

**DIOCESE OF BAKER
OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Baker Youth Representatives
Charter**

1 Timothy 4:12

“Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”

Chaplain: Fr. James Radloff
Pastor of Holy Redeemer, La Pine

Advisor: Deborah Wilker
Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry

The **Baker Youth Representatives (BYR)** program is composed of twelve youth, one chaplain, and one advisor from the diocesan office. There will be 2 youth (each) chosen from the Eastern, Western, and Southern deaneries, and 3 youth (each) chosen from the Central and Northern deaneries. These BYR members represent the parishes of the diocese, striving to network and communicate with each other as well as assist in the planning, implementation and evaluation of diocesan youth events. Focus will be placed upon the eight components of youth ministry: catechesis, evangelization, advocacy, pastoral care, justice, prayer and worship, leadership development, and community life. BYR members will gain skills in prayer, discernment, planning, seeking unity, listening, leadership, and communication.

Objectives

The objectives of the BYR program are for youth to:

- grow in Catholic identity, personal faith, and be good Christian examples
- advocate and promote ministry to, by, for, and with youth throughout the Diocese of Baker
- strengthen community ties
- foster the total, personal and spiritual growth of young people in the Diocese
- further Catholic Christian growth through a balanced program of youth activities by means of observation, discussion, and action
- provide opportunities for youth to voice their needs and concerns to the Bishop and other Diocesan mentors
- draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community
- promote leadership skills, evangelization, catechesis, and vocations

Criteria for BYR Membership Application

Any youth entering grades 10-12 in the fall is eligible to apply. Pastors and/or youth ministers must nominate a student to apply for BYR membership by submitting their recommendation with the student application.

These youth:

- must be Catholic and active in their parish and parish youth group
- must attend Mass and participate in the sacramental life of the Church

- have the support of parish priest(s), youth ministers, and parents
- are committed to their beliefs and are pursuing a growing relationship with Jesus Christ
- are dedicated to leadership and Christian service
- must see their membership as a major priority in their lives for their term of service and be able to attend all meetings and other required activities
- must be able to communicate via email

Responsibilities

- BYR members must attend the Diocesan-sponsored Leadership Orientation during the summer prior to their term of service. School begins in September; Leadership Orientation will be held during the last week before school begins.
- BYR members represent their parish and deanery, and must attend all meetings during their terms of service. The number of meetings will be discussed during Leadership Orientation. Meetings will begin Friday evening and end Saturday afternoon at various locations throughout the Diocese.
- BYR members are required to attend the Diocesan-sponsored Bread of Life Youth Conference held each spring.
- BYR members will assist in planning and executing an annual Diocesan Youth Rally, held in the fall each year.

Youth must submit an application and three letters of recommendation (pastor, youth minister, and another adult other than a parent) by June 1, 2007. Decisions will be made and youth will be notified by mid-June. Term of service begins with Leadership Orientation and ends in June the following summer. Term of service is renewable two times, provided youth continue to meet required criteria.

Tentative Schedule

- Diocesan Leadership Orientation
August 27-31, 2007
- Diocesan Rally planning
September 28 – 29, 2007
- Diocesan Rally
November 4, 2007
- Regional Rally planning /
Service Project Saturday
January, 2008
- Bread of Life planning /
Service Project Saturday
February–March, 2008
- Bread of Life Conference
April, 2008
- Celebration of Old Council,
Welcome of New Council
End of May/beginning of June

