

# **Godteen Program Manual**

**St. Peter's Parish  
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## CHAPTER 1

### THE GODTEEN PROGRAM

#### I. BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

This manual describes a high school religion program which is an alternative to the traditional parish CCD programs, but contains many elements which can be used to supplement existing CCD programs. The major emphasis is on the way in which religion is experienced by Catholic teenagers. A variety of instructional materials can fit into the program. This makes it highly flexible in incorporating the interest and needs of individual parishes. If the testimony of teenagers completing four years in the program is meaningful, then it “works” extremely well compared to other high school CCD formats.

The Godteen Program was started in a suburban parish near Chicago by a young assistant pastor, Fr. A.R. “Tony” Taschetta, who had been assigned supervision of the parish high school CCD program. Faced with a not uncommon CCD experience including: low attendance, poor student retention of material, discouraged teachers, low student morale, and frustrated parents, he was determined to make changes.

Fr. Tony observed that most high school religious education is programmed to fail. No one really believes it will be an enjoyable fulfilling experience for either student or teachers. Therefore, the first ingredient of the program Fr. Tony started is positive thinking. After all, it’s His work, how can we go wrong? It is too important to our families, to our parish, to our church and to our teenagers to fail.

The second major ingredient is creation of family sized units (approximately 15 teenagers) which meet weekly in the homes of married couples. The call of each mature Catholic is participation in a parish community. The most meaningful initiation into this broader community by a teenager is through these family-like units which provide not only individual attention, but support and concern for each teen. Such a family atmosphere can best be experienced in the family setting—the home. The “heads” of these “families” are married couples or Godparents. The husband-wife combination is very important in answering the needs of teens and provides much needed mutual support not usually experienced by classroom teachers in CCD program.

This manual describes the many ingredients which make up the program. The contents represent the format and procedures of the current program at St. Peter’s Parish.

#### II. CHOOSING THE GODPARENTS

Choosing the right couples to be Godparents is essential. Couples are ideally selected and approached by the pastor or priest advisor. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, he will be able to discern those parish members best able to serve in the program. The youth coordinator may then talk with them about specific concerns and answer questions.

It is important to note that they are not called “teachers.” They are called “Godparents.” Many of us who have been CCD teachers are not trained to teach, are usually not too sure of our capability to teach (especially about religion), and are afraid the students will “find us out.” The Godparents are not recruited primarily as teachers. They are

recruited largely on their willingness to share their lives, their homes, and their love with teenagers. A tall order? You bet! But the teens recognize and appreciate that willingness.

The program involves religious education materials just like any CCD program, but the change in emphasis from strictly “teaching” to open loving is the key to a new kind of success. The Godparents actually become a second set of “parents” to their teens under the guiding hand of God. It really happens—wait and see!

The two simple but imperative requirements for prospective Godparents are: (1) that they be honest with the students, and (2) that they agree to love the students and be willing to get involved in their lives.

In discussing the commitment of those couples who choose to be Godparents, we should be open and up front. It is a big sacrifice. It means giving up time weekly to prepare a lesson, a night a week for meeting with teens, one night every two months to meet with Godparents, and participation in the social activities of the program. We should not downplay the work, but we should be sure to emphasize the joy, love, and spiritual growth which Godparents themselves experience—and these occur almost without fail.

### III. WORKING WITH THE GODPARENTS

The Godparent couples should never be allowed to feel as if they are working alone. They need encouragement. They need support. They need each other. The Godparent couples should meet at least every two months to share the joys, struggles, and hopes of their groups. They must become a primary close group of their own—have parties, play games, and share. Even more important—pray. We must never lose sight of the fact that we are doing God’s work and that His hand guides our program.

The scheduling and agendas for Godparent couples meetings of is based on decisions to be made for the program. We have established a general pattern which seems to work fairly well. We alternate the emphasis of meetings. One month we emphasize “business” and the next month we emphasize coming together as a “community.” We do try to incorporate some aspects of both in every meeting, however.

On business meeting months we talk and share at length about the successes and failures of the teaching materials. Couples may share special projects which have been successful, problems or unique circumstances with regard to working with the teens, and plan the details for social functions. It is important for Godparents to openly share problems and successes so the necessary support will be there. We end our business meetings with a special prayer or spiritual exercise—the most valuable part of the meeting.

Social meetings usually begin with a appetizers and social time. There is something very unifying about sharing food with one another. Many of our Lord’s significant actions occurred in relation to a meal. The Eucharist was celebrated at mealtime during the early Church. We follow the social time with a special presentation or just plain fun together. There is also time allowed for business to be discussed.

Our initial meeting of the year centers on ice-breakers. This helps us to “re-meet” one another, get to know the new Godparent couples, and share new ice-breakers which can be used with the teens.

Social events are also important. An annual family bbq or Christmas party is encouraged. Other suggestions are always welcome.

#### IV. THE PRIESTLY ROLE

The priest is the head of the parish family is also the head of the Godparent program. He should be a visible head. That does not mean he should do all, or even most, of the organization or coordinating work, but his function as spiritual leader of the program is a serious one. The importance of the program cannot be effectively communicated to the Godparents, teens, and parish community without the involvement of the priest.

At a minimum, it is recommended that a priest attend one Godparent couples' meeting to provide encouragement. It is extremely beneficial for the priest to visit each Godparent group at least once, and if possible, more than once during the year. Teens will benefit from the chance to see and talk with the priest. Godparents need to be continually reminded of God's will being done through them and encouraged to remain open to the spirit working in them. The priest should be the Godfather to the Godparents. What a wonderful way for God to work through his Shepard.

#### V. THE COORDINATOR'S ROLE

The administration and coordination of the program should be shared with the priest by the parish Youth Coordinator (YC) and a coordinating couple. There is plenty to do, so the YC and the coordinating couple are needed to help make sure the program functions smoothly.

The coordinating couple may already have a Godteen group themselves, however, this may become too demanding, because both jobs require a great deal of time and commitment. Ideally the couple should be familiar with the program, perhaps have been Godparents at some previous time. Together, the YC and the coordinating couple are responsible for: choosing instructional materials, writing lesson plans, establishing a yearly program calendar, orienting new Godparents, registering teens and assigning them to Godparents, and setting meeting agendas. These three people work with the priest to design the program for each year.

Another important aspect of the coordinating couple's role is that of support and resource for the Godparent couples. They need to make it clear to the couples that they are available to answer questions find solutions to problems, and provide prayer support during difficult times. They also need to be flexible in designing lesson plans and suggesting materials. While they may have had experience leading a Godparent group, lesson plans and curriculum needs vary from group to group and year to year. The coordinators must be open to suggestions and ideas from the couples and others interested in helping improve the program.

