

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is Just5Days?

A. Just5Days is a week-long mission experience of hands-on service, faith learning, prayer, community building, and summer fun. Just5Days was created especially for Catholic middle school youth and their adult leaders from parishes and schools.

Q. Who sponsors the program?

A. Just5Days is sponsored and directed by the Center for Ministry Development, a national, non-profit agency that works each year with over 100 dioceses in the United States. CMD specializes in providing quality leadership training programs and resources for ministry leaders. Among the programs developed by CMD are the national Certificate in Youth Ministry Studies Program (for adults), Youth Leader (for youth), and Online web resources Youth Ministry Access and Fashioning Faith (for parishes and youth).

Q. What about the leaders and other adults at the program. How do I know my child is in good hands?

A. The program leaders: Program Director, Prayer & Music Director and the Site Coordinator are all adults who are professionals in their fields. They have been selected by the Program Coordinator for Just5Days and all have been Safe Environment trained and passed criminal background checks.

Q. Where will young people stay and work while taking part in the program?

A. Our host site: St. Mary Catholic Faith Community has a beautiful elementary school where our group will be staying. Participants will be sleeping on their own air mattresses/cots in the school classrooms. Showers are off site at a local YMCA or public school. The site always has a fully equipped cafeteria along with a beautiful worship space and grounds.

A. Work sites, sponsored by church and social service agencies, differ from place to place. Work opportunities include: working with children and families in need in homeless shelters and soup kitchens, summer recreation and tutoring programs, painting and minor repairs to family homes and agencies. Teams that come together will work and travel together throughout the experience. Jobs and sites are selected with safety in mind; all work and travel takes place during the daylight hours. Information on work sites and equipment needs is sent out in the spring.

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Q. What will team members do when they're not involved in service?

A. Back at the "home site," participants take part in a mix of recreational, cultural, educational, and worship activities. Structured group activities are planned for each evening—The event is very much a "team experience," providing participants with the opportunity to learn, serve, relax, enjoy, and grow together.

Q. What is the cost and what does it include?

A. The cost for Just5Days 2017 is \$290 and includes transportation to and from worksites, accommodations, 3 meals a day plus snacks, and all programming for the week. We live simply and in solidarity with those we serve during the week and opportunities for "extras" are limited.

Q. Are there fundraising opportunities?

A. Yes, we will do our best to offer a number of opportunities for individuals to fundraise for the event on both an individual basis and as a group.

Q. Is there a payment schedule?

A. Yes, the following payment schedule has been developed:

\$50 - ASAP will hold your spot until March 1, 2017

\$100 - second payment due on March 1, 2017

\$140 - final payment due June 1, 2017

\$290 - Trip total

Q. Are there additional meetings for participants?

A. Yes. We will schedule two meetings in the spring and early summer to meet with parents and participants. These meetings will seek to educate everyone on the content and logistics of the trip and also to help youth and adult participants prepare to serve.

A follow-up gathering will take place shortly after we return from our trip to help us plan to share our experience with the community here at St. Mary.

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Q. We are interested but have questions. Who can I contact?

A. Please contact Jeff Kacala, the Director of Youth Ministry for more information about the experience. He can be reached at:

kacalaj@stmaryhc.org

(414) 425-2174 Ext. 235

Q. Do I need to sign up soon?

A. We have reserved 16 spots for youth and adult participants. It is suggested that you sign up as soon as possible to reserve your spot as we do expect this trip to sell out.