perspective. They are exhorted to live their Catholic faith to the fullest!

Reason #1: Faith (especially Mass) is boring!

- Faith is not meant to entertain us; it's meant to sustain us.
- "Not by bread alone does man live, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Deuteronomy 8:3
- The more we really live our faith, the more exciting it gets!

Reason #2: It's not cool to be active in my faith when I am young, so I'll get active in my faith when I'm older.

- Peer Pressure is something we all face, but we need to stand up for our faith!
- If I offered you one million dollars, would you want it right now or would you want to wait until you're 40 years old? In the same way, God has so much for us and it's better than money! Why wait?
- There's no guarantee we'll have the chance to get active in our faith when we're older.
--Jesus is coming back some day (Acts 1:11) and no one knows when (Matt 24:36).
--We all die sometime; it could be tomorrow.
- Living your faith won't be easier when you're older... life gets busier, less free time, etc.

Reason #3: I don't want to give up my "fun."

- Things that we sometimes think are fun (alcohol, drugs, vandalism, sex before marriage, etc.) will never make us really happy. Only God can make us really happy.
- Sin hurts our relationship with God.
- God doesn't want us to live boring lives--He wants what is best for us.
- "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." John 10:10
- Living your faith doesn't mean giving up your "fun." It means getting the most out of life!

Reason #4: I don't need God. I'm a good person. What can He do for me?

- No one is entirely good. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Rom 3:23
- "Your sins have separated you from God." Isaiah 59:2
- Heaven isn't our "right." It's a free gift God offers us through the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- We all need a savior

Analogy: Our lives our like swimming in the middle of the ocean. We try to stay afloat as long as we can but we are all slowly drowning in our sin. But, there's a boat near all of us (Jesus). If we get in the boat we'll be saved...Are you in the boat?

The Adventure

Using a visual/drama format, this talk shows the young people how they fit into the story of Salvation. God did not abandon His children to the power of sin and death, but in the fullness of time sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins and restore our relationship with God. He sent the Holy Spirit upon us at our baptism to free us from original sin and begin our journey of faith.

1. Our Faith is not a boring subject

- Many years of religious education can sometimes make us look at our faith as just a subject
- Our faith is an active participation in the greatest story ever known!
- This story answers all the “BIG” questions of life: “Why am I here?” “What is the meaning of life?”

2. The Story of Salvation

- In the beginning there was God: 3 persons, 1 God
- God created the angels and specifically Lucifer; Lucifer rebelled and was cast out of heaven.
- God created man and woman, Satan tempted them, they sinned, relationship between God and humanity was broken, and humanity was left in the clutches of Satan
- Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, was sent to save us from Satan and our sins
- Jesus died and rose to restore the relationship that was broken by sin
- Holy Spirit was sent upon us at baptism, set us free from original sin

3. The Moment of Choice

- Set free from sin and Satan, do you return to your sin and Satan, or do you follow after God?
- Satan calls to come back to him; God calls us to our true inheritance, to live as sons and daughters in the Kingdom of God
- Living out your faith, following God, is a great adventure, not some boring subject!

Igniting the Flame **(Great for Confirmation Retreats)**

This theme addresses on four main ways that we can allow the fire of God to burn boldly in our lives. Fun interactive demonstrations explain different tools the Lord gives us that enables His flame to grow. With a theme of **confirmation** woven throughout, youth are encouraged to respond to Christ with a resounding yes to be a burning light in this world, ablaze with Christ' passion and purpose.

- 1) Our life in Christ can be seen as a blazing fire...God is the eternal fire of life, goodness and truth, and we are made in His image to burn brightly in this world. God gives us the resources we need to have a strong faith (fuel for the fire), but if we don't say yes, nothing happens; you can't have fire without a spark. 4 ways to build the fire...

A) Prayer - A flame needs oxygen to burn. Prayer, communion with God, is an exchange between us and the true source. Without prayer we cannot receive or be built up by God. Instead our flame is slowly diminished until it suffocates and no longer burns.

