

# The Ascension Weekly

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November 26, 2017

## Calling all girls in grades 8-12!

*We interrupt our series on catechist testimonials to highlight an upcoming exciting outing that is open to all girls of our parish in grades 8-12 and which will be led by Kristen Bryant, our youth minister.*

On Saturday, December 2nd from 3:00 to 6:00 pm, Kristen Bryant, our youth minister, will be leading the girls in our parish in grades 8 through 12 on an afternoon retreat to the Juniorate House of the Sister Servants of the Lord, Servidoras, in Washington D.C. There they will have the opportunity to meet three different groups of religious sisters and experience what that kind of life entails, and to ask questions and discover why these women chose this special vocation.

Kristen explains, “This is meant to be an informational retreat for the girls of our parish to learn about all the different convents right here in our own back yard. DC is nicknamed Little Rome because there are so many religious orders that have houses here; they are all joyful and on fire for the Lord, but they have so many different missions and charisms. And at the heart of all of them is a deep love for God.”

The retreat is open to girls both from Ascension and neighboring parishes. To date, eleven high school aged girls have signed up, and the girls from our eighth grade Religious Education class will be attending as well. In addition to Kristen, Sarah Landry, the former youth minister at Ascension, will be coming along, as well as Elaine Mitchell, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade catechist, and two other youth ministers. It promises to be a fun and instructive afternoon. For those who have not yet signed up but are interested in doing so, it is definitely not too late! Just email Kristen at [ascensionbowieyg@](mailto:ascensionbowieyg@gmail.com)

[gmail.com](mailto:ascensionbowieyg@gmail.com) to let her know you are interested in attending. All participants should drive or find a ride to the Juniorate House in DC where the retreat will be held, and join us there at 3:00 pm. The address is as follows: Community Immaculate Heart of Mary, Juniorate House of Studies, 1326 Quincy Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20017. Parents are not required to attend.

In explaining this retreat, Kristen emphasizes, “This outing is for all girls in our parish within the age group, not only those who are already thinking about becoming nuns. Of course we all know about romance and marriage; it’s mostly all we see in our daily lives. This trip is a good opportunity to understand that marriage isn’t the only vocation out there. The women we will meet at this retreat are on fire for the faith and striving for holiness; it becomes clear when talking to them that the sisterhood is an amazing vocation. We will learn too about the long process of discernment that must be undertaken before final vows. Hopefully, our girls will come away from the retreat with a better understanding of the vocation to the religious life, and benefit from meeting these young, vibrant, faith-filled sisters who love the Lord and have given their lives to his service. I think it will be a great experience for all involved.”

The three religious orders that will be present at the retreat are the Sister Servants of the Lord, Servidoras; the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist (a teaching order); and the Sisters of Life. We urge the young ladies of our parish to please consider joining us on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> for an afternoon of faith and fellowship that will surely be a memorable and grace-filled experience for all!