#### VI. SOCIAL and SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS' ROLES

It is very helpful to have a few other couples serve as social and spiritual directors. These couples will be in charge of coordinating the social and spiritual events that are part of the program and providing ideas to group leaders of various social and spiritual activities to do as a group. Although individual groups may have some social functions throughout the year that only involve their own teens, it is still important for teens from the entire parish Godteen Program to have special social activities as a large group. These couples can also

provide support to the Youth Coordinator and coordinating couple. They will be working closely together setting up the calendar, planning events, notifying couples of pertinent information, identifying special apostolic projects, and many other things through the year.

The key role of the social and spiritual directors is to plan 1-2 large group activities for all teens. The exact nature of these events will vary by year and location. You may have one event that everyone counts on repeating year after year. On the other hand, you may hear teens complain that they are tired of doing the same old thing. It is important that the Godparent couples communicate teen comments to the social and spiritual directors. This will help them plan activities that are appealing to the majority of the young people in the program.

The spiritual directors will work with group leaders to find opportunities for individual groups to participate in service projects. Additionally, they will work with the social directors to plan a spiritual component for social activities. We want the kids to have fun, but we don't want to forget that this is not just another club or social opportunity. We are a group of Catholic Christians sharing fun and Christ.

## VII. GODPARENT LEADER ROLE

The biggest stumbling block for many couples when asked to participate in the Godteen program is the four-year commitment that is requested. Most of us don't know if we can make such a commitment and hesitate to say "yes" for this reason. Because you are forming a "family" with the teens, it is important for you to stay with them throughout their four years of high school. You will spend approximately 40 hours with the teens each year. That is only a day and a half!! As you can see, that isn't much time to build a long-lasting relationship. Your consistent, caring participation in their lives must involve more than a one-year commitment. Unless there is a foreseeable change in your ability to participate in the program over the long term, don't let this stand in the way of your agreeing to become a Godparent couple. Time flies by so quickly that your teens will be ready for graduation before you know it!

You may feel inadequate about your ability to teach religion. You may feel that you really don't understand the Catholic faith yourself and that you couldn't possibly explain it to young people. Rest assured that is NOT the key role you play in this program. Most of us forget much of the "information" we receive throughout our lifetime. What we do remember is the "feeling" we have about certain key people in our lives. Most of all, we remember especially a sense of their caring about us. This is the role you play with the teens in your group. There WILL be times when questions come up that you can't answer. Your honest admission of that fact and willingness to search out the answer will make your teens feel that you are human, too!

The most important part of your job is to serve as a role model. The teens will see you as a couple, perhaps as parents to your own children, as members of the Godteen program, and as practicing Catholics in your parish. When your teens see your love for Christ and His church, they begin to develop a sense that they can remain faithful to their Catholic faith, too. This is something that no amount of information or education can replace. Relax, pray, and accept your role of ministry to teens as coming from the Holy Spirit. Remember what Mother Theresa said, "God doesn't ask us to be successful, He asks us to be faithful."

## VIII. THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum guidelines for your program should be determined in conjunction with your coordinating couple, youth coordinator, and diocesan high school religious education office. The youth coordinator has the principle responsibility for developing the curriculum. He/she should provide you with detailed information for each weekly lesson and the necessary supplementary materials. Because the strength of the Godteen program lies in its format, most high school CCD curriculum materials can be adjusted to fit into the program.

One concession that we have made in our program is to discontinue the use of homework. If a student text is part of the curriculum chosen, you can modify the homework component by using these as in class exercises. Keeping the student books in the Godparent homes will eliminate problems with forgotten texts. This places a greater emphasis on using your time together well, and eliminates the problems of undone homework and the failure of young people to bring materials to meetings.

## CHAPTER 2

### THE GODPARENT GROUPS

#### I. CREATING A GROUP

The key to a successful Godteen program is in the relationship between the Godparents and their teens. It is essential that a warm, open, and respectful attitude characterize each Godteen group from the beginning. From this foundation, faith experiences and growing Christian maturity have a greater chance of developing.

The objective of the first home meeting should be to begin creating a group identity. As Godparents you should show your enthusiasm about the teens coming, about your desire to know each of them personally, and about how much you look forward to getting together every week. Let them know that you like them. Several times during the first meeting, tell them that you think this will really be a good program and that you can have a really great group. Nobody likes to be second rate, so everybody in the group should begin to feel that their group is THE BEST.

From the beginning, show your willingness to be open with them and invite them to be open with you. Tell them something about yourselves and why you decided to be Godparents. The kids are interested in you as a person and the more they know about you and feel comfortable with you the better. This doesn't mean that you are to become their "buddies", but will become somebody they can relax in front of and talk to. Invite them to do the same but don't force them to say more than they seem willing to share. The more open and understanding you are, the more comfortable the teens will be with you. You can urge them into more openness as you get to know one another better throughout the year.

Tell them about your commitment to the program. Most kids don't realize how much blood, sweat, and tears adults put into a program such as this. It's good to let them know you have to give up something to be here, too. Explain what you expect to give in the way of time and effort: meetings with other Godparent couples, time to prepare lessons, the weekly meetings, and attendance at social activities. Let them know you are asking for a commitment from them as well. To become a "family", they must each make this commitment to themselves personally, to each other, and to their Godparents. If the group is to flourish, it will be because the teens want it to and put effort into it. Full participation and regular attendance whenever possible are essential to this goal. If teens seem unsure about whether they want to be part of the group, encourage them to commit to three meetings. Very often, after they see what is involved, they will decide to continue coming.

While it is important to emphasize the value of attending Godparent meetings on a regular basis, you should expect attendance to vary from week to week. Most young people are trying to juggle work, school activities, and a demanding academic load. This can take a toll on your idea of "perfect" attendance. Be sensitive and open to their schedules. Let them know they are always welcome back when their other commitments permit. They will almost always respond to your acceptance of the demands on their time. If you do have a week of light attendance, focus on those who CAME, NOT on those who didn't. The group's success or failure is not a matter of numbers. It is, rather, the love and support given to each teen individually.

One of your goals is to develop a group identity. Ideally, you and the teens will be together for four years. One way of encouraging this cohesiveness is to begin by always referring to yourselves as “we”, “us”, “our group”, etc. Avoid using the term “you” separating them from yourselves. Occasionally school rivalries may surface. Focus on leaving those outside roles at the door and using Godteens as a place to get to know each person as an individual.