B) Sacraments - It's hard to light fire to something soaking wet. Sometimes we come to the Lord like wet rags. We go through the motions or take the gift for granted. Instead, open up to truly receive, be touched, and set ablaze.

C) Fellowship - It's hard to build a fire when the wind is blowing all around it, our environment affects the ability of us to grow and live as Christ desires us to. We can also surround ourselves with people with the same passion for following Christ. After all, two, three, and four flames next to one another burn much brighter than if on their own.

D) Service - Lighting a candle with one flame doesn't extinguish the original flame, it only spreads to create more fire, more light...Society teaches the misconception that when we give, we end having less. God's truth works like a fire, we lose nothing in serving. Instead we partake on God's very nature by spreading light and love to all around us.

- 2) The fires burn best from the inside out. The same is with our Catholic faith.

St. Teresa of Avila says, "If you are what you should be, you will set the world ablaze." This is her challenge to us, and it is Christ' desire for us as well. (Luke 12:49). Do not be afraid, say yes!

Soul Satisfaction

All of us are hungry. We all “hunger” for peace, joy, meaning, and happiness in our lives. This theme looks at the two places we can look to satisfy our spiritual hunger. Do we look to what the world/our society tells us will satisfy our hunger for happiness or do we look to God.

1. We all “hunger” for happiness in life
 - Do we look to God or to the world to satisfy our hunger?
 - “Our hearts are restless until they rest in God” –St. Augustine
2. Why do so many people look to the world, and not God to satisfy their spiritual hunger?
 - Satan lies to us, and wants to keep us far away from God. He tries to convince us that sin will bring us happiness, and will satisfy us, not God.
 - Analogy: Committing sin is like eating out of a dumpster to satisfy your hunger. God calls us to an elaborate banquet so our souls can be fed.
 - Satan has tricked us to make us think eating out of the dumpster is good for us.
3. Jesus came to save us
 - Jesus came to save us from “eating out of the dumpster” and show us the banquet really does exist!
 - Jesus did not come to condemn us, to yell at us for eating out of the dumpster, but to change our hearts so we wouldn’t want to commit sin and we would desire to have a relationship with God.
4. A relationship with God is not about a bunch of rules
 - The commandments are for our good, and in the light of the dumpster/banquet analogy, we see that the commandments are really common sense!
 - “Thou shall not steal, get drunk, disobey your parents, lie, gossip,” are no different than “Thou shall not eat out of a dumpster.”
 - “Thou shall go to mass every Sunday, pray, be nice to others,” is no different than, “Thou shall eat at a glorious banquet.”
5. Where will you look to satisfy your “Hunger?”
 - You have to make that choice, no one can make it for you.
 - If you do decide for God, know that it won’t be easy, but it is worth it, and God will be with you!
 - Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

Home

Home is where the heart is. It's where we belong and are free to be completely ourselves. God has given us an inner longing to be at "home" to point us our ultimate end in Him, and in heaven. This theme explains God's desire to fulfill our hearts' longings, but gives us free will to choose or reject Him. Through an interactive demonstration the youth see how sin leaves us lost and how Christ is the Good Shepherd calling out to lead us home.

1. The idea of being "home" is intrinsically tied to our hearts and acts as an internal compass to point us in the direction of security, peace, and belonging.
 - Heaven is our ultimate end where we will be immersed in God's love and glory, truly home.
 - We can live that blessing on earth through the gift of faith and the Church.

2. God's gives us the gift of free will because true love is freely given and freely chosen
 - God cannot guide us through our disobedience, and so we end up lost, tripping over obstacles in our way and not knowing how to get through. And so we wander, injured, looking for that which will give rest. "Our hearts are restless until they rest in you."
 - Sin has eternal consequences and we cannot get back home on our own.

3. God would not leave us in our predicament. He sent His son to heal our deafness, show us the Way home, and lead us back to the Father.
 - We are the sheep of God's flock, and in our sins we have gone astray (Is.53:6). Christ is the Good Shepherd, and through His suffering and death on the cross He took upon Himself what we earned through sin. He would stop at nothing to bring us back to himself. He conquered death and resurrected, and now comes to us help us home
 - Jesus reconciles us to God's love and leads home despite the obstacles we face.

