

**ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR  
YOUTH MINISTRY**

*"Why do YOU like being involved with Youth Ministry?"*

"It's truthfully a mind tickling time!" -Ryan

"I come here because I can really be myself with these people, not always something I can do at school." -Kelly



"I come to High School Youth Group because Fr. Mike and Laura are so much fun. It's fun and I love hanging out with my Church buddies. They've shown me how to be a fun teacher when I teach RE next year!" -Katie



*"I thought it was going to be, like, crazy Churchy, but it turned out being super fun with some Churchy stuff blended in...like a super, fantastic smoothie!" -Chloe*

"I come to Youth Group because I heard they are starting the awesomely cool program Life Teen, so I'm super excited!" -Mary Lou

"We have so much fun learning and growing in our faith with other kids our own age." -Olivia

"It's more than a blast!" -Zach  
Head, heart, hands.....



"It's fun, I get to meet people, and do what I love best...serve! Plus, it looks good on a college application." -Sarah



"It brings me closer to other teens my age, and it is a lot of fun to do other services for the Church" -Sarah W.



"I came here because I thought it looked like fun and my brother made me." -Kathleen

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**TAKE  
STOCK IN  
YOUTH!**



"I love Youth Group and I come every week. It is a fun way to see your friends and enjoy your faith." -Whitney, grade 9

Thank you for helping bring our youth closer to God!

Mark 10:13-16



# What is Take Stock in Youth?

As many of you know, our parish community is blessed with so many energetic youth who participate in Middle School and High School ministry programs, as well as a strong Faith For Life religious education program. Their accomplishments are many, but we want to do even more! That's where you come in.

Take Stock in Youth is a program that financially benefits our youth. Your contribution will provide food and materials for various youth ministry projects as well as service opportunities beyond our church walls. **Our youth are the parish's most valuable asset.**

We are currently accepting donations. Everyone's investment, regardless of size, is important and appreciated. Please consider our request by saying a prayer and letting God guide you in your generosity. Please read on for further information about how to expand God's opportunities in our parish!

Thank You and God Bless,

Laura Bogue

Youth Minister

Fr. Mike Swanton

Asst. Pastor/Youth Director

## What Have We Been Up To?

This year our youth have been keeping very busy! Here are some of the ways that we have made a difference so far this year:

- **Trunk-or-Treat:** Coordinated and sponsored this fun-filled parish event
- **Advent Angel Tree:** Collected much needed items for our parish pantry, EPS, and Winnebago Indian Mission
- **Soup Supper:** Served refreshments to benefit the St. Martin de Porre's Center
- **Parent's Night Out:** Took care of and entertained children so that parents could have "a night out"
- **Stations of the Cross:** Participated as lectors and as altar servers for this liturgical experience.
- **Vacation Bible School and Religious Education Volunteers:** Volunteered as leaders and catechists for these programs



## Did You Know?

This year alone, our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from the day school and the Religious Education program participated in more than 7,000 stewardship hours! Whoa-That's a lot!

*"I get to spend time with my friends away from school, and get to learn more about God and my religion!" Maggie, grade 8, on why she likes Youth Ministry.*

## What's NEXT?

Next year will bring many exciting changes to our ever-growing program! Here's a look at what's to come:

**Steubenville Conference:** Teens will explore and strengthen their faith during this fun-filled weekend centered around the Eucharist...more information may be found at [www.franciscanyouth.com](http://www.franciscanyouth.com)

**Life Teen:** This ministry is about leading teens closer to Christ, letting them experience God's love in our community, through the Word, and most importantly, through the Holy Eucharist...please go to [www.lifeteen.com](http://www.lifeteen.com) for more information

**ENDOW: Girl Genius:** These sessions will help adolescent ladies to love themselves as God does, helping them to embrace their nature and dignity as women in today's society...See [www.endowonline.com](http://www.endowonline.com) for more information

## How Can I Help?

It really does take a parish to raise our youth! And that is why we need your help. Everyone's investment, no matter the size, is greatly appreciated. So please, please prayerfully consider our request and let God guide you in your generosity. If you have any questions or comments, or would like to donate your time or talent as well as your treasure, please contact Laura Bogue at 861-4509 or [L.Bogue@stephen.org](mailto:L.Bogue@stephen.org)

## What Can I Expect in Return?

- Special Stock Certificate
- Regular Youth Ministry Updates
- Your gift may be tax deductible
- Pride in our program, but more importantly, in our youth, who will develop into EMHCS, Lectors, and could choose the vocations of the religious life, or become great spouses!

If you are interested in our Youth Ministry program, please visit us at [www.stephen.org/youth](http://www.stephen.org/youth)

## Take Stock in Youth Response Form

In consideration of my/our special interest in the youth of our parish, I/we commit to make a financial gift to TAKE STOCK IN YOUTH as follows:

MY/Our financial gift is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

- Full Amount enclosed  
 \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed. The remainder of my/our gift will be paid  
 Monthly  Quarterly  
 Semi-annually  Annually  
Over a period of One Year  Other\_\_\_\_\_

- My/Our gift will be matched by the following firm: \_\_\_\_\_  
 The name of the youth who asked me to donate is \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to St. Stephen's Church. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.*

**God bless you for your generosity and thank you!**

**ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR  
YOUTH MINISTRY**

16701 S St  
Omaha, NE 68135

Phone: 402-861-4509  
E-mail: [L.Bogue@stephen.org](mailto:L.Bogue@stephen.org)