



St. Vincent de Paul Church

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Youth Confirmation

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Today young people find themselves at the mercy of overwhelming forces imposed on them by our secular society. And those of us who care about them pray they stay involved with the right friends, participate in the best activities that challenge them and keep them on the right path.

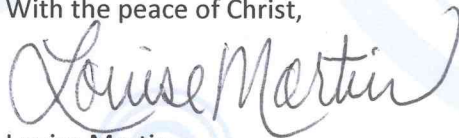
In the last ten years a sizeable amount of research has emerged about religion, church, the family and teens. What's very interesting is they have found that faith does truly matter to our young people. Also important they found that teenagers are far more influenced by the religious beliefs and practices of their parents and identify themselves with their parent's religious affiliation. What has the most lasting impact on the faith formation of teens according to the reports? Their parents.

Compared with their peers, teens who attend church on a regular basis were less likely to smoke, use alcohol, be truant, be sexually active, use marijuana, have problems in school, have difficulties with their parents, or have feelings of depression. They also found they are more likely to behave safely, try to stay healthy and be involved in volunteering, sports and other community activities.

All of these studies support parent's belief that passing down our faith to their children is important. So as you think about signing up for confirmation, remember this matters. You and your whole family are doing a good thing. Living in a world where we and our teens are constantly pressed for time, you are not squeezing in another thing. Going to Mass can make sense of our hectic lives and help us to balance, and appreciate everything we do with God's help.

You can be as involved in this process as you like. I look forward to meeting you and answering any of your questions you might have at the orientation or you can email me before at louisemartin2@yahoo.com

With the peace of Christ,



Louise Martin,
Youth Minister