4. Jesus has paved the way for us to be fulfilled, redeemed, and loved in our Home with God.
 - The Shepherd's sheep know his voice, they know to follow. (John 10 14-16). Christ is always calling to you, reaching out His hand to help you, will you take it? Will we recognize His voice and follow, or choose our own way?
 - Psalm 23

Overnight/Weekend (Grades 9-12 only; maximum of 80 youth)

The overnight and weekend retreats provide a more intense retreat experience by taking the youth out of their regular environment and helping them to think seriously about their relationship with God.

The overall theme of the overnight and weekend retreats is "The Adventure". After an Opening Session of songs, games and skits to break the ice, the team will encourage the retreatants to take a serious look at the role their Catholic faith plays in their lives. Beginning with the talk, "**Why Faith**" (pg 8) the NET team addresses the common reasons why God doesn't seem to be a priority in so many young people's lives. Using stories, personal testimonies, drama and music, the team will exhort the young people to live their faith to the fullest.

Throughout the retreat, young people will participate in small group discussions, prayer, and activities aimed at helping the young people take ownership of their faith and growing deeper in relationship with God. And, of course, there will be time for recreation and fun!

On day two of the retreat, the retreatants are presented with practical steps they can take to build their life on Christ (Prayer, Sacraments, Fellowship, Service). They'll also spend time separately as women and men to grow in their understanding of what it means to live as God's daughter or son.

The retreat closes with the presentation "**The Adventure**" (pg 9) followed by a time of prayer, during which the young people are invited to respond to God's love, and commit their lives to Christ.

Important Notes:

- *This NET overnight retreat is not a "lock-in" type experience. The team and the youth will sleep during the night hours.*
- *Experience has shown us that NET's overnight and weekend retreats are most effective when they are done with groups that are small enough to be reasonably supervised and mature enough to handle the length and intensity of content. We would like to provide your youth with the best retreat experience possible and therefore ask that all weekend retreats be limited to a maximum of 80 youth in grades 9-12 only.*
- *The host parish is responsible for arranging for the meals and lodging needed for these retreats. If beds are not available, have the youth bring sleeping bags or, as a last resort, consider having them return home for the night. The host parish will also need to contact a priest to be available for the weekend Liturgy.*
- *Mass, Reconciliation, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament are highly encouraged for the overnight and weekend retreats. When the NET Team leader calls to confirm the details (7-10 days before the retreat) let them know you'd like to have Mass, Reconciliation and/or Adoration. Please have priests available.*

Publicizing Your Retreat...

You should have received a poster from your Diocesan Contact Person that you can use to publicize your retreat. (If you didn't, contact Jenelle at NET: 651.450.6833. ext 22.)

Your Diocesan Contact Person will send you a digital photo of the team that is coming to your parish along with a listing of the names, ages, and hometowns of each team member. This same information is also available on our web site, www.netusa.org. You can use this photo to make your own posters or to send along to parents or host families. *(If the NET team is coming to your parish in the fall, photos will be available September 24. If the team is coming in the spring, photos will be available by November 30.)*

The last page of these instructions is an "information sheet" that you can copy and send to the parents of your young people as a way of keeping them informed about the retreat.

Retreat Fees . . .

NET Ministries depends on retreat fees to continue operating as a ministry. When determining fees we must consider the cost of purchasing vans, vehicle insurance, gas, medical insurance for team members, administrative costs, training and supervision of our team members, retreat materials, etc.

One day retreat of 6 hours or less	\$675.00
One day retreat of 6 to overnight.....	\$825.00
Weekend retreat (two overnights in a row)	\$1200.00

Our policy at NET Ministries is to **never** allow a parish's financial situation prevent them from hosting a NET retreat. If a parish or school truly cannot afford the full cost of a retreat and has explored other avenues of funding, we will work to adjust the fees accordingly. Please note that the agreement for adjusting the retreat fee must be made prior to the date of your retreat and can only be made by Jenelle Ollerich, the Team Schedule Administrator at NET Ministries. Please do not adjust any retreat fee on your own.

