

## Report for the Committee on Young People's Work

To the One Hundred and Thirty-Sixth Council  
Of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic

Dear Brethren,

The COYPW has once again sponsored a number of camps and retreats in the year gone by aimed at forging and strengthening the faith of diocesan youth. Remembering St. Paul's words "Be followers of me, even as I am of Christ", we sought to provide multiple examples of those who were imitators worth imitating.

This began at winter camp under the teaching of the Rev. Deacon Bart Gingerich. Dcn. Bart led us through a study of remarkable Christians, from the New Testament down to the present, focusing on the sufferings and death of some of Christ's most faithful martyrs. It was continued by Canon Jenkins and Reverend Mike Blitz at summer camp as we explored "Heroes of the Bible." The COYPW offers our great thanks to all three men!

We also continued to co-sponsor, along with Reformed Episcopal Seminary, SEFY. As mentioned in my report last year, SEFY is an opportunity for high school, college, and early career-aged youth to participate in a retreat at the seminary which has an intense spiritual and formative component. This year's theme was "Peacemaking." A special thanks to Deacon Shawn Riley for his lessons on this occasion. Our next retreat is Nov. 11-12 and we will be discussing Jewish feasts. Information has been sent out to parishes with all necessary information. Registration will end on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Please don't delay!

This year also saw the start of a new program at summer camp which we named "family camp". In an attempt to retain the services of counselors with small children, and to expose children at an even younger age to the gospel and camp life, five families (both parents and children) also attended this year. The program was an enormous success by any number of measurements and I would like to thank my parents Canon and Mrs. Jenkins for their leadership of this new endeavor.

After SEFY, in just a couple of short weeks, the next event on our calendar is Winter Camp 2017. For a number of reasons, the COYPW voted to move our winter camp from River Valley Ranch in Maryland to Rock Mountain Bible Camp in Pennsylvania. This does mean a longer drive for those in Maryland but it does centralize the event a bit more for the rest of the diocese. Given all that RMBC has to offer, I believe this change is absolutely for the better! One of the perks of the move is that our winter camp will actually be in winter this year. The dates for the retreat are 2/24-2/26. A bit further down the road, summer camp will take place at Rock Mountain from 7/23-7/29. Please place both on your parish calendar.

As always, we desire your prayers as we seek to aid parishes and families in raising godly young men and women. If in reflecting on the COYPW's work you feel led to contribute, either financially or with your presence at an event, we would sincerely appreciate it. But much more importantly, the Lord will honor your sacrifice.

Yours in the Divine Mercy,

Billy Jenkins, Chairman