

January 1, 2009

Dear Parents,

I am writing to fill you in on the leadership for the Higher Calling Youth Camp your child will attend this summer. We have a very talented and qualified staff with many years of experience working in youth ministry. All of our camp leadership staff is paid ministers by their parish or school.

I will be director of the camp. I am in my tenth year as Director of Youth Ministry at St. James Parish in McMinnville, Oregon, and have been working as a Youth Minister for 25 years. I have directed this camp every year since its start. Ed Cooney, our assistant camp director, has worked with us all 10 years of camp. Ed is a teacher at St. Mary's Catholic School in Stayton, Oregon, and also is youth minister for the Santiam Vicariate. Fr. Sean Weeks Pastor at Our Lady of the Mountain parish in Ashland will be our Chaplain again this year. Fr. Sean will preside at daily mass as well as be available for reconciliation and spiritual direction. Fr. Sean has been our chaplain for six years. Mary Smith RN and Kim Bruhn RN will be our camp nurses for the week. Mary is a hospice nurse in Yamhill County and Kim is a nurse at St. Charles Church in Bend, Oregon.

In addition to the staff listed we also have a support staff of more than 30 individuals who will serve as counselors and assistants. These people are adults who are youth ministers in their parish, work in their parish youth ministry programs, or college students who have attended the Higher Calling Youth Camp the previous years. All the staff, counselors and support staff who will chaperone and guide your child have had a complete criminal background check by the Archdiocese of Portland which is a requirement of both Dioceses of all people who work with youth.

This year we are pleased to have Doug Tooke back for a second year as our key note speaker and David Casey as our worship leader. Both come to us from Helena Montana. Doug is Director of youth ministry for the diocese of Helena, and David is involved with music and youth ministry in the Helena diocese. They team up as Monarch ministry and speak at over 25 events throughout the country every year. You may check out their website at <http://www.dougtooke.com>

Please talk with your child before the camp and discuss with them the information in their letter. Do they have all they need for the camp that is listed on the "to bring list"? Are their clothes and swimsuits appropriate for a Christian Camp? Do they know the consequences of breaking camp rules? Reviewing this information with your child before camp will help avoid any misunderstandings or problems during the week.

You may send letters to your child, in care of Camp Yamhill 19651 NW Old Railroad Grade Road Yamhill, OR 97148. You may E-mail your child by going to [www.campyamhill.org](http://www.campyamhill.org) on the web and filling in the e-mail form. Please note that cell phones do not work at camp. To reach your child **in case of emergency only** call; 503-662-3710.

If you have any questions regarding this camp, please do not hesitate to call me or send me an e-mail.

God Bless,

Mike Douglass

Director of Youth Ministry  
St. James Church

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