

Columbus Catholic Youth Ministry
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#1 - Steubenville Conference Scholarships

Part of our grant (\$900) was used to award students partial scholarships to attend the Steubenville Catholic Youth Conference this summer (July 2024) in Springfield, Missouri. The cost for a student to attend the conference is \$370. This cost continues to go up and makes it harder & harder for some of our students to attend. We see amazing encounters with Jesus happening for our students at the conference each summer and then they come back to our schools and community sharing their experience! This year, with the help of the grant from Catholic Futures, we were able to award 15 scholarships ranging from \$100 to \$50. We had 15 applications, and felt they were all worthy of some \$\$ towards their Steubenville costs. Our group is taking 75 students to the Youth Conference this summer and 15 of them are able to go with some help from this grant.

#2 - Leadership Workshop for Campus Ministry Students

It had been a desire of ours to provide a "Leadership" workshop for our teens who are in the Campus Ministry role at our Catholic High School. These students are considered the faith leaders in our school and we wanted to provide a workshop that would call them to mission and give them practicals to evangelize their peers.

We reached out to Tony Brandt with Casting Nets Ministries in Kansas. This ministry puts on a week-long Evangelization Training Camp each summer for 60 students who apply. This camp is held at Benedictine College and has some of the best Catholic speakers. Knowing that they do a phenomenal job calling teens to evangelize we asked Tony if he would be able to come to Columbus and do a "mini" training camp introducing their 7 Pillars of Evangelization to our students. We were blessed to have Tony come and spend 4 hours with our students. The workshop was held on Saturday, March 23rd from 8 to noon. We rented a conference room at the Benedictine Mission House in Schuyler, Nebraska and bussed our students from Columbus. This workshop was mandatory for those Campus Ministry students who planned to continue with Campus Ministry this fall. We had 25 students attend, they were 9th to 11th grade.

We provided a small breakfast & snacks during the workshop. Tony gave 4 separate talks with time in between for the students to get together and discuss what he had covered and come up with an "Action" to do after the conference.

Tony was engaging, funny and had many, many stories that kept our students listening and wanting to hear more. It was some of the best discussions we have heard from our Campus

Ministry students this year and they were all excited to move forward with their “Action” steps that came out of the 7 Pillars of Evangelization.

A couple things that have happened since this workshop is a boys group & a girls group who are meeting weekly to be a place to pray and invite other students (not in Campus Ministry) to come and talk about their faith. They are desiring to plan weekly summer faith gatherings and looking at what they can do as a Campus Ministry team to encourage evangelization among their peers that are not within the Campus Ministry group.

Even with the workshop taking up a Saturday morning, the students, who attended, spoke highly of the event and of Tony and took away some practical things to do in their school to spread the gospel. We are taking baby steps to change the culture of our school and to give our students the confidence to be bold in their faith!

Cost of our Workshop:

\$1000 to Casting Nets Ministries

\$250 to Benedictine Mission House

\$80 Breakfast/Snack items

Total Cost: \$1330 - used the remaining \$600 from our grant to go towards the \$1330 cost.