



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260
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Dear Youth Ministry Leader,

We are writing to you today to invite you to register teens to participate in Leaders Inspired to Evangelize (LITE) 2018. LITE is a four-day, three-night conference/retreat (June 25-June 28) focusing on evangelization and leadership development for Catholic youth entering grades 10-12.

Inspiring youth to evangelize is the heart of the LITE experience. Centered on the Eucharist, youth are called and empowered to be disciples of Christ and to share that call with their peers. Based on relational/interactive youth ministry principles, LITE forms youth through peer led interactive learning experiences, presentations, and small groups.

We encourage you to pray and reflect on the young people involved in your parish/school ministries and to choose up to **four** teens who are ready to go deeper into their faith, learn evangelization techniques and who will in turn go and help form disciples within your ministry. Teens may not sign up through the Archdiocese and may only attend by being recommended by a parish/school leader.

Attached with this letter, you will find the following documents:

1. Parish Registration Form (*Due May 1, 2018 with \$100 deposit per participant*)
2. Youth Registration Form (*Due June 13, 2018 with final payment*)
3. Release and Consent Form (*Due June 13, 2018*)
4. Scholarship Application (*Due May 1, 2018*)
5. Witness Talk Outline (*Each participant should complete before arrival and bring 2 copies to LITE*)

Using the attached outline, we ask that you help your participants to prepare a witness talk. Witness talks must be prepared by every participant and they should bring two copies with them to LITE. During the week of LITE, teens will work to refine and polish their witness talk in order to share it with their school or parish community.

We ask that you please make copies of the Youth Registration Form and the Consent and Release Form for each teen attending and distribute them to each participant. Please then collect these forms along with payment and mail them to the address listed below. Please ensure that you set appropriate deadlines for forms and payments for your young people so that all paperwork/payments can be submitted to our office on time. All forms and payments can be sent to the address below:

Office of Youth Ministry
P.O. Box 29260
Washington DC 20017

Please make checks payable to the Office of Youth Ministry and note LITE in the memo line.

If you have questions, you may contact Tex Phelps at 301-853-4467. We are excited to welcome your young people to LITE and look forward to the ways that they will be evangelizing their peers. Thank you for all that you do for the youth of the Archdiocese of Washington. May God continue to bless you and your ministry.

In Him,

Matt Avery, LITE Coordinator

Tex Phelps, Director of Youth Ministry

LITE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is LITE?

LITE is a four-day/three-night conference designed to help young people become leaders and evangelizers in their parish ministry program.

Who should attend?

LITE is for Catholic teens who will be sophomores, juniors or seniors in fall 2018. Participants need a level of maturity to be away from home, live as part of a faith filled community, eagerness to participate in and celebrate the sacraments, have the ability to listen to others and work in groups.

Do teens need to bring a chaperone?

While we do not require a chaperone, we encourage each parish to send chaperones to help with our ratio of youth to adults. Youth ministers are encouraged to attend to learn the techniques and bring them back to their parish.

Who staffs LITE?

LITE is staffed by a talented group of Archdiocesan youth ministry adult leaders, youth peer leaders who participated in previous LITE retreats and are active in their parish, school, or scout youth ministry programs. All staff members are trained and screened according to the Archdiocese of Washington's Child Protection Policies.

How does LITE help my parish/campus ministry?

By equipping your young people to be evangelizers in the 21st century, teens come back to their parish/campus ministries ready to bring others to Christ, having deepened their relationship with Christ. It develops vocations amongst teens, helps to form parish youth as disciples first, then evangelizers thus becoming parish peer leaders.

What are the participant expectations?

Participants **MUST** stay throughout the duration of the program, that is they are expected to arrive and leave at the designated times. **ONLY** in case of an emergency/extenuating circumstances, and after consultation with their sponsor/parent and LITE staff, will a participant be allowed to leave.

What will participants learn at LITE?

- How to witness to their personal faith
- How to evangelize using the latest technology
- How to effectively spread the gospel to their peers
- How to develop prayer habits
- How to lead others in prayer

What should participants pack/bring to LITE?

1. PJ, slippers, robe
2. Linens or a sleeping bag along with a pillow (these are not provided by the center)
3. Towels and washcloth
4. Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste etc.)
5. Sun screen and bug spray
6. Flash light
7. Umbrella and rain gear
8. Comfy clothes (remember modesty, no short shorts, string or low cut tops, shirts with inappropriate ads etc.) walking shoes (don't forget shoes that you can wear if it rains!)
9. Rosary, Bible, pens, journal
10. Music instruments (if you play)
11. 2 copies of COMPLETED WITNESS TALK

What should participants not pack/bring?

1. Expensive personal items
2. Personal computers, IPADS, IPODS, etc.
3. Cell phones (phones will be available from staff to call home)

Where is LITE held and how do I reach someone in the event of an Emergency?

LITE 2018 is being held this year at Msgr. O'Dwyer Retreat Center in Sparks, MD.

The retreat center main number is: 410-666-2400.

Matt Avery, the LITE Coordinator's cell phone is: 202-494-2160.

Can dietary accommodations be made?

Some dietary accommodations can be made for the participants, but please contact Tex Phelps at 301-853-4467 as soon as you know what the dietary restrictions are so that the accommodations can be made.

What is the LITE schedule?

Participants are expected to arrive on Monday, June 25, between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. LITE begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. Please be on time.

The closing Mass will take place on Thursday, June 28 at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Youth Ministers and parents are invited to join us for the closing Mass and lunch. Participants will be dismissed immediately following lunch.

Where is the retreat center?

Msgr. O'Dwyer Retreat Center is located at: 15523 York Road, Sparks, MD 21152.