How Retreat Fees are Paid: NET Ministries will directly bill your parish or school the day of the retreat. All payments are due to NET Ministries two weeks after date of the retreat invoice. If your DCP has requested that you pay the diocese directly, NET will send the billing invoice for your retreat directly to the diocesan office. If your DCP requires a Service Fee, that service fee is in addition to our retreat fee. It is not a down payment of the retreat fee.

Note: Our current retreat fees cover less than half of the expense to bring a NET team to your parish. If your parish community is able to pay more than the standard fee, it would be of great benefit to the ministry and would help cover the costs for parishes unable to pay the retreat fee.

Ideas for Funding Retreats . . .

We suggest you begin considering how your retreat will be financed as soon as you receive confirmation of your retreat date. Explore any possibilities for assistance if the retreat fee is an obstacle to your hosting a retreat. If you are unable to afford the entire retreat fee and have been unsuccessful in raising money for the retreat, please get in touch with your DCP to explore any diocesan possibilities for assistance. Here are some fundraising ideas:

- **Take a second collection** at Mass. If the team is present, consider having them perform a drama or share a testimony. If they are not present, perhaps some of your young people who have been on NET retreats in the past could share what the retreat meant to them and why they would like the NET team to come back.
- **Talk with your pastor** to see if there are individuals in your parish you can ask to underwrite the cost of the retreat. These contributions are tax deductible if your pastor allows the parish to collect them for you.
- Request money from **parish organizations** such as the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Serra Clubs, the Altar Society, etc.
- The ever-popular **Bake Sale** can bring in some extra money. Start early in the year, giving yourself time to have more than one.
- **Ask the young people** to brainstorm ideas to pay for the retreat. This is a great way to prepare them to participate in the retreat because they have already invested in it.
- Consider **charging** each young person a small fee to help defray the cost of the retreat. It is not unreasonable to expect a young person to put up part of the cost.
- A couple smaller **parishes can come together** for the retreat and pool their resources.

Retreat Cancellation Policy . . .

Inclement Weather: In the event that severe weather threatens a scheduled retreat, please contact the team. If you and one of the team leaders together determine that the retreat must be canceled, please notify the Team Schedule Administrator at NET Ministries and the DCP immediately. It may be possible to reschedule the retreat through your DCP.

Cancellations: If a parish or school finds it necessary to cancel a scheduled retreat, they are to contact the Team Schedule Administrator no less than **two weeks** before the scheduled retreat date. The Team Schedule Administrator will work with your DCP to (hopefully) find another parish or school to fill that date.

For reasons other than inclement weather, any parish or school canceling a retreat less than two weeks before the scheduled retreat date will be required to pay a **cancellation fee of \$350**. NET Ministries will bill the parish or school directly for that amount. The housing and meal obligations originally assigned by the DCP will remain the responsibility of the canceling parish.

The Retreat Facility...

It is most helpful to have a facility that includes:

- A large enough meeting room for all of your youth.
- Enough chairs for everyone.
- Ten spaces such as small rooms or hallways that can be used for small-group discussions.
- A chalkboard or dry-erase board
- A podium or music stand for the team member giving the talk.
- A microphone (especially if the group is over 75 young people.)
- A chapel or the main church for Prayer Ministry at the end of the retreat.

Please Note: If you are hosting an overnight retreat, please choose a site that will provide hot water showers for the team and at least two separate sleeping areas for the men and women.



Housing the NET Team...

You are responsible for securing housing for the team the days that your DCP has assigned your parish. This may seem like a daunting task, but it's really not that difficult!

You will be provided with a list of the team members' names and ages grouped by gender. Please arrange host families so that a minimum of two team members of the same gender can be housed together at all times. **No one team member can ever be housed alone!** The team leaders will inform you on the day they arrive which team members will be staying with which host homes. They will take into account team member allergies when making these assignments.