You may want to ask each teen to fill out an index card in addition to their registration form. This could contain their name, address, phone number, birth date, names of family members, hobbies, favorite food, etc. This allows you to get to know each teen a little better.

Here are some additional “Do’s” and “Don’ts”:

DO

1. Set up ground rules
2. Learn names as fast as you can
3. Have a social outing early in the year
4. Be sensitive to fears and need
5. Praise in public-reprimand in private
6. Be prepared for meetings

DON'T

1. Serve refreshments during the meeting
2. Allow smoking
3. Be afraid to confront problems
4. Let the kids shut anyone out
5. Be afraid to break up cliques
6. Be afraid to pray

You may be the new Godparent couple for an already existing group. It is great that you have accepted this responsibility. You have made it possible for the teens to stay together. They may have some difficulty letting go of their former Godparents. They are experiencing real feelings of loss and the emotions that accompany them. You may have a harder time getting a commitment from the teens. Be patient. You may have to make extra phone calls, put more time into journal responses, have extra social outings, etc. You have some lost time to make up for. Realistically, some teens may not make the transition. Be assured that you are not to blame for this. Your willingness to be there made it possible for the interested members to stay together.

Remember, you are doing the Lord’s work. Keep this in mind at all times. We are merely God’s instruments and must relinquish control to Him. Never forget to pray. Pray as a couple for your shared role as ministers to the young people in your group. When you prepare the lesson for each week, ask the Lord for openness of mind and heart to the needs of the group. Ask God to bless your teens and the work you are doing together to draw closer to Him. It is also important for the two of you to take time to pray together before each meeting. While there are often a number of last minute details to attend to just before the teens arrive, you will benefit from this prayer time. Ask for wisdom, guidance, and openness to the work of the evening. If there are specific areas you are concerned about in the lesson, pray particularly for those things. Time spent placing yourselves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit will sustain you even in difficult situations.

## II. THE WEEKLY MEETINGS

It is critical to have regular, weekly home meetings on a set night of the week at a set time. (Preferably the same evening and time for all groups in the program.) Regularity of attendance is habit forming. If Godparents postpone or cancel meetings, the teens will do the same with their attendance. Occasional cancellations or meetings when one Godparent is absent cannot be avoided, but hopefully these will not be frequent.

The agenda for each group meeting covers 1 ½ hours and uses the following format.

- 7:00-7:05 Start the meeting. This provides a built-in five minutes for stragglers. Encourage arrival five minutes BEFORE the scheduled time to allow time for greeting, settling down, etc. Teens arriving after the five minutes should come right into the meeting without knocking or ringing the doorbell. This not only prevents disruption, but makes the teens feel welcome in your home.
- 7:05-7:10 Begin each meeting with a member of the group lighting a candle. Every Godteen family should have a special Godteen candle. At your first meeting you should explain its meaning: Christ said “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst.” (Matt. 18:20) Christ’s presence in your group is symbolized by the lighted candle. This signals the start of “God’s time” – the time for remembering we are a community under God for growing in our faith. A prayer is then said to start the lesson time. Some teens may be uncomfortable praying out loud or with praying spontaneously. Godparents should lead this prayer for the first week or two. You will be modeling for the teens and they may very well copy your style when it is their turn. There are many acceptable ways to handle this introductory prayer. You may pray spontaneously, select readings from scripture, read a favorite poem or prayer, ask for petitions, pray for those in need, or a combination of all these. Don’t be afraid to let the teens see your own nervousness. They will learn that they can overcome their own uncertainty and grow with you in expressing prayer openly. Since you will be setting up a snack schedule, it works well to include the responsibility for lighting the candle and leading the prayer with bringing snacks. It is helpful to have some books with prayers and a bible available for nights when the assigned teen forgets or can’t be there. This prayer and the closing prayer are excellent opportunities for the teens to grow closer as a spiritual community and to grow personally. Holding hands helps promote a sense of unity. Have them think of the prayer as a spoken love letter to Our Father. Be prepared for some degree of nervousness and embarrassment. With experience and maturity, you will see the teens become more relaxed and willing to share their prayers with the group.
- 7:10-7:50 The lesson is presented for the next 40 minutes. The lesson plans are made up of a variety of activities and discussions. Guidelines for each group meeting are provided by the Youth Coordinator. You will need to read the related teaching materials, copy suggested hand-outs, and acquire AV equipment for videos/dvds ahead of time. Some group activities may call for additional materials, so plan ahead! There may be times when your discussion of one topic takes off so well

that you don't get through the entire week's lesson plan. Since it is very important to end by 7:50, you will have to drop or eliminate other planned material. This is natural and to be expected. You will then need to look at the lesson plan and make necessary adjustments. You may want to skip some material if it is not necessary for a smooth transition into the next lesson. Use your best judgment in this area. The purpose of the program is to fill the needs of your group, so be flexible in responding to the direction of your teens. Let the coordinators know if you are uncertain about how to handle alterations in the recommended lesson plans.

7:50-7:55 End promptly at 7:50 and begin journaling time. Journaling is a valuable part of the Godparent program. Each teen is given a journal when they start the program. You are to end the meeting portion in time to allow approximately five minutes for them to write in their journals. Most of them will be familiar with this concept and may be keeping journals in school. The purpose of journal keeping in the Godparent program are to:

- (1) Provide a "safe" place for teens to express thoughts and feelings;
- (2) Make it possible for the Godparents to develop a personal relationship with each teen; and,
- (3) Provide additional opportunities for group members to reflect on topics discussed that night.

Ideally, both Godparents are to read and respond to the writing done each week. Depending on group size and time available, this may not work for you. One option that has been successful is to have the wife read and respond to ½ of the journals one week and the husband the other half. You then switch groups the following week, and so on. You may find weeks when only one of you can read and respond. Do the best you can, but don't give up on the process. It is really a wonderful opportunity for you and your teens to share with each other. Initially, teens may be reluctant to write in their journals. You can be sympathetic, but BE POSITIVE! Point out the purposes outlined above and assure them this is not a test or spelling and grammar exercise. Point out, also, that this is not a diary or list. Encourage them to write about anything they want and be sure they know NO ONE else will see or know about what they write. (You should tell them, however, that this may not apply to situations which are a danger to them.) Teens may complain about not being able to think of anything to write about. If this happens, be ready with suggested questions that apply to the lesson that week. Avoid "yes" or "no" questions. Ask "Who", "What", "Why", "How". Ask them to explain, reflect, or express their feelings on a particular topic or issue. You may also find it helpful to ask questions about common stages or experiences. When you ask the teens in your group to share their honest feelings, you need to be prepared to hear complaints about some aspects of the program. They may be general comments like, "The topic tonight was boring." Or more specific, such as, "I don't like to be called on unless I raise my hand." Accept the feeling expressed, after all you asked for it! Some discontent is to be expected. Don't take such comments personally, especially when it applies to the lesson plan. If you feel changes are warranted, let the coordinators know so they can make needed

adjustments. Let the teens know you take their ideas seriously and will pass them along. Specific or personal concerns should be dealt with as directly as possible with mutual respect for one another. There may be individuals who are reluctant to share personal thoughts and feelings. Respect their privacy and give them time to grow in trust. While the goal of journaling is open communication, one caution is in order. Few Godparent couples are trained counselors. Issues that are outside your expertise may come up. If that happens, get in touch with your coordinating couple for advice on how to handle the situation.

