



“Today, we need a Church capable of walking at people’s side, of doing more than simply listening to them; a Church which accompanies them on their journey;”

Pope Francis, World Youth Day, 2013

August 22nd, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

I invite you to look around you. Do you see people that are dedicated to welcoming and journeying with the youth of your parish? I encourage you to take a moment and nominate that person for the **St. Marie of the Incarnation Award**.

The purpose of this award is to recognize a person that is an exceptional leader in Youth Ministry. This person is described as having a youth minister’s heart. They serve as a companion to young people and lead them in a spirit of love and trust as they journey towards Christ. This means that they might not have the title of “Youth Minister” within the parish, but they value and reach out to youth in different ways. It could be:

- The lady who is always ready to prepare a snack or a meal for a youth gathering. She drops off the food and says a quick hello to the teens. Sometimes she stays and shares the meal with them.
- The father who offers to drive the youth to different activities, retreats, or service projects. He always makes sure to have a meaningful conversation during the car ride.
- The mom who takes time to organize the music for the mass once a month and leads her teen daughter and her daughter’s friends in worship. Together, they find music that speaks to them.
- The senior who that takes the time to practice with the young person before he proclaims the reading or recites the prayers of the faithful, and then encourages him in this important responsibility.
- The young adult who takes time out of his schedule to be present at the youth night to give a testimony and helps where he can. He comes to most evenings and is truly present and genuine to the group.
- The priest who takes the time to learn the teens names, interests, and struggles, so that way he may journey with them and pray for them by name.
- The gentleman who goes above and beyond to raise funds to specifically help a young person when they do missionary work. He understands how this experience will benefit the teen and the community.
- The teacher that encourages her students to take initiative and to be innovative in solving problems they see in today’s world. She see’s the teens become enthused when helping those in needs.

These are only a few examples. **It is so very important to notice and acknowledge the people who are welcoming and involving teens within the parish life. This is a simple way to show that you value them and their work.** The nomination sheet can be found at archsaintboniface.ca in the *Youth & Young Adult Ministry* section, under *Youth Ministry Award*. **The deadline to submit a nomination is September 14, 2018.** I encourage you to also share this information about the award with your fellow parishioners. They might have noticed a different person. There is no restriction in the number of nominations from your community. Celebrate and acknowledge the good service you witness in those around you!

For any questions or to submit a nomination, please don't hesitate to contact me, either by phone at 204-594-0278 or by email at mgrenier@archsaintboniface.ca. I look forward to receiving your nominations.

United in Christ,



Mireille Grenier
Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator
Archdiocese of St. Boniface



“God never led me by a Spirit of fear, but by love and trust.”

St. Marie of the Incarnation