



Saint Ann's Academy

Principal's Note

September 25, 2013

Dear families of Saint Ann's Academy,

Thursday, October 10, 2013, Saint Ann's Academy Middle School students will participate in a day long retreat here on campus facilitated by **Net Ministries**.

Net Ministries is an international youth ministry that challenges young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. Net Ministries fulfills its mission by conducting over 900 youth retreats across the United States each year. Recently, Net Ministries held retreats at Saint Augustine's, Our Lady of Victory and Saint Peters-Olney.

The goals of the retreat are:

- To help young people understand and accept God's unconditional love for them.
- To offer the faith of the team members as a witness to the youth that faith in God is a desirable, acceptable, and exciting part of their lives.
- To encourage young people to grow in their commitment to Jesus Christ and His church.

The teams:

Approximately 110 young men and women serve as volunteers with Net Ministries each year. The team members begin their year of service with an intense five-week training program during which they are brought to a deeper understanding of their faith and are taught to effectively communicate that faith to others. They receive instruction in prayer, Scripture, Catholic teaching, Christian character, and ministry skills. The young adult volunteers are then put into teams and sent out in vans across the United States to share their faith and invite all they meet to give their lives to Jesus. These teams will reach out to over 60,000 youth from September to May. Other teams serve in Canada and Australia. All team members have been vetted by a Federal background check.



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After serving with Net Ministries, nearly all of the team members continue in some form of service to the church. Approximately 15% will go on to pursue priesthood or religious life.

The team coming to Saint Ann's will consist of six young women and five young men. Saint Ann's Academy will provide them lunch. I am seeking 2-3 families to host the young women (6 women) and 2 families to host the guys. (5 men) They do not mind sleeping on the floor. They will bring sleeping bags. Host families are asked to provide an evening meal and breakfast. They will leave for their next retreat by 9:00 a.m. on Friday.

The comments and feedback from my colleagues at the other schools was nothing short of amazing. I know that families who hosted the young people last year received a blessing as well. I think this is exactly what our Middle School students need at this time.

If you can be of assistance, I would be most grateful. Please email me or leave me a message as soon as possible.

Warm regards,

Thomas W. Wharton