7:55-8:00 It is now time for the closing prayer. Shortly before 8:00, end the journaling time. Ask the assigned teen to lead the group in this prayer. Join hands again and end with the Our Father.

8:00-8:30 The last half hour is a social time. It is time to relax and be a family. Refreshments should be a regular ingredient but are NOT the responsibility of the Godparent. You can ask the teens how they want to handle snacks: assign alphabetically, assign each week, donate to a refreshment fund, etc. It can be helpful to give the teen who is to bring snacks, a “snack bucket” to take home. It is a great visual reminder to them that they are to bring treats (and perhaps prepare the prayer) for the next meeting. This social time is critical to the teens developing a sense of community. Equally important is the opportunity for Godparents to take time to talk with teens who are shy or who seem to be having some difficulty in the group. You may be tempted to skip over this part or serve snacks during the discussion. Avoid doing this. This portion of the evening has great value and should not be eliminated. There may be times when the teens voluntarily and informally talk about the topic of the night. This is great but you should allow them to initiate this kind of discussion.

### III. GROUP MANAGEMENT

There are a number of group management issues you need to consider and prepare for. Your biggest task with a new group, especially Freshman, will be maintaining order. While this is not a classroom, teens need to realize that they have to be quietly respectful of whomever is speaking. Remind them as kindly as you can that you need their attention when you are presenting material. Don't let them tease or ridicule one another. They shouldn't have to raise their hands to comment. If you find, however, that they have problems handling open discussion, you may need to resort to hand-raising for a while. Sometimes close friends keep talking to each other and disturb the group. Sitting in a close circle on the floor helps everyone feel more a part of the group and may help to eliminate this. After the meeting, in private, tell them that you need their attention. Do this as gently as possible. You can also bring this out in your journaling responses.

You may have kids in your group who don't know anyone else. Watch for them. If they feel lost, they may be reluctant to come back. Give them a little extra attention until they get to know the rest of the group.

Many times discussions will stop dead and an awful silence descends over the room. Don't feel that you have to jump in. It could be that someone is working up the courage to

say something. Give them a chance to speak. You shouldn't feel that you need to do all or even most of the talking. When that happens, the kids never get a chance to discover anything for themselves.

As in any group setting, there may be members who dominate the discussions. You will recognize who the extroverts and introverts are in your group fairly early. You can manipulate small group assignments so that some of the quieter teens will not always be overwhelmed by the more vocal ones. Draw teens out only when you feel they do want to share, but are unable to put themselves into the discussion. A strong, outgoing person adds a great deal to a group, so you don't want to stifle their participation entirely. As your group grows together, you will see maturity in sharing discussion time.

One final area that can be difficult is departure time. In the first two years of the program most teens will be picked up by parents. If a ride is consistently late come, you may need to call the parents to see if there is a problem or conflict that needs to be resolved. You are not expected to keep your home open past 8:30. You should have the teens wait in your home till their ride comes and verify for yourself that they are safely on their way home.

Once teens begin driving themselves, a new set of problems can emerge. Occasionally, a teen may say they are going to Godteens and spend the time somewhere else. You need to be prepared for this possibility and let the teens know, in advance, how you will handle it. Teens should be letting you know if they are not going to come, so any unexplained absences can be a source of worry. Parents may even suspect that a teen is not coming and may ask you directly. You must be honest with the parent, even if there is a chance that the teen will resent it. When all or most of the group members are driving themselves, it is a good idea to go outside with them to "see them off." This will solve two potential problems. First, you can be sure all teens leave promptly and don't disturb your neighbors with loud talk or music. It may also eliminate any temptation to race away from your house, speeding, or driving recklessly.

You may never encounter any of these challenges to group management or may have completely different ones to deal with. In either case, be sure to bring any problems directly to the Youth Coordinator, coordinating couple, or other Godparent couples. They will gladly give you whatever advice and support they can.

#### IV. SPECIAL PROJECTS

You should plan social activities for your group during the year. Plan some fun and games outings. These are valid group experiences and you may use a regular meeting night for these. This is an excellent way of getting some of the kids who didn't come to the first few meetings to meet the group. Outings close by are the best. Try to have an outing by the third or fourth week, but begin planning it on the first meeting. The kids always like something to look forward to.

Whenever you take teens on an outing, you need to have a consent form, signed by the teen AND his or her parent. We use a consent form that covers all program outings for the year and is a part of the Godteen Program Registration Form. A master is included in Appendix D if additional copies are needed. If you are planning to allow your teens to bring a guest, you must get a signed form from their parents, too. A single-event form is also found in Appendix D.

Apostolic works are an important element of your group. These works go as far as the group's imagination. They range from toy drives and clothing drives to work with the deaf, mentally retarded, or the aged. Try to avoid activities with limited personal contact. Teens want and need to see real people whose need go beyond material things. Check with your Catholic Social Services office, a local nursing home, soup kitchen, homeless shelter, etc. for hands-on work for teens. You can encourage aid to missions as well. This may be more meaningful if the teens feel a real sense of connection to the program. Being able to exchange letters and pictures will make the teens feel that their work is making real impact on real lives. Suggestions for apostolic project in St. Peter's parish are found in Appendix F.

## CHAPTER 3

### THE ANNUAL CALENDAR

The Godteen Program at St. Peter's starts in September and ends in mid-April. We wait until after Labor Day so teens have an opportunity to settle into the school year. We end the year before May because it is a busy month at high schools. Teens find it particularly hard to maintain the commitment to attend regularly. A current calendar is found in Appendix F.

#### I. REGISTRATION

The introduction of the Godteen Program begins in mid-August. It is important for teens and their parents to receive a positive feeling about the program from the pulpit. It is a super boost to getting things off to a good start.

