

# Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

## Ministry Spotlight: Senior High Youth Ministry

Today's teens are busier than ever – with demanding school curriculums, sports, extra-curricular activities and jobs. But, hopefully, they will make the commitment to stay connected to their church and grow in their faith.

This is the role of St. Sebastian's Senior High Youth Ministry (SHYM), which has just kicked off a new season.

"We try to have a balance of fun, social activities, service projects and our monthly meetings and meals," said Cathy Sivec, who leads the group with her husband, Harry, John and Cindy Kendrick and Pat and Ginny Morabito.

In the past, outings have included ice skating, skiing, bowling, trips to Cedar Point, and retreats. The teens have worked in a soup kitchen and raked leaves for seniors. This year, there's a camping/canoeing trip planned for Sept. 30 and a Halloween hayride on Oct. 28. The group will peel a mound of potatoes for the Open M Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 20.

The SHYM meets the second Sunday of each month in Byrider Hall from 6 to 8 p.m. The meeting begins with prayer and a dinner, followed by a discussion and a curriculum.

"A lot of it is based on what the kids bring to us," said Sivec. "They may want to discuss some aspect of our faith, an issue of social justice or something going on in the world. Sometimes, we just put out a hat and let the teens submit questions or topics anonymously."

The ministry is not only open to all high school students of the parish, it is open to non-parishioners as well.

"We've had teens from different faiths join us," said Sivec. "We want to offer a safe, faith-based program for teens. All of our activities are well chaperoned."

SHYM members can pick and choose from the activities. Some may attend the meetings hoping for spiritual fulfillment, while others

simply want to connect with old friends or meet new ones. A few might get involved just to complete service hour requirements. "We know teens are busy and come to something like this with various expectations," said Sivec. "That's fine; all are welcome."

## Stewardship Profile: Cathy Sivek

Seven years ago, when Father Jackson asked Cathy Sivek if she would be interested in starting a SHYM at St. Sebastian, she said "yes" – in part because she remembered the huge impact the youth group of her small Presbyterian church had on her as a teen. "It was a phenomenal group," she recalls.

Cathy knows first-hand that not all teens have the same advantages in life. Working for Summit County Children's Services, she investigated cases of abuse and trained foster parents. Earlier in her career, she counseled pregnant teens.

"I saw teens in some really bad situations," she said. "Some of the teens I have worked with just didn't have many good mentors in their lives. I actually really like teens and love meeting kids who value education."

All this experience will be put to good use when Cathy's own children – now 10 and 8 – become teens ... in just a few years!

For more information about the SHYM, contact the Sivecs at 330-835-1427 or the Kendricks at 330-864-6575.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?... I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works. (James 2:14, 18)

These "ministry profiles" are being brought to you by the St. Sebastian Stewardship Committee. Would you like to share the story of your ministry? Contact David Tschantz at 330-864-0646 or [dtschant@neo.rr.com](mailto:dtschant@neo.rr.com) or Holly Pupino at 330-665-2248 or [spupino@neo.rr.com](mailto:spupino@neo.rr.com).