



## GREETINGS FROM YOUR YOUTH MINISTER

Divine Providence has led me within these doors to pursue my great passion for working for our Lord and the Catholic Church to assist in her mission of evangelization and the spiritual formation of our youth.

Raised in Chicago on the northwest side, my parents provided me with a catholic grade school and high school education. I attended college and majored in Computer Science and Desktop Publishing and also took coursework in Registered Nursing.

I am now a mother of two 'young adults' and we live in Crystal Lake. For years I had worked downtown in Chicago in an advertising agency as a Production Manager specializing in print and direct mail but there was always a conscious desire to work for the Lord so I pursued education, service and the necessary certification needed to answer what I deem as a 'the call'.

My background consists of two certifications, one in Diocesan Ministry Formation and also in Catechetical Leadership. Formerly, I served as a board member for the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy at St Stanislaus Kostka church in Chicago and assisted Marytown by audio taping retreat talks and conferences for duplication.

Currently, I serve as an elected Council Member serving a second 3 year term and Director of Aspirant Formation for a community of Secular Discalced Carmelites who meet at Marytown in Mundelein. Now, St Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower, the Saint of which the parish is named after, was a Discalced Carmelite nun. I do not doubt in any way, the intercession of St Therese in bringing me here as your youth minister because if you have ever prayed to her for assistance, you'd know that this Doctor of the Church keeps very, very busy!

In my home parish, I am the Eucharistic Adoration Coordinator and producer of a number of ongoing spiritual parish programs. I worked as a core team member to produce a 3-day Youth 2000 Eucharistic prayer festival titled Rock 2000 which was held for three consecutive years in Rockford, IL. Some priests and friars you would recognize from watching EWTN and the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal were speakers. Also, Rockford's Bishop Doran had all the seminarians present. It was always spiritually uplifting and an awesome time not only for the youth but also for the adults!

Blest to be a pilgrim in St Louis with my own children, to see Pope John Paul II for an all day youth rally, witnessing a million or so youth, clapping and cheering so much that the Holy Father could barely get a sentence out, was very exciting and extremely moving.

This experience was a turning point for me. I was deeply moved by the spirituality and enthusiasm of the youth, realizing that the youth are not just our future... You my dear brothers and sisters are our church TODAY.

The church has always recognized her shared responsibility together with the parents, to develop, guide and nurture youth spirituality and knowledge of the faith as our Servant of God, Pope John Paul II so often spoke about. Parental example, encouragement and involvement are essential to the success of a child's formation both in their adult life and their spiritual life.

As your new youth minister, I will focus on the challenges and responsibilities we face as practicing Roman Catholics. Our youth program will follow the USCCB directives as written in the book titled 'Renewing the Vision, A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry'. The weekly youth gatherings planned will foster a deepening spirituality and faith life focusing on the sacraments and scripture, catechesis and apologetics, prayer and sharing, songs of praise and worship, service projects, fundraising, youth conferences and retreats as well as an occasional 'just for fun' outing such as cosmic bowling, movie nights, game nights, etc.

Please remember all the youth and the St Theresa youth ministry in your prayers. I look forward to getting to know each of you as we grow in our journey of faith in this life as 'SAINTS IN TRAINING'!

May the Lord bless each of you always and in all ways.

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