At about the same time, Father sends separate letters to each new teen and to each new teen's parents. (See Appendix D.) The purpose of the letters are to: (1) briefly explain the program; (2) encourage the teens – with positive parental support, to give the program a try; (3) announce registration dates; and, (4) invite the teens to a “kick-off” meeting.

We register all teens after masses on the Sunday after school starts. (We try to avoid Labor Day weekend.) We do ask all of the teens who participated in a group the year before to re-register. (A sample registration form is in Appendix D.) A couple should be there to oversee registration. This adds the kind of personal touch that is important to the program. It also makes it possible for parents and teens to ask questions. The coordinating couple may take the responsibility for registration or may share it with other couples familiar with the program. Copies of the registration form can be left in the back of church for those who were unable to pick one up during the scheduled registration time.

#### II. INITIAL GODPARENT COUPLE MEETING

The first planned event of the year is a get-acquainted pot luck for Godparent couples. (Remember, the Godparents need to be a close-knit group.) We try out ice-breaker games and take part in discussions that help us learn one another's names and something about our background. It is also a wonderful opportunity for the priest to “launch” the Godparents into the year spiritually.

Instructional materials are distributed. The format for a “Godteen family” meeting is reviewed in detail. There should also be time for sharing ideas for start the year, a review of the calendar, and a discussion about the procedure for Parents' Night.

#### III. INITIAL MEETING WITH TEENS

The kick-off meeting for teens is held in the Parish Hall (for Freshman only—other teens meet in the homes). The registration forms are used to group teens by Godparent couple, keeping in mind car pooling possibilities.

At this meeting, teens meet and sit with their Godparents. The coordinating couple and priest lead everyone through an ice-breaker, and Godparents make sure their new “family” knows how to get to their home the following week. A complete outline of this meeting is found in Appendix D.

#### IV. PARENT’S NIGHT

Parent’s Night is a very important night for the program. This isn’t because of the questions asked for the stimulating discussions, but because the program requires parent support. This night is the best opportunity to demonstrate that.

Parents are invited by written invitations sent home with the teens and/or by telephone calls to the parents. This personal contact gives a positive indication to the parents that the Godparents are sincere about parent interest and support for the program.

The evening is scheduled so that Freshman and Sophomore parents meet for 45 minutes in home of Godparents, followed by 45 minutes for meeting the parents of Juniors and Seniors. This allows parents flexibility to meet with Godparents of more than one teen, if they should have more than one in a group.

An outline for the meeting is included in Appendix D and emphasizes a review of the annual calendar, the structure of weekly meetings with teens, and a review of materials to be used during the year. It is an informal meeting allowing time for questions, general discussion, and refreshments.

Our experience has been that these meetings are a super way to get parent support for the program. Parents who attend are often more eager to encourage their teens to make a personal commitment to the group.

#### V. THE FINALE

The Finale is the final event of the year. It is the time when all Godparent groups join in a prepared faith celebration. It is a wonderful expression of unity among all the groups.

Our Finale is a special Mass at which each Godparent group prepares and presents a part of the liturgy. We usually follow the Finale with a pot-luck dinner. We schedule the Finale for one of last Wednesdays in April. Couples “volunteer” their group to be responsible for a specific part of the liturgy. While this event should be a joyous gathering, in tune to the needs of teens, it is important to keep in mind the sacredness of the Mass. Your priest advisor and/or celebrant of the Mass should work carefully with you in planning and implementing the Finale Mass.

#### VI. SUMMER GET-TOGETHER

Unscheduled get-togethers during the summer are not shown on the calendar. Godparent couples are encouraged to meet with their teens during the summer for a barbecue, a picnic, or other outing that includes some spiritual activity as well. Summer scheduling can be a challenge, but you may find that some of the best sharing and close family feeling comes from these non-calendar get-togethers.

## APPENDIX A

### ICE BREAKERS AND DISCUSSION ACTIVITIES

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LET'S GET ACQUAINTED

FIND SOMEONE ...

1. ...who is here for the first time \_\_\_\_\_
2. ...who has eyes the same color as yours \_\_\_\_\_
3. ...who uses "Crest" toothpaste \_\_\_\_\_
4. ...who has naturally blond hair \_\_\_\_\_
5. ...whose family has a Shih Tzu \_\_\_\_\_
6. ...who likes pickled-pigs-feet \_\_\_\_\_
7. ...whose birthday is in the same month as yours \_\_\_\_\_
8. ...who wears (or has ever worn) braces \_\_\_\_\_
9. ...who has never flown in an airplane \_\_\_\_\_
10. ...who gets hollered at for spending too much time  
in the bathroom \_\_\_\_\_
11. ...who has vacationed in California \_\_\_\_\_
12. ...whose telephone number ends with the same number  
as yours \_\_\_\_\_
13. ...who has been on television \_\_\_\_\_
14. ...whose favorite color is orange \_\_\_\_\_
15. ...who likes playing silly games like this \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

FAITH SHARING EXERCISE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

1. The first idea that I can remember having of God is...

2. The time that I felt closest to God was...

3. The time that I felt farthest from God was...

4. To me, my faith means...

5. The person who has had the greatest influence on my faith-life is...

\*\*\*\*\*

On the bottom or back of this sheet draw a symbol of your faith life right now.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

PLEASE TRY TO BE HONEST IN ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS BELOW:

1. In your earliest childhood, what is the first recollection you had of God?
2. What is the 6th commandment?
3. Jesus took the Ten Commandments and made them into two which he called the great commandments. What are they?
4. If you didn't have to go to church on Sunday (parental pressure, etc.), would you? Why or why not?
5. Name a hero of yours. What qualities do you most admire in him (her). (This person can be someone famous or a neighbor, friend, relative, etc.)
6. What is your opinion of Jesus?
7. When was the last time you prayed? (I don't mean attended Mass or recited prayer, necessarily, but actually prayed to God.) What did you pray for?
8. Do you feel the power and presence of God in your life?
9. Name the three wise men.
10. On a scale from one to ten, how much faith do you have? (1 – no faith at all, 10- total faith)  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11. What is your definition of love?
12. When you are 21, will you still be a Catholic?
13. Is all war immoral?
14. Have you personally made a commitment to Christ?

RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE  
(ALL WORK ON THEIR OWN - SHARE WHAT THEY WILL. STUDENTS KEEP THEM.)