- **Don't worry... We're flexible!** Team members travel with their own sleeping bags and are flexible with where they sleep for the night. Host homes are the ideal because they provide additional ministry opportunities for the team, but you may also house them in rectories, convents, retreat centers or gyms.
- Please try to find host homes that are relatively close to each other and to the retreat site so as to minimize the amount of travel time between places.
- If the team will be placed in host families, please have the host families go over any details such as doors to be locked, location of light switches, times of the meals, etc.
- If the team will be housed in a rectory, convent, retreat center, or school gym, please make sure that the team has been made aware of the following:
 - Doors, windows, and locks to be secured.
 - Lights to be on/off.
 - Meal arrangements and kitchen expectations.
 - Shower and bathroom availability.
 - Any room access limitations.
 - Fire exits and emergency procedures.
- Once you have secured housing, fill out the Host Family Worksheet (Fill in family name, address, phone number, number of team members they can host and the requested gender). Give this form to the NET Team Leaders when they arrive.



Frequently Asked Questions

Will NET contact me before the retreat? One of the NET team leaders will call you seven to ten days prior to your retreat. Using a copy of the RIS you filled out, he or she will confirm the details of the retreat and answer any questions you have. Because NET teams do six retreats a week, a Team Leader sometimes falls behind in calling the contact people for future retreats. If you haven't heard from the NET team at least five days before the retreat, please contact the Team Schedule Administrator at NET Ministries.

When will the NET team arrive for the retreat? Teams will arrive at the retreat site no later than one hour before the start of the retreat. This allows enough time to meet you, get acquainted with the facility, set up for the retreat, and have time to pray before the young people arrive. The team may wish to arrive a few hours before the retreat to allow time for them to have a meeting, drama practice, music practice, etc. If this is the case, the team leaders will make these arrangements with you when they call. The team leaders will not, however, change the meal arrangements made by the DCP.

Please Note: If the team runs into unexpected difficulties and their scheduled arrival time is in jeopardy, they will call and give you an update on their situation. Together you will decide on the best course of action.

How do I know what meals I'm responsible for... and what do I feed the NET team? You'll receive a Master Calendar that lists all of the retreats the NET team will do in your diocese and the meals you're responsible for. With the exception of limited food allergies, the team will be happy to eat whatever food is made available for them. You may want to let the host families know that simple breakfast options are appealing to most team members.

What's a Team Day? It's a day (once a week) with no retreats. Due to the intense lifestyle the NET team members lead, it is necessary to schedule a day off each week to allow them to rest. If you are asked to host a team during their team day, the DCP will inform you of the team's meals and housing needs. Please provide a room for the team to meet in for about three hours that day. The team leaders may ask you for ideas of fun things to do in your area. Please don't misinterpret this to mean the team is asking you to plan their team day—they're just looking for ideas.

What's a Team Supervisor Visit? Each NET Team has two supervisors (one male and one female) who oversee the team's work and provide ongoing training and care. The Supervisors work in Minnesota and periodically visit their team. If a Supervisor visit is going to occur while the team is at your parish or school one of the supervisors will contact you. For all practical purposes, it's just like having an extra two people on the team (i.e., they are housed with the team, go on retreat with the team, etc).

"They left everything & followed Him . . ."

Luke 5:11

Where do NET Team Members come from?

Each year NET Ministries seeks approximately 90 young adults ages 18-28 to serve as modern-day disciples. This isn't very easy to do and we could sure use your help! Hey, not only will you be helping NET for a year, you'll be helping the Church for a lifetime! After their year of service with NET, many alumni return to their home dioceses and use their training and experience with NET by working as DRE's, youth ministers, catechists, and volunteers. 90% of NET alumni remain in active service within the Church after their year "on the road" and 15% pursue a religious vocation.

