



DIOCESE
OF ST. CATHARINES

November 5, 2025

Dear Faithful Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My name is Frank Capisciolto and I am the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the Diocese of St. Catharines, and I would like to preface my letter by saying thank you for taking the time to read my urgent, yet hopeful, message!

To many people, our youth are a mystery. They struggle with many problems that previous generations never faced. Social media offers the opportunity to be more connected than ever, and modern society sells them on a superficial sense of their own self-worth and identity. Since both of these promises are doomed to fail, our youth are left with a deep void. Never has a group of people been more isolated, distracted and left powerless in reference to their lives. The good news is, Christ was, and always will be, the best answer.

Youth ministry changed the trajectory of my life. I was a lost young adult who had zero relationship with Christ. I did all the things that the world told me would make me happy. But amid my aimless life, I eventually found a group of friends that made me feel like I belonged. I started to systematically attend a Catholic youth group. Through faith formation and talks, I found purpose when I witnessed that my actions could positively impact the world around me. This one realization directly helped me to grow in self-confidence.

My early faith journey was in many ways also guided by one man who wholeheartedly devoted himself to youth ministry. It was his job to plan retreats and events that allowed me to find and journey with a community rooted in faith. Ultimately, this led me to discover prayer and a relationship with Christ that forever changed my life.

Now, in my current role as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for our diocese, I hope to provide that same positive outlet for our young people and help them become the saints that they are called to be. With your support through the Bishop's appeal, we want to develop three distinct yet closely tied ministries:

First is cultivating Youth Ministry. The challenge of youth ministry is to make strong connections; it's more than games and socialization. It needs to be an invitation to the Catholic life, an invitation to confession, to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and to serving those in need. Through good, healthy Catholic friendships they are encouraged to be more receptive to Christ and the Church as an answer to their deepest desires.

Secondly, we want to build up Young Adult ministry, focused on discernment. We want to help young adults learn how to make prayerful, life changing decisions. We also want to create a space where Catholic young adults can meet and socialize in faith-filled settings, so that they may one day form holy marriages, or discern the religious life. As young adults face career and vocational decisions, they need to feel supported when making both immediate and lifelong commitments.

The third and final element is family ministry. As a parent, I see how modern society has led us to feel insecure about our irreplaceable role and abilities. Parents need to be reminded and assured that they are the primary educators of their children. This task requires continuous growth of their own knowledge in the Catholic faith, ascertaining how to effectively communicate the Gospel to their children, and understanding the spiritual battle that we face when dealing with modern agendas. Parents need to know that they are not an island, but are supported by our Church through prayer, community and a wealth of knowledge.

With your gracious support and through the Will of God, we hope that these three ministries will be led by four future youth ministers who we wish to hire and place in key parishes across the diocese. Our hope is that these youth ministers will be critical in helping us to establish youth groups during the academic year for grades 6-8 and highschoolers, and summer camps during the summer break.

Other goals will be planning meetings for young adults, and hosting parent nights to help families navigate today's complex world. As a diocese, we aspire to host retreats, conferences and mission trips. These diocesan events will always be connected to the parish groups, as the parish and diocese mutually support each other.

Our youth and young adults are yearning to belong to something that will spark a revival of faith and ignite zeal in their hearts! As they return to the sacraments and discover the tradition of our Church, it is here that they will meet the saints and uncover their identity as sons and daughters of God. It is the love story that we all have engrained within us. I kindly ask that you prayerfully discern supporting this endeavor for our Diocese.

May we be the instruments that bring Christ's love to all.

May God bless you,

Frank Capisciolto

**Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry,
Diocese of St. Catharines**