How Other People See Me

1. People like me for...
2. People criticize me for...

How I See Myself

- I. Some of my strong points are...
2. Some of my weaknesses are...
3. I enjoy most...
4. I dislike most...
5. More than anything I want...
6. I feel that I am getting closer to (or farther away) from God. Why?
7. My best achievement was...
8. The greatest day in my life was...
9. What irritates me most about other people is...
10. My greatest fear is...
11. Some of my convictions are...
12. The best decision I ever made was...
13. The greatest disappointment I ever had was...
14. Name a color that reveals your personality...
15. Name an animal that portrays the way you see yourself...
16. Name a song that illustrates your philosophy of life...
17. Name a car that symbolizes you in some way...
18. Name a comic strip or TV character that you identify with...

## PERSONAL REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

Indicate your first and last choices for completing the sentences, then each person in the group explains his/her choices for the first choice sentence and WHY.

I. My idea of a good time is:

- a. a quiet evening with a good book
- b. a stroll through the park with someone I like
- c. a shopping spree
- d. watching a pro football game
- e. a long walk in the country by myself
- f. a good bull session
- g. going out to each with some friends

2. Nothing touches me like:

- a. a full moon
- b. a stirring opera by Wagner
- c. the new-fallen snow on the mountains
- d. the smell of a juicy steak cooking
- e. the feel of a little baby
- f. the waves breaking on the seashore
- g. rock music

3. Nothing burns me up like:

- a. a slow driver in a fast lane
- b. a lukewarm cup of coffee
- c. a book with a page missing
- d. a car that will not start
- e. a toothpaste tube mashed in the middle
- f. an overdrawn bank account

4. If I had to get along without some modern conveniences, I would give up:

- a. central heating
- b. clothes dryer
- c. indoor toilet
- d. electric lights
- e. TV
- f. car
- g. telephone
- h. refrigerator

5. If I could describe my life right now with a weather report, it would be:

- a. sunny and warm
- b. foggy, but lifting
- c. rainy, but clearing
- d. overcast
- e. stormy
- f. wintry and cold

6. If I could throw caution to the wind right now, I would like to:

- a. take up sky diving
- b. sail around the world
- c. build my own house
- d. run for public office
- e. get a motorcycle
- f. change my way of life
- g. take off for a year and get away

## CONFUSION

Type up a copy of the list below for everyone in the group; however, no two lists should be in the same order unless the group is very large. The idea is to have everyone doing something different at the same time. Also, you are not able to tell who is winning until the game is over. The winner is the first one to complete all ten things on his/her list in order. Anyone who will not do what someone asks him to do is automatically disqualified.

1. Get ten different autographs. First, middle, and last names, on the back of this sheet.
2. Unlace someone's shoe, lace it, and tie it again. (Not your own.)
3. Get a hair over six inches long from someone's head. (Let them remove it.)
4. Get a girl to roll a somersault and sign her name here.
5. Have a boy do five pushups for you and sign his name here.
6. Play "Ring Around the Rosy" with someone and sing out loud.
7. Do twenty-five "jumping jacks" and have someone count them off for you. Have that person sign here when you have done them.
8. Say the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag as loudly as you can.
9. Leap-frog over someone five times.
10. You were given a piece of bubble gum at the beginning of the race. Chew it up and blow ten bubbles. Find someone who will watch you do it and sign here when you have finished.

## CHARACTER ANALYSIS

This is good when members of a group don't know each other very well. Have each one write down some information about him or herself on a sheet of paper, without his or her name. Suggested information could include:

1. Favorite food
2. Middle name
3. Hobby
4. Favorite TV show
5. Age when first saw a circus
6. Most embarrassing moment

After these are filled out, the kids pass them in. The papers are shuffled, redistributed and each person reads the slip of paper he/she received to the rest of the group (one at a time). The group then tries to guess who the person is described by the information. This is a fun way to have kids get better acquainted.

## APPENDIX B

### VIDEO INFORMATION

St. Peter's Youth Ministry Library.....	26
Other video sources .....	27

ST. PETER'S

YOUTH MINISTRY LIBRARY

(New Titles—updated: Summer 2006)

VIDEOS

1. *Romance Without Regret*—Jason and Crystalina Evert
2. *The DaVinci Hoax*—Ignatius Press
3. *The Passion of Christ*—Icon Productions

AUDIO RESOURCES

1. *Marriage and the Eucharist*—Christopher West
2. *The Conversion of Scott Hahn*—Scott Hahn
3. *The Mass Explained*—Fr. Larry Richards
4. *Mary Foundation Rosary*—Mary Foundation
5. *John Corapi's Amazing Story*—Fr. John Corapi
6. *Confession*—Fr. Larry Richards
7. *The Truth About Mary*—Marcus Grodi and Patrick Madrid

BOOKS

1. *A Father Who Keeps His Promises*—Scott Hahn
2. *What You Should Know about Church History*—Charlene Altemose, MSC
3. *Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?*—Matthew J. Pinto
4. *Did Jesus Have a Last Name?*—Matthew Pinto and Jason Evert
5. *Just You and Jesus: A Book for Youth*—Bill Reck
6. *Step By Step to Calvary: Praying Through the Stations of the Cross*—Angela M. Burrin
7. *Beginning Apologetics 7: How to Read the Bible – A Catholic Introduction to Interpreting and Defending Sacred Scripture*—Fr. Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham

## OTHER VIDEO SOURCES

Video Library Catalog of the Diocese of Lincoln	See Youth Coordinator for Catalog
St. Teresa's Parish Video Library	477-3979
Media Center for Churches	464-5994
Nebraska Library Commission	471-2045
Family Christian Stores Resource Center	488-5445
Gloria Deo	420-1830

## APPENDIX C

### POTENTIAL SPEAKERS (Updated: Summer 2006)

Name	Contact Info	Topics
Pat and Sarah Hodge	402-420-7993	(Relationships, Dating, Marriage, Catholic Families)
Mary Zimmer	402-525-6458	(Being Single, Catholic—and Happy!, Chastity/Modesty, Music/Drama, Vocations, Trust in God)
Scott Montgomery	402-730-8974	(Seminary Life, Inspiration and Faith in Christ, Hope for Teens)
Scott Yates	402-521-0248	(Seminary Life, Being a Man's Man and Catholic, Trust in God, Dating)
Jill Dotson	402-770-5455	(Conversion to Catholicism, Christian Dating, Celebrating Differences)
Mary Widhelm	402-202-5973	(Life after College, Universal Church and Life in Mexico, Faith in Action)
Kristi and Rob Black	402-486-0798	(Relationships, Long Distance Catholic Dating—from China to U.S., Catholic Apologetics, Being a True Woman)
Chris and Kama Bedient	402-328-8677	(Marriage, Catholic Families, UNL Newman Center)
Christina Cammack	402-423-4583	(UNL Newman Center, Life with Christ, Life in College)
Jaqueline Cammack	402-423-4583	(Conversion Testimony, Life in College, Christian Dating, Study Abroad)
T.J. and Kristi Casady	402-730-0292	(Marriage, Conversion, Family Life, Godteens—previous Godparent Couple)
Sr. Janelle Buettner	402-786-2750	(Life in the Convent, Vocations, Prayer, Joy, Teen Issues, Apologetics)

