



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447
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Dear Youth Ministry Leader,

Due to the uncertainty of the coronavirus and social distancing guidelines, we are changing the format for Leaders Inspired to Evangelize (LITE) to two days with no overnight stay. The location will be at the Pope Francis Center in Landover Hills, MD. If we are not able to gather in person, the leadership experience will move to an online conference. We are writing to you today to invite you to register teens to participate in LITE 2020. The dates for this year will be July 10-11, 2020. We will focus on evangelization and leadership development for Catholic youth entering grades 10-12 in the fall of 2020.

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 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. Due to the limited space at our location this year, we are limiting registration to 2 participants per parish with an additional 2 for the waiting list. A parish leader must submit registration. No individual registration.

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

1. Parish Registration Form (*Due June 10, 2020*)
2. Youth Registration Form (*Due June 22, 2020*)
3. Release and Consent Form (*Due June 22, 2020*)
4. Scholarship Application (*Due June 10, 2020*)
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
7202 Buchanan St.
Landover Hills, MD 20784

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 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 2020. 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. Comfortable and appropriate clothes (remember modesty), walking shoes (do not forget shoes that you can wear if it rains!)
2. Rosary, Bible, pens, journal
3. Music instruments (if you play)
4. 2 copies of completed witness talk

What should participants not pack/bring?

1. Expensive personal items
2. Personal computers, IPADS, IPODS, etc.

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

LITE 2020 is being held this year at the Pope Francis Center, 7202 Buchanan St., Landover Hills, MD 20784. The youth ministry number is 301-853-4467. 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 Friday, July 10, between 8:00 and 8:45 a.m. LITE begins promptly at 8:45 a.m. Please be on time. The first day will conclude at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 11th, will begin at 8:00 a.m. The closing Mass will take place 5:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Catholic Church, Landover Hills. Pizza and fellowship will follow in the Pope Francis Center. Youth Ministers and parents are invited to join us for the closing Mass and pizza. Participants will be dismissed immediately following Mass and social time.