Here's how you can help:

- Make Applications Available in your parish and at your Diocesan Youth Office.
- Talk to Young Adults you know and encourage them to consider serving with NET.
- Host a "Come-and-See" event: These 90 minute mini-retreats are hosted by current NET team members and are an opportunity for college age young adults to learn about NET in greater detail. "Come-and-See" events include skits, testimonies, a presentation on NET, small groups, Q&A, dramas, and prayer. The goal for such an event is to encourage young adults to look at where God might be leading them to serve - NET or otherwise. The "Come-and-See" events are ideally hosted on college campuses, Newman Centers, or at Young Adult meetings. Please contact the Recruiting Coordinator at NET Ministries to schedule a "Come-and-See" event in your area.
- Submit Bulletin Announcements: Use the one below or create your own:

WANTED: Men and women for a critical mission. Job entails long days, low pay and extensive travel in confined quarters. NET Ministries, a Catholic traveling retreat ministry, is in search of single Catholic young adults, ages 18-28, to serve youth across the US from August 2011 through May 2012. www.netusa.org. 651.450.6833.

Overview of Special Needs with Youth . . .

It is the intent of NET Ministries to act responsibly with information a young person openly reveals to a team member that the team member recognizes as harmful or potentially harmful. This includes informing appropriate paid parish personnel from the hosting parish and any local authority as necessary and appropriate. NET team members are not professionals. Therefore, it is not appropriate (and in fact may be harmful) for a team member to attempt to "counsel" a young person in a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation. The goal of the NET team member is to help the young person identify where help is available to them.

Training: NET team members are trained to respond to situations where a young person is in a harmful or potentially harmful situation by clarifying the information the young person has shared and then taking appropriate action. In addition to training conducted by the NET Staff, team members attend and are certified in the Protecting God's Children™ program conducted by VIRTUS.

Confidentiality: Team members respect confidentiality by handling information in a responsible manner. They do not promise to keep as anonymous the identity of a young person who is in a potentially dangerous situation. At the earliest opportunity after identifying a situation as potentially dangerous, the goal of the team member is to get the young person connected to a resource that can help him/her. The team member will try to get the young person to talk to the contact person identified by the parish for that retreat. Some examples of situations where there is potential danger are allegations of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or suicide. In situations where there is minimal or no danger, the parish contact person is not informed of the situation. Instead, the young person is encouraged to talk with a school counselor, parish priest, or other appropriate referrals such as national hotlines. Because NET teams are only in an area for a short period of time, their goal is to get the young person connected to an appropriate referral that can follow up with him/her.

Volunteer Contact Person: If a situation is identified as potentially dangerous and the contact person is not a paid employee of the parish or school or is not familiar with appropriate procedures to follow, the team member will seek the involvement of the parish priest. If the young person refuses to speak to the contact person or parish priest, the team member may then identify with the young person another appropriate referral such as a school counselor, teacher, or parent. If neither the parish contact person nor the parish priest is available, the NET team member is then directed to contact a team supervisor at the NET Ministries office in order to discuss an appropriate plan of action which may include contacting local authorities or parents.

Paid Contact Person: If the contact person is a paid employee of the parish or school, our hope is that he/she will be familiar with diocesan policies regarding the appropriate handling of these situations. The appropriate handling may include calling the police, notifying child protection agencies, or informing the parents.

Please contact David Rinaldi, the Assistant Program Director of NET Ministries, if you have questions concerning our handling of special needs.

Screening, Training, & Supervising of NET Teams...

NET Ministries thoroughly screens and trains every NET Team member prior to their work with young people. Specifically, NET follows the recommendations of the "*Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*", which was created by the National Catholic Conference of Bishops (now USCCB) in June, 2002 and 2005. Per these recommendations, all of our team members go through a four part scrutiny to ensure their suitability for work with youth prior to their conducting any ministry with youth.

First, in the initial screening and selection process, NET requires several references for each potential NET Team member, references who can testify to the suitability of a prospective team member. Each reference is originally submitted in writing, and then verified by our staff. This is part of the **extensive application process** which includes 2 live interviews and a letter from their Pastor stating they are in good standing with the Catholic Church.