## APPENDIX D

### FORMS

- Registration
- Parent Letter
- Teen Letter
- Orientation Outline
- Sample Invites to Parent's Night
- Parent Night Outline
- Multiple Event Release Form
- Single Event Release Form

## Godteen Program Registration Form St. Peter's Parish

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Entering Grade (circle one): 9 10 11 12  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's/Guardian's Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address(es) (of parent and/or student, if available): \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Freshmen and first-time registrants only): Name one student you would like to be grouped with:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *\*We will do our best to honor this request\**  
 Returning sophomores, juniors, and seniors: Your Godparent couple will remain the same as previous years.

Please circle any of the activities below that you may be able to help with:  
 Social Activities Transportation (# you can transport: \_\_\_\_ ) Fundraising Service Projects

A \$35 Registration Fee (per student) is requested. This fee helps defray the costs of food for the opening and closing dinners, snacks at large group events, the curriculum costs, transportation for field trips, as well as appreciation measures or the volunteer Godparent couples. If you wish to make a larger, tax-deductible donation to the Program, please circle an amount below.

Along with the \$35 registration fee, I wish to make a donation of: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100  
 (or write in amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_) *Thank you for your generosity.*

Please make checks payable to St. Peter's Church and return with registration form to: St. Peter's Church  
 Attn: Godteen Program  
 4500 Duxhall Drive  
 Lincoln, NE 68516

**Release and Consent:** Your child may be participating in various field trips or service projects outside of their Godparent couple's home, should their group decide to do so. Please read and sign the below consent form giving your child permission to participate in such events. You will be notified of all such events in advance.

This release and consent made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of 20\_\_\_\_, in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, by the undersigned releaser.

IN CONSIDERATION of permission granted to our/my child (name) \_\_\_\_\_ by the St. Peter's Godteen Program to participate in all events and activities involving my child, I hereby release and discharge the St. Peter's Godteen Program and the St. Peter's Parish, both of the Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, their agents, employees, and officers from all claims, demands, actions, judgments, and executions which the undersigned of their child (name) \_\_\_\_\_ ever had, or now has, or may have or which the undersigned's heirs, executors, administrators, personal representatives, or assigns may have, or claim to have, against the St. Peter's Godteen Program, the St. Peter's Parish, or either of them or their successors or assigns for all injuries, personal or otherwise, known or unknown, and injuries to property, real or personal, caused by or arising out of, the events and activities.

The undersigned further consent that, should the above-named child require immediate medical attention for any reason while participating in any of the events, any doctor or hospital selected has the authority to provide any treatment deemed necessary.

The undersigned have read this release and consent, understand all its terms, and execute it voluntarily with full knowledge of its significance.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Father

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Night time Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Teen

August 1, 2006

Dear High School Parent,

The beginning of another school year is upon us and with that comes all the usual “back-to-school” reminders about school activities, sports practices, homework, etc. I want to remind you of the most important activity your child can be involved in—a relationship with Christ through the development of their Catholic faith. The gift of faith you gave your child when you had them baptized is the one and only gift that lasts from this world on into the next world. It is for this reason that it is especially important to foster the growth of that gift.

The **St. Peter’s Godteen Program** is a way for your child to develop that gift by building friendships with students of the parish while continuing to learn about their Catholic faith.

Teens meet the majority of Wednesday evenings throughout the school year in the home of a married couple from the parish. The Godparent couple commit to a four-year program and each teen remains in the same group for all four years. There they will discuss a variety of topics, such as morality, scripture, and healthy relationships, for about an hour followed by 20-30 minutes of snacks and social time. Along with these core sessions are other activities such as large group panel discussions, guest speakers, “field” trips, and a group trip to Worlds of Fun in the summer.

A letter from our Youth Coordinator along with a registration form was mailed to your teen inviting them to sign up for the program after all Sunday Masses the weekend of August 26-27. As you make the transition from summer to the start of the school year, don’t wait to talk with your child about signing up for this program...*do it now!* In the words of the late Holy Father, John Paul II, “**The future starts today, not tomorrow,**” and the youth of the Catholic Church are our future. It is so very important that they continue to learn and grow in their Catholic faith.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend Michael R Christensen  
Pastor

August 1, 2006

Dear High School Teen,

We're coming up on the beginning of another great school year! It's time to keep an eye out for all those "back-to-school" specials and find the perfect thing to wear to the first day of school. As the summer winds down, and the school year gears up, don't forget about the most important part of your life—your relationship with Christ!

The **St. Peter's Godteen Program** is a way for you to build new and strengthen old friendships with students of the parish and continue learning about your Catholic faith. Some of you might be hearing from your friends, or thinking yourselves, "Why would I need to be involved in Godteens if I have (you pick the reason):

- Been in Catholic schools all my life;
- Have been regularly attending CCD classes;
- Am going to Pius X High School and attend religion classes there...etc."

But that's the exciting thing about Godteens—it isn't a religion class! It isn't an extension of CCD! It's a time for you to get together with teens your age to learn to *live* the Catholic faith.

You will be assigned a Godteen group for your grade level which will meet in your Godparents' home the majority of Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30pm throughout the school year. Each group will hopefully become a family within itself where the members can learn more about God and their relationship with Him. In this relaxed atmosphere you will be able to discuss with your peers how they think and feel about various issues affecting teens these days and also have opportunities to plan your own social outings, activities and service projects. On behalf of the Godparents and priests of St. Peter's, please accept our invitation to register for the Godteen Program.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a 2006-2007 Godteen Registration Form that can be returned to the church office during the remainder of the summer or on the Godteen Registration Weekend of August 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Godparent couples will be available that weekend to answer any questions you may have.

Whether you're new to the program or have been involved for a while, give Godteens a chance this year. You'll be amazed how God works in your life when you are in an atmosphere where you can be yourself, learn about yourself, and have fun with a group of teens who are Catholic just like you. I look forward to seeing you soon. Take care and God bless!

