



## Ascension Catholic Church Core Member Covenant

*Our Mission: "To lead teens closer to Christ."*

*Our Vision: "To create irresistible environments to make disciples that make disciples."*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am honored to respond to my baptismal call by serving the youth of Ascension through Life Teen. This ministry is Eucharistic-centered and relational. In order to respond fully, I understand that joining Core involves committing to four things: Holiness, Teens, Core, and Life Teen.

\*\*\*Your responsibilities as a Core Member will challenge you. Our teens need for us to be the best that we can be as they face their own challenges. How we respond to struggles and resistance will have significant impressions on our teens. Your joy will show our teens that they have worth and will inspire them to respond to their own difficulties and struggles with joy.

### **1. Commitment to Holiness**

The most important thing that we can do for the teens that we minister to is continually grow in personal holiness. Teens will not seek Christ if those who they look up to aren't seeking Christ. The following are the ways in which I commit to improving my spiritual life:

- I will deepen my relationship with God through daily prayer.
- I will strengthen my relationship with God by frequenting the Sacraments.
- Because I am a representative of Ascension, I will actively study to understand the teachings of the Catholic Church and will abide by them.
- I will seek to know Christ by holding steadfast to the four basic components of any faith journey: teaching of the Church, fellowship, the breaking of the bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42).

### **2. Commitment to Teens**

As a Core member, you are a role model to teens as someone who follows the teachings and beliefs of the Catholic Church. Pope Paul VI said, "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." At Ascension, our goal is to create a community where teens feel loved and accepted and that begins with you. The following are the ways in which I commit to an environment of hospitality and love for the teens:

- I will develop Christ-centered relationships with teens.
- I will be an adult Christian friend to teens, not their buddy or their authoritarian.
- I will make outreach to new teens a priority in my ministry. I will dedicate as much time to developing new friendships with teens as I do deepening old ones.
- In the area of crisis intervention, if a teen shares something with me where the teen or someone else may be in danger, I will inform the teen of my obligation to tell the Youth

Minister and then will go straight to the Youth Minister. If I am not sure, then I will tell the Youth Minister.

### **3. Commitment to Core**

It takes quite a diverse team with many talents, strengths, and personalities to successfully minister to teens. St. Paul highlights this, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Cor. 12:4-7). It is absolutely crucial as a Core team that we model what a holy Christian community looks like. The following are the ways in which I commit to building up the community of Core:

- I will develop Christian relationships with Core members, knowing that the teens will model relationships that they see and experience.
- I will give and accept feedback in order to improve our ministry.
- I will make every effort to attend all spiritual and social gatherings for Core.
- If I cannot attend a meeting or will be late, I will call/text the Youth Minister as early as possible.
- If there is ever any conflict between myself and another Core member, I will lovingly confront them. If the conflict cannot be resolved, then I will speak with the Youth Minister.

### **4. Commitment to Life Teen**

In addition to the above three commitments, the way that we actually impact the lives of our teens is through our Life Nights, Retreats, and the Mass. Being committed to holiness, our teens, and other Core is extremely important put the platform that we use to meet teens where they are is through our Life Teen functions. The following are the ways in which I commit to serving Life Teen:

- The Mass - I will do the following to focus before, during, and after Mass:
  - o I will fully participate in Life Teen Mass every week by singing, praying, and praising God. (Remember that you are an example in all that you do and this includes the Mass)
  - o I will arrive early to Mass in order to welcome teens and show them love and hospitality.
  - o I will sit with teens and not with other Core members at Mass.
  - o I will dress appropriately for Mass.
  - o I will invite teens to Life Nights after Mass
- Life Nights – I will do the following to focus before, during, and after Life Nights:
  - o I will attend all Core meetings to discuss the details of the Life Night. (Typically they are at 8pm on Tuesdays)
  - o I will be prepared for every Life Night by reading through the guide beforehand.
  - o I will attend every Life Night. If I will miss, I will contact the Youth Minister in advance.
  - o I will engage with teens during Life Nights, not with other Core members.
  - o I will help to run a family group. This involves leading small group with your teens.
  - o I will make it a priority to introduce myself to any teens that I have not met.
- Retreats – I will do the following to focus before, during, and after Retreats:
  - o I will attend both Fall and Spring Retreat.
  - o I will attend all necessary planning meetings for each retreat.
  - o If chosen to give a Proclaim or presentation, I will prepare before the retreat. If I

prepare during the retreat, valuable time for relational ministry will be lost.

o I will treat the Retreat as I would a Life Night in regards to my duty as a Core member.

• Core Meetings, Training, & Interaction – I will do the following:

o I will attend all scheduled meetings and trainings.

o I will be prepared to give and accept feedback.

o I will ask questions when I don't understand something with a Life Night teaching.

### **Lifestyle because of My Commitment**

As Core Members of Ascension, we are called to live a Christ-like life. In order to uphold the integrity of what this statement represents, there are several sacrifices that I will have to make to my everyday lifestyle. They are outlined below and they stem from our love for God and our desire to serve teens:

- I will follow all policies of the Diocese of Orlando for working with young people.
- I will take into consideration all pictures and postings to social media networks that teens have access to such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to make sure that they are above reproach with language and images reflecting Christian love towards everyone.
- I will not engage in any illegal activities.
- I will not drink if I am under 21. If I am over 21, I will either use alcohol modestly & appropriately or will choose not to drink at all. I will not drink at any Life Teen functions.
- I will strive to morally live the vocation that I am currently in (single, married, or religious).
- I will not smoke at any Life Teen functions and will never smoke with teens.
- In light of my position as a role model for teens and as a person who is seeking the fullness of God's love, I will be careful of the influences I put into my mind and body including the movies and TV that I watch, the music that I listen to, the language that I use and the way that I talk to and about others.
- I understand that as a Core member, we are to teach what the church teaches. Any opinions that may not align with church teachings are not expressed with teens.
- I will abide by all legal road rules and regulations, especially when transporting teens to and from events.
- In response to my baptismal call, I commit to serving the teens of Ascension as a Core Member for this academic year. \_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature Date