



Jubilee Year of Hope
July 2025

For Youth Ministers

Heroes of Hope is a monthly newsletter from the Diocese of Hamilton, shining a light on the extraordinary individuals and ministries who inspire hope and transform lives in our communities.

#HEROESOFHOPE

Since the pandemic, accompanying young people has become an increasing priority across the Diocese of Hamilton. Many have stepped forward to walk with them in faith: parish priests, seminarians, youth ministers, parish staff, and dedicated volunteers. **It truly does take a community to accompany a young person in their pilgrimage of faith.**

The tireless work of these individuals often goes unnoticed, but these individuals always ensure there are opportunities for young people to engage with their community and encounter Christ. Through their mentorship and advocacy, they guide young people by witnessing to their faith. The faith of young people is nurtured in communities where they are seen, heard, and supported.



Youth in Parish Life

Our parish communities create spaces of welcome and encouragement by involving young people in the life of the parish. Young people infuse life and vibrancy into our parishes through youth led Masses, youth bands and choirs, and opportunities to be lectors, altar servers, and members of hospitality teams. The accompaniment of young people is unique to each parish shaped by the young people themselves and their needs. Many parishes have Children's Liturgy, Vacation Bible School, and Youth Groups. Young people participate in parish programs in preparation for First Communion and Confirmation.

HEROES OF HOPE



"Anyone called to be a parent, pastor or guide to young people must have the farsightedness to appreciate the little flame that continues to burn, the fragile reed that is shaken but not broken (cf. Is 42:3). The ability to discern pathways where others only see walls, to recognize potential where others see only peril: that is how God the Father see things; he knows how to cherish and nurture the seeds of goodness sown in the hearts of the young. Each young person's heart should thus be considered 'holy ground'.... "
(Christus Vivit paragraph 67)

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"We are especially grateful to our parish priest for guiding us—not only as coordinators but as mentors helping to form the next generation of faith leaders. Watching our youth grow has filled us with pride. They are energetic, kind, eager to learn, and always ready to help."

– St. John the Baptist, Guelph Youth Ministry team

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A Summer of Fun!



During the months of July and August, parishes and C.Y.O. Camps Brebeuf and Marydale embark on the important work of offering Vacation Bible Schools and summer camps. Dedicated staff and volunteers provide opportunities for young people to have fun with their faith and grow closer to Christ.

To learn more about the VBS camps running throughout the Diocese this summer, visit here.

A Ministry of Service

Young people participate in opportunities to encounter Christ in others and show God's love through service. From "Operation Service Camp" at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Stoney Creek to Young Vincentian groups around the Diocese, young people in our parishes hear the call "to love one another as I have loved you". This involves visiting local retirement homes, fundraising for their local St. Vincent de Paul Society and other local organizations, visiting and serving the poor, and participating in annual THINK FAST events.

"I feel like we are doing something good in our hearts. The retirement home, helping with the BBQ, washing cars. We are doing something that is actually helping!"

- Sr. Youth Group Participant, Sacred Heart Parish, Paris

Frassati Leadership - Building New Leadership

The Frassati Leadership Program is now in its fourth year. Young people in grade 10 join us for the year long program and gather four times, regularly checking in with their mentors between gatherings. They explore the foundations of our Catholic faith and how it informs leadership in our parish and school communities. They explore different societal issues and discern how to serve.

"For me, the youth group represents unity within our church community. At St. John the Baptist, I feel safe and free to be myself. Being surrounded by peers who share my faith gives me hope — reminding me that we are not alone, and together, we can make a positive impact on the world." -Valerie, St. John the Baptist Parish, Guelph



HEROES OF HOPE PRAYER FOR YOUTH MINISTERS

Lord God, by the grace of our baptism, you have given us new life in Christ and called us to serve as pilgrims of hope.

We pray in thanksgiving for those who have responded to your call to lead young people to encounter your Son in the community of the Church, through catechesis, the celebration of the sacraments, loving service to their brothers and sisters, and in the joy of shared experiences with one another.

Through their varied ministries, may they touch the hearts of all in our community who long for the hope, born of our Christian faith, that never disappoints.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Learn more about Youth Ministry in the Diocese of Hamilton including a Jubilee event for young people!