Yours in Christ,

Mary Widhelm  
Youth Coordinator  
499-1477  
[mwidhelm@stpeterslincoln.com](mailto:mwidhelm@stpeterslincoln.com)

## ORIENTATION SESSION

I. Arrange chairs in a circle for each Godparent group

II. Have teens sit with their assigned Godparents

III. Have name tags, pens, and one pencil per teen

IV. Opening prayer

V. Talk by youth coordinator, coordinating couple or priest:

A. Why a Godparent Program?

1. Alternative to CCD-includes parochial students
2. Meet in homes; small groups; meet with a couple -Godparents; stay together for 4 years.

B. Emphasis

1. Spiritual growth; experience faith
2. Growth in a small Christian community
3. Couples want to share their faith

C. Demands

1. Your presence. Requires a commitment. Couples have made one. Teens need to do this too.
2. Commitment through good times and bad.

D. Rewards

1. Fun
2. Friends
3. Family
4. Faith

VI. Ice Breaker (See Appendix A)

A. Purpose

1. Don't know everyone in your group.
2. Fun and get acquainted.

VII. Godparents get names, addresses. Give directions to your home.

VIII. Closing prayer

IX. Refreshments

SAMPLE INVITATIONS --for Godparent couples to use in inviting the parents to join the teens on information, etc.

TO PARENTS WITH FRESHMEN STUDENTS

Dear Parents,

We are really looking forward to meeting you and working with your teen this year. Please come to our home on \_\_\_\_\_. We will meet from 7:00 to 7:45 P.M. At this time, you will hear about the program, topics covered, etc.

We hope you can attend.

Sincerely,

TO PARENTS WITH SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR, OR SENIOR STUDENTS

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to another rewarding year in the Godparent program. We would like to invite you to join us on.....At this time, we will meet with you in our home to pray together and re-commit ourselves to the goal of guiding our teens in the formation of their faith. Freshmen and sophomore parents can join us from 7:00-7:45 P.M., and junior and senior parents from 7:45-8:30 P.M.

We hope you can attend.

Sincerely,

RSVP's would be greatly appreciated.

## PARENTS VISIT GODPARENTS

### AN EVENING OUTLINE

- I. Invite parents into your home. Be friendly and sincere.
- II. Wait about five minutes to begin and then introduce yourselves.
- III. Have the parents introduce themselves.
- IV. Describe the Godparent program:
  - 1) Share your feelings. Honesty is the best policy. Tell them you are petrified...scared...secure...or whatever...and most of all that you believe in the program.
  - 2) Tell them that you would like to share with them more specifically what will usually happen at each weekly meeting in your home.
  - 3) Class will begin at 7:00 promptly and will end at 8:30. Ask them for their cooperation in having their children there on time and on leaving promptly at 8:30. Briefly go through the various elements of the evening. Highlight some of the topics that will be discussed that year. Explain about any handouts that may be used and talk about the use of small group discussions. Describe the journaling process. Let them know that each meeting will begin and end with a prayer or scripture reading, followed by a social time. Explain the importance of the social time in forming a group identity and building community.
  - 4) Tell them that snacks will be served each week and that the teens will decide who brings and when. The first time, it is customary for the Godparents to provide the snack and after that the teens are expected to handle them.
  - 5) Tell them you plan to have some outings. The teens will decide with the Godparents what they will do for their outing. You might want to have them sign the parental consent forms that night. Also tell them about the home mass and that they will be invited.
  - 6) Let them know that there will be a Finale at the end of the year. It will be a celebration of our year together. Parents will be invited to this. It is planned for just before Easter.
  - 7) If the parents ask for your qualifications, tell them you have a willingness to supplement the responsibility of the home and to give additional support to the formation of faith in young people. Tell them you believe in the goodness of teens, and believe the program can do a lot to give teens a good experience in the Church. Most of all, tell them that you will depend upon God helping you, and that you trust in the priests' direction for the program.

- 8) Close with a prayer of unity for you and the parents of the teens. You might choose a scripture reading, recite the Our Father, or pray spontaneously for guidance.
- 9) You may want to serve a simple snack, but this is not necessary. If your group is Freshmen or Sophomores, these parents may need to go to another Godparent's home after leaving yours.

RELEASE AND CONSENT  
(all events)

This release and consent made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of 20\_\_\_\_, in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, by the undersigned releaser.

IN CONSIDERATION of permission granted to our/my child (name) \_\_\_\_\_ by the St. Peter's Godteen Program to participate in all events and activities involving my child, I hereby release and discharge the St. Peter's Godteen Program and the St. Peter's Parish, both of the Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, their agents, employees, and officers from all claims, demands, actions, judgments, and executions which the undersigned of their child (name) \_\_\_\_\_ ever had, or now has, or may have or which the undersigned's heirs, executors, administrators, personal representatives, or assigns may have, or claim to have, against the St. Peter's Godteen Program, the St. Peter's Parish, or either of them or their successors or assigns for all injuries, personal or otherwise, known or unknown, and injuries to property, real or personal, caused by or arising out of, the events and activities.

The undersigned further consent that, should the above-named child require immediate medical attention for any reason while participating in any of the events, any doctor or hospital selected has the authority to provide any treatment deemed necessary.

The undersigned have read this release and consent, understand all its terms, and execute it voluntarily with full knowledge of its significance.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father

\_\_\_\_\_  
Night time Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teen

RELEASE AND CONSENT  
(single event)

This release and consent made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of 20\_\_\_\_, in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, by the undersigned releaser.

IN CONSIDERATION of permission granted to our/my child (name) \_\_\_\_\_ by the St. Peter's Godteen Program to participate in a certain (event) \_\_\_\_\_ and activities involving my child, I hereby release and discharge the St. Peter's Godteen Program and the St. Peter's Parish, both of the Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, their agents, employees, and officers from all claims, demands, actions, judgments, and executions which the undersigned of their child (name) \_\_\_\_\_ ever had, or now has, or may have or which the undersigned's heirs, executors, administrators, personal representatives, or assigns may have, or claim to have, against the St. Peter's Godteen Program, the St. Peter's Parish, or either of them or their successors or assigns for all injuries, personal or otherwise, known or unknown, and injuries to property, real or personal, caused by or arising out of, the events and activities.

The undersigned further consent that, should the above-named child require immediate medical attention for any reason while participating in any of the events, any doctor or hospital selected has the authority to provide any treatment deemed necessary.

The undersigned have read this release and consent, understand all its terms, and execute it voluntarily with full knowledge of its significance.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father

\_\_\_\_\_  
Night time Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teen