Secondly, NET conducts a **criminal background check** of each prospect, specialized to accommodate the young age of the NET Team members. Our criminal background checks are being conducted by a private investigation agency, *The McDowell Agency*, which is also the agency being utilized by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. This background check includes a search on the National Sex Offenders Data Base.

Third, NET team members are trained and certified in safe environments through the "**VIRTUS – Protecting God's Children**" course by the National Catholic Risk Retention Group, Inc. NET Team members are also required to successfully complete NET's training process, which is conducted prior to and during their ministry. During this training, the NET Team members receive instruction concerning:

- ♦ appropriate standards of conduct for those working with youth;
- ♦ inappropriate speech, touch, and relationships with youth;
- ♦ requirements for creating a safe environment for all retreatants; and
- ♦ guidelines for ensuring their own personal safety.

Lastly, all team members acknowledge, by their signature, that they have received, understood, and intend to conduct themselves in accordance with NET Ministries' Personal **Conduct Policies**.

Once the NET team members are in active ministry with NET, they continue to receive ongoing training and supervision by NET staff members which include weekly contact and monthly onsite visits.

Personnel records, including the above mentioned paperwork, are all kept on each individual team member at the NET office. A more comprehensive explanation is available if needed by contacting NET's Human Resources Coordinator at ministry@netusa.org.

If you have concerns regarding the conduct of any NET team member, please contact David Rinaldi, the Assistant Program Director, at 651.450.6833 ext 30. or david@netusa.org

Now what?

Did your youth experience an awakening or strengthening of their faith as a result of their NET retreat? Here are some opportunities for follow-up:

NET Discipleship Week (D-Week) is the perfect follow-up for a NET retreat. With seven locations across the U.S., D-week is an incredible 4-day experience for 8-12th grade students that will take them deeper into their relationship with God and their Catholic faith. Dynamic morning and evening sessions include large and small group time, great music, skits, dramas, as well as Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, and daily Mass. Afternoons include outdoor activities and free time to hang with friends. www.netusa.org/discipleshipweeks

Life Teen With 950 parish programs that stretch around the globe into twenty countries Life Teen is a dynamic international Catholic youth ministry program. Life Teen's website is well worth a visit as it has many resources for both young people and people who work with youth: www.Lifeteen.com.

Steubenville Youth Conference Over 30,000 teens will participate at fifteen youth conferences in eight different states this summer. The focus of the Steubenville youth conferences is to bring high school students into a life changing relationship with God and illuminating the richness of the Catholic Church. Through the power of the Sacraments, inspiring talks, dynamic music, and expressive praise, teens are given an awesome weekend that can literally change the course of their lives. www.franciscanyouth.com

Help for Youth Ministers:

Impact Center: The driving force of ImpactCenter is to build a solid foundation in Catholic Youth Ministry by IMPACTING the life of the Catholic Youth Minister. Knowing that when one youth minister's life is changed it can potentially impact thousands of lives. Impact Center is made up of a team of people who combined have over 50 years experience in youth ministry. www.impactcenter.com

NFCYM: The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry participates in the mission of the Catholic Church by advocating for and supporting Catholic youth ministry on the national, diocesan, and local level. Their mission is to serve those who serve the young Catholic Church. www.nfcym.org

Cultivation Ministries: The mission of Cultivation Ministries is To Cultivate Team-based, Comprehensive, and Disciple-making Catholic Youth Ministries by Training, Resourcing, and Supporting Adult and Student Leaders. They offer time-tested, effective tools to help veteran and new youth ministers increase their yield for Christ. www.cultivationministries.com

Drama Resources . . .

The dramas NET Ministries uses are for use by NET teams only and are currently not available to the public. Please do not “borrow” NET dramas that you’ve seen on retreat. If you are interested in using dramas in your ministry, there are many resources on line. Here are some helpful resources:

Contemporary Drama Service
885 Elkton Drive
Colorado Springs CO 80907
800-937-5297
www.contemporarydrama.com

Youth Specialties
PO Box 22005
El Cajon CA 92022-2205
619-440-2330
www.YouthSpecialties.com

Covenant Players
PO Box 2900
Oxnard CA 93034-2900
805-486-7155
www.covenantplayers.org

Music Resources . . .

