

CATHEDRAL OF THE RISEN CHRIST FAMILY LETTER

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A LETTER FROM FR. THOMLISON

We echo the Psalmist this weekend in the responsorial psalm: *"Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will!"* The challenge, of course, comes in discerning what exactly is the Lord's will for our life.

Here at the Cathedral parish, we have an outstanding program for high school students who are discerning God's will in their day to day activities – whether it ultimately be for a married vocation, Holy Orders or a religious life. The Cathedral Godteens meet weekly during the school year in the home of parish volunteers who act as "Godteen parents."

Nine couples in the parish open their homes every Wednesday night for 15-20 high school students from the same grade. The students are assigned to a 'Godteen parent' as freshmen and then form a bond, with both the Godteen parents and also their fellow Catholic students, as they journey together over the next 4 years.

Every Wednesday night they gather for snacks, Catholic camaraderie, prayer, and to discuss events not only of their

own daily lives, but also within the Church. The Godteen parents lead discussions that help to focus attention on the Holy Father's letter for World Youth Day. They practice Lectio Divina as a method of prayer. There are hayrack rides, bowling, scavenger hunts, bonfires, an overnight retreat in the fall, and of course, we open and close each school year with a Mass at the Cathedral.

The students also rotate in helping to sell SCRIP after Sundays at the Church and also volunteer at the Matt Talbot Soup kitchen once a month.

Sometimes the students need a safe place to talk about issues from school or about challenges they're facing in life. The Godteen parents provide a Catholic sounding board that can help students develop strategies to successfully approach and involve their own parents and teachers when necessary.

There is great sacrifice offered by the nine young couples (and their own families) to host these energetic high school students in their

homes each week. As they gather in the living room, around the dining room table or in the basement, often around the fringes are the couples own younger children who stare in wonderment at the invasion of large high school students into their homes!

Great bonds of friendship and family are formed among the Godteen groups. Many continue to meet around the holidays even after they have graduated from high school. In some cases Godteen high school students have become Confirmation sponsors for younger children in the home where they meet. And of course all join in prayer and rejoicing when one of the high school men or women discerns God's vocational call—either to married life, to the seminary, or to the convent!

This year, the Godteens are busy saving money and holding small fundraisers to raise enough funds for a small group to travel to the 2013 World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil! If you're interested in sponsoring a Godteen's trip for WYD or serving as a Godteen parent, please come visit with



The Holy Family

me. At a minimum, please keep the Godteen parents and our Cathedral high school students in your prayers as they endeavor to discern God's will in their life and to live it each day!

