



The goal of the Purpose Retreat is to raise up Catholic leaders by answering the big questions of life while walking with a mentor.

Friday, March 11 - Sunday, March 13, 2022

Check-in 6:00 p.m. | Retreat ends at 1 p.m. following noon Mass | Families invited to join!

Who is this retreat for?

- This retreat is for any high school youth (by invitation of their youth minister, pastor, or DRE) who has encountered Jesus Christ, is striving to live the Christian life, and desires to go deeper in faith by being accompanied by a mentor in the Catholic faith.

What's the role of the mentor – on the retreat, as well as before and after?

- A mentor is someone older than the youth (preferably at least 21) who is living in accordance with the Catholic Church and desires to help accompany and invest in the spiritual life of the youth. The mentor could be the Youth Minister/DRE or someone else in your parish.
- In addition to this retreat, the mentor must attend up to 3 pre-retreat Zoom meetings between Aug. – Dec., as well as a day-long retreat on Sat., Jan. 29th (location TBD), during which time there will be prayer, fellowship, and final formation and preparation for the Purpose Retreat in March.

Location:

Maria Stein Spiritual
Retreat Center
(Maria Stein, OH)

Housing:

Individual Rooms, Bedding & Towels
Provided

Cost: \$150/person,

Includes housing, food & materials
This cost is the same for Youth & for
their Mentor.

If you need a scholarship, please let us know.

*We see the Purpose Retreat as an opportunity
to LAUNCH mentoring at your parish or as a
tool to ONGOING MENTORING.*

*Interested in learning more about mentoring?
Reach out to Shane Legg at
slegg@catholicaoc.org.*



CENTER FOR THE NEW
EVANGELIZATION
CenterfortheNewEvangelization.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
[HTTPS://WWW.CENTERFORTHENEWEVANGELIZATION.ORG/
EVENT/PURPOSE](https://www.CenterfortheNewEvangelization.org/Event/Purpose)

Questions can be directed to cne@catholicaoc.org

SUGGESTED TIMELINE IN PREPARATION FOR PURPOSE 2022

August - early September 2021

- Begin discerning which youth should be invited to participate in this retreat.
- Consider youth already in mentorship relationships or youth that you are/would like to mentor.



September - early October 2021

- Invite youth to commit to mentoring (either beginning late-fall or following the launch of the retreat) and to participate in the retreat.
- Once you have a commitment, ask youth for 2-3 names of people in the parish community that they would like to be mentored by.
- Personally ask that adult if they'd be willing to commit to mentoring, and in particular if they're available for the Purpose Retreat in March, the leaders' retreat in January, and the 3 pre-retreat meetings.

When intergenerational relationships exist, a collective memory is present in communities, as each generation takes up the teachings of its predecessors and in turn bequeaths a legacy to its successors.

*- Pope Francis,
Christus Vivit, 191*

Pre-Retreat Zoom Meetings (Fall 2021)

- Meeting # 1
 - Pray and meet all the mentors that will be helping with the retreat
 - What is mentoring? How do you do it?
 - Overview of the retreat schedule, flow, and content
- Meeting # 2
 - Prayer and discernment for sharing testimony
- Meeting # 3
 - Prayer and final discernment



There is also a special need to accompany young men and women showing leadership potential ... (CV, 245)

Saturday, January 29, 2022

- Leaders' Retreat (Location TBD) from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Spiritual formation and intercessory prayer for youth
- Practice of personal testimonies and final preparation

Mentors should not lead young people as passive followers, but walk alongside them, allowing them to be active participants in the journey. (CV, 246)

Accompaniment by adults

242. Young people need to have their freedom respected, yet they also need to be accompanied. The family should be the first place of accompaniment. Youth ministry can present the ideal of life in Christ as the process of building a house on rock (cf. Mt 7:24-25). For most young people, that house, their life, will be built on marriage and married love. That is why youth ministry and the pastoral care of families should be coordinated and integrated, with the aim of ensuring a continuous and suitable accompaniment of the vocational process.

243. The community has an important role in the accompaniment of young people; it should feel collectively responsible for accepting, motivating, encouraging and challenging them. All should regard young people with understanding, appreciation and affection, and avoid constantly judging them or demanding of them a perfection beyond their years.

244. At the Synod, “many pointed to the shortage of qualified people devoted to accompaniment. Belief in the theological and pastoral value of listening entails rethinking and renewing the ways that priestly ministry is ordinarily exercised, and reviewing its priorities. The Synod also recognized the need to train consecrated persons and laypeople, male and female, to accompany young people. The charism of listening that the Holy Spirit calls forth within the communities might also receive institutional recognition as a form of ecclesial service”.[132]

245. There is also a special need to accompany young men and women showing leadership potential, so that they can receive training and the necessary qualifications. The young people who met before the Synod called for “programmes for the formation and continued development of young leaders. Some young women feel that there is a lack of leading female role models within the Church and they too wish to give their intellectual and professional gifts to the Church. We also believe that seminarians and religious should have an even greater ability to accompany young leaders”.[133]

246. The same young people described to us the qualities they hope to find in a mentor, and they expressed this with much clarity. *“The qualities of such a mentor include: being a faithful Christian who engages with the Church and the world; someone who constantly seeks holiness; someone who is a confidant without judging. Similarly, someone who actively listens to the needs of young people and responds in kind; someone deeply loving and self-aware; someone who recognizes his or her limits and knows the joys and sorrows of the spiritual journey. An especially important quality in mentors is the acknowledgement of their own humanity – the fact that they are human beings who make mistakes: not perfect people but forgiven sinners.* Sometimes mentors are put on a pedestal, and when they fall, it may have a devastating impact on young people’s ability to continue to engage with the Church. ***Mentors should not lead young people as passive followers, but walk alongside them, allowing them to be active participants in the journey.*** They should respect the freedom that comes with a young person’s process of discernment and equip them with tools to do so well. A mentor should believe wholeheartedly in a young person’s ability to participate in the life of the Church. A mentor should therefore nurture the seeds of faith in young people, without expecting to immediately see the fruits of the work of the Holy Spirit. This role is not and cannot be limited to priests and consecrated life, but the laity should also be empowered to take on such a role. All such mentors should benefit from being well-formed, and engage in ongoing formation”.[134]

247. The Church’s educational institutions are undoubtedly a communal setting for accompaniment; they can offer guidance to many young people, especially when they “seek to welcome all young people, regardless of their religious choices, cultural origins and personal, family or social situations. In this way, the Church makes a fundamental contribution to the integral education of the young in various parts of the world”.[135] They would curtail this role unduly were they to lay down rigid criteria for students to enter and remain in them, since they would deprive many young people of an accompaniment that could help enrich their lives.