

Children, Youth & Families (CYF) Annual Report October 2023 – September 2024

In my 2nd year in this position, I continue getting to know individual parishes, clergy, and volunteers, learning about what their needs are, and how best to support them. While I have tried several events, my position was created to resource parishes, and I am trying to emphasize my focus on that role.

Resourcing Parishes

I have purchased several curricula that can be used in churches as needed. We have also begun a partnership with Storymakers, a nonprofit that offers versatile resources and Sunday School subscriptions for churches. I visit churches and facilitate workshops or informal group discussions about their specific needs for CYF ministry. One of my next steps is to ensure that resources are accessible on our Diocesan website.

Trainings

We have hosted “Tell Me the Truth about Racism” trainings- dismantling racism through storytelling. We have also hosted Conversations about Godly Play. I hope to plan more training opportunities in the future for parishes.

Central PA Youth Advisory Team

In 2024, we began meeting on Zoom with adult and youth members of the Central PA Youth Advisory team. We had 4 youth members and had our first afternoon planning retreat in March 2024. However, 2 youth members graduated in May, and 1 has been inactive, and adult engagement has been inconsistent, so we do not have an active group currently. We hope to continue building our Youth Advisory Team in the future, though I am also researching other models.

General Convention Summer 2024

We had 2 youth who attended General Convention in Louisville, KY in June 2024. One youth attendee participated in the Youth Ending Gun Violence community organizing training, and we had 1 youth attendee who represented Province 3 on the Official Youth Presence (OYP) .

Children, Youth, and Family Workers & Volunteers Support

We have begun CYF Coffee Chats that will rotate around the Diocese to support CYF workers and volunteers. These will be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

I am regularly visiting churches and meeting with those volunteering in CYF ministries to support their work. There are Forma scholarships available for those who would like to attend, virtually or in person at Claggett Center in January.

Province 3 Engagement

We had 3 youth serve on the Province 3 retreat planning team last spring, and held the retreat at Caroline Furnace in Virginia. This year, the P3 retreat is planned for April 2025 and will be held at Claggett Center. Because we have a few youth who participate, it currently makes sense to work with our Dioceses and collaborate, rather than creating our own programs.

Diocesan Convention

We will have 3 youth serving on a Youth Caucus at Diocesan Convention (1 from Bethlehem, 2 from the Diocese of Central PA). We have 4 children attending the Children's Program this year, and the theme is Jonah and the Whale. We hope that starting up these opportunities for children and youth involvement at Convention will lay the groundwork for more opportunity and engagement in the future.

Ongoing Events & Projects

Monthly CYF Coffee Chat- 2nd Tuesdays at 10am- location rotates

Youth Bible Study- 2nd Sundays at 6pm on Zoom

Upcoming Events

Forma- January 27-30, 2025- Claggett Center or online

P3 Youth Event- April 2025- Claggett Center

Respectfully Submitted,

Canon Micalagh Moritz