

Report for the Committee on Young People's Work

To the 142nd Diocesan Council
Of the Diocese of the North East and Mid-Atlantic:

The COYPW sponsored two events in the past year: our diocesan summer camp for youth from grades 2nd-12th and our diocesan winter camp for grades 6th-12th. There was much to be grateful for at both events. At our winter retreat, held February 18th-20th at Rock Mountain Bible Camp, Fr. Tait Deems led the teens in an exploration of "My Private Devotional Life." The goal was to give practical instruction, rooted in the BCP tradition, for anchoring one's spiritual life. It was a splendid, if very cold, weekend!

Our summer campers were treated to talks on the Christian fiction of C.S. Lewis at the end of July. Younger campers read through the first book, canonically speaking, of the Chronicles of Narnia: *The Lion, the Witch, and Wardrobe*. The children read passages aloud, watched clips from some of the film adaptations, and discussed themes related to sin, betrayal, sacrifice, redemption, and resurrection. Fr. Mike Blitz led the youth in these discussions using he and his wife Stephanie's admirable media skills and enthusiasm for the subject material.

Middle and High School campers were given copies, thanks in part to a generous donation from the Emmanuel Trust, of Lewis' *The Great Divorce*. One of the greater scenes from camp this year was watching 40 teens read through a couple of chapters of this novella each morning after breakfast in anticipation of our daily lessons following Morning and Evening Prayer. Students explored the nature of Heaven and Hell and the idea that our choices and habits determine whether earth is the outer bands of Glory or Perdition. "...there are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God 'thy will be done' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'thy will be done'."

Many thanks to all who continue to send youth to these events. We believe they are extremely profitable for all who attend and are actively aiding parishes and families in the formation of their sons and daughters. We encourage as many as are able to attend our upcoming camp events: Winter Camp is February 17th-19th, 2023 and Summer Camp is July 23rd-29th, 2023. The theme for Summer camp has not yet been determined, but Fr. Jason Holloway will lead us through the Parable of the Good Samaritan in February.

With that in mind, I would like to particularly thank Jason, Alena Beeman, and Allison Gillespie-Jenkins for their tireless efforts inventing, implementing, and directing the activities that make these retreats so memorable for our youth. But we always have openings for volunteers to help our camp leadership. If you, or someone you know, would like the opportunity to minister to young people, please have them contact me at wjenkins@loyola.edu.

Yours in the Divine Mercy,

Dcn. Billy Jenkins