

FAITH ON FIRE

RELIGIOUS FORMATION OF YOUTH 2020-2021

The last few months have taught us that life is certainly an adventure; and as Christians we believe that we are on this crazy adventure with God by our side! He brings us peace and abundant blessings, but He also guides us into unknown territory. Throughout life our relationship with God grows and changes and we are constantly learning to be better Christians, followers of Jesus. God calls us to be faithful disciples, and to radiate Christ in the world. In order to do this, we must be prepared and have a yearning to complete this calling.

This faith journey could be compared to hiking in the wilderness. Imagine you are planning a camping trip to Alaska. One of the first questions you may ask yourself is, "Why do I want to embark on this journey?" You need to establish your passion and motivation. Once you have established a strong desire and excitement to plan your trip, it's time to start preparing. You'll need to cover the basics such as what to pack, checking the weather, and readying your equipment. It might be cold; do you need to pack warm clothes? What if it rains or snows? Do you have the proper tent to keep you dry, warm, and safe? What kind of food do you need to bring? Just like your journey of spreading God's word, you need to find motivation and be prepared for what may lie ahead.

Now let's say you're finally ready to embark on your big Alaskan adventure! On your first night you'll need to build a fire to cook your food and keep you warm. Do you know how to build a fire? What are the key ingredients? Building a bonfire requires some type of wood, oxygen, and an initial spark. Wood can be easily gathered, and oxygen is abundant; both of which are used to fuel your fire for hours, possibly even days! But where does the initial spark come from? Did you pack a lighter? Or perhaps you must create your own spark by rubbing two sticks together? Creating a spark can take time and patience, and sometimes you may need help from others. What if your fire fizzles out? Or gets rained on? That could happen, and you'll need to be prepared to reignite the fire. With all the right tools, ingredients, and planning you should be able to build and maintain a great bonfire!

Like building a fire, the same steps are required in our calling as Christians to radiate Christ. We start with an initial spark; the desire to be in relationship with Jesus Christ. This is a great start, but if you stop there, the relationship could fizzle out. Your relationship needs fuel, not oxygen or wood, but learning and growing with Christ. Dig in deep! Read the Bible, attend Mass, participate in Adoration and Reconciliation. To radiate Christ means that we need to know Him intimately, so we try to learn all that we can about Him. We invite Jesus into every aspect of our lives so we may radiate His love throughout the world!

This adventure is going to take some time and effort, hopefully lasting a lifetime, but it is too BIG to pass up! Sometimes there will be challenges and setbacks that require little sparks along the way to get you back on track. But that's OK! These setbacks are welcomed by God and we welcome them too because it is how we draw closer to Him. He assures us that we are prepared and have the right tools to overcome anything because, with God, all things are possible!

Imagine your adventure in Christ and the opportunity to radiate His love within your family and in the world! Wherever you are on your faith journey, there is always room for our infinite God to grow within!