The following is a listing of some of our music resources. If you would like information on a particular song, please contact the Program Director at NET Ministries.

CCLI
17201 NE Sacramento St.
Portland OR 97230
800-234-2446
www.ccli.com

Hillsongs Australia
PO Box 1195
Castle Hill NSW
AUSTRALIA

Mercy Publishing
PO Box 65004
Anaheim CA 92815
714-744-6554

Franciscan University Press
Jim Cowan Music Company
1301 Ridge
Steubenville OH 43952
800-783-6357

Integrity's Hosanna Music
PO Box 16183
Mobile AL 36616
202-633-9000

Maranatha! Music
PO Box 1077
Dana Point CA 92626-9200
www.maranathamusic.com

Meet Jenelle!

If you have any questions about scheduling your NET retreat, help is only a phone call away...Jenelle Ollerich is the Team Schedule Administrator for NET Ministries and she's ready to help you!

Jenelle was born and raised on a farm in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She graduated with a B.S. in Chemistry from Creighton University and spent eight years as an Analytical Chemist, testing soil and water for contaminants and other bad things.

She hung up her lab coat in 2001 and served as a team leader on NET team #3 in 2001-02.

Jenelle came on NET staff in 2002 and spent two years working as the scheduling assistant. She has been at the helm as the Team Schedule Administrator since the summer of 2004. Besides her love for the Green Bay Packers and throwing parties, there are few things Jenelle enjoys more than scheduling NET retreats. No kidding. She proudly shared, "I love schedules, maps, and organizing things... this job is perfect for me!"



So, if you have questions about host homes, feeding the NET team, or anything else about the team's visit to your parish, give Jenelle a call: **651.450.6833 ext. 22**

The NET Team is Coming!

Mission: NET Ministries is an international youth ministry that challenges young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. NET Ministries fulfills its mission by conducting over 800 youth retreats across the United States each year.

The Retreats: NET retreats range in length from four hours to three days. The format and theme of the retreats vary, but the basic message is always the same: *“In Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, who died and rose from the dead, salvation is offered to all, as a gift of God’s grace and mercy.”* (Evangelization in the Modern World, Pope Paul VI).

These retreats, typically for youth in grades 7-12, are high-energy experiences using large group presentations, small group discussion, music, drama, personal faith sharing, one-on-one prayer, and the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist.

The Goals of a NET Retreat

- To help young people understand and accept God’s unconditional love for them.
- To offer the faith of the team members as a witness to the youth that faith in God is a desirable, acceptable, and exciting part of their lives.
- To encourage young people to grow in their commitment to Jesus Christ and His church.

The Teams: Approximately 100 young men and women serve as volunteers with NET Ministries each year. The team members begin their year of service with an intense five-week training program during which they are brought to a deeper understanding of their faith and are taught to effectively communicate that faith to others. They receive instruction in prayer, Scripture, Catholic teaching, Christian character, and ministry skills.

The young adult volunteers are then put into teams and sent out in vans across the United States to share their faith and invite all they meet to give their lives to Jesus. These ten teams will reach out to over 60,000 youth from September to May. Other teams serve in Canada and Australia.

After serving with NET, 90% of the team members continue in some form of service to the church and 15% will go on to pursue priesthood or religious life.

Financial Support: NET Ministries is a nonprofit organization and receives its funding from the donations of individuals, churches, and foundations as well as retreat fees charged to parishes. NET Ministries is governed by a board of directors and operates under the ecclesial supervision of the Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota. For more information, check us out on the web at: www.netusa.org.

“This group is outstanding for its prayerfulness, its great joy, and its beautiful fidelity to the teaching of the Church. These young people are sacrificing one year of their lives to bring the Gospel to their contemporaries. What a sign this presents of deep and vibrant hope.” Archbishop Emeritus Harry Flynn of St. Paul and Minneapolis.