

Dear Parents,

My name is Will Cadigan and I am a senior at Rye High School. I am inviting your son or daughter to join us for our youth day event, “Called” **Saturday July 12th from 3pm-7pm. at Resurrection Middle School.** With the help of high school volunteers, we are excited to continue to grow a faith-based youth community within our parish, and we believe that this event will help create that community.

I have been a parishioner at Resurrection for the last sixteen years. Looking back on my faith development, I tried to think of the things I lacked, especially as a student at a public school. Throughout middle school and high school, periods of great importance in faith formation, I could not speak with my peers about my faith. I always had my family and trusted adults in the parish, but I could never speak about what I believe and why I believe in it with anyone my age. I had no youth group to engage with, only a couple of Catholic friends to talk about faith every once in a while. It was only at the beginning of high school that I was able to find other teens to talk about our faith. I began looking for ways to get involved and be an active participant in the church, and as I look back on it now, it was the best decision of my life. Sharing my witness with other teens while also hearing their own stories only invigorated my desire to grow deep in my faith.

For the longest time, I felt that faith was a solely personal and isolated experience, but through time with other young Catholics, I began to understand how much stronger faith can be when shared amongst a community. For many of you, your child has just recently been confirmed. For others, your child is soon to be confirmed. The Sacrament of Confirmation is a great joy, but it also signifies great change. Confirmation marks the shift in every Catholic’s life, a shift from our faith being influenced primarily by our families to our faith being completely controlled and determined by us. We make the decision to carry on with our faith. In a moment where teens must have the courage to continue down the path of faith, I ask you to invite your child to attend our youth day event on July 12th. This event, which we have titled “Called,” is an amazing opportunity for young teens to engage with one another while also hearing from other teens as to why they chose to listen to God’s call and carry on the path of faith. Recently, Pope Leo XIV repeated over St. Peter’s square the words Pope Saint John Paul II shared to the young people of America almost forty years ago, “Do not be afraid! Listen to his voice and accept the invitation of the Church and of Christ the Lord.” I look forward to seeing you on July 12th.

We are very grateful to Meg Rodriguez and Monsignor Dwyer for supporting us in having this exciting event within our parish. I look forward to seeing you on July 12 and seeing the strong community we can build together.

God Bless,

Will Cadigan