



**Diocese of Grand Island, Nebraska
Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Higher Ground Retreats™ Program**

Summer 2017

Dear Pastor, Youth Minister, Catechist, Friend of Youth:

Once again it is time for our annual recruitment of staff and participants for Higher Ground Retreats™.

Enclosed is a brochure with information for Higher Ground, Higher Ground II, Higher Ground College Retreat, and Higher Ground Middle School Retreat. The West Nebraska Register will carry an advertisement with directions pointing potential staff & participants to our website at www.youthgidiocese.weebly.com for more information.

Please place an invitation in your bulletin (a sample is provided as part of the enclosure). Promote the program from the pulpit, in religious education classes and at youth gatherings. **Personal contact and encouragement are the best ways to get young people involved.** Past participants of Higher Ground are great candidates to speak to other youth. We do have promotional DVD's available upon request from our office. Contact us at 308-532-2707 or youth@gidiocese.org if you would like a DVD. Be sure to have some brochures ready to pass out with more information and our website address. Youth register on-line at highergroundretreats.org.

It is critical that the information in this letter be shared with DRE's, Youth Ministers, Catechists and anyone else who may have contact with youth. Encourage them to distribute information to this year's sophomores, juniors and seniors, as well as anyone completing their freshman year of college.

Please note the following youth and young adults who are eligible for the various Higher Ground Retreats™ experiences and what the purpose is of each program. The registration deadline for each week is the Friday **one week prior to the week they want to attend. Retreats will fill-up, so encourage early registrations.**

HIGHER GROUND	any student completing their sophomore or junior year of high school Purpose: to learn Christian Community Building Skills.
HIGHER GROUND II	any student who participated in HG or any student who is completing their senior year of high school (they don't need to attend HG if they are graduated!) Purpose: to learn skills in Christian Lifestyle and Discipleship.
HIGHER GROUND COLLEGE RETREAT	any student who participated in HG II or any young adult who is one year out of high school(do not have to attend HG II) (ex. Finishing their freshman year of college) Purpose: to learn tools to discern our Call to Follow Christ.
HIGHER GROUND MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT	any student who completed 6 th or 7 th grade in spring of 2017 Purpose: create an environment where they belong and help others belong

We ask that you consider staffing Higher Ground this summer and please encourage others to staff! To be eligible for staff, applicants must be at least two years out of high school. We especially need music ministers and young adults. Staff may also apply through our website: www.youthgidiocese.weebly.com. We appreciate your involvement in this diocesan outreach to young people. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Thanks for being an advocate of youth.

Peace,

John Burks
Director

Fr. Josh Brown
Spiritual Director

Higher Ground
Retreats™



"This I command you: love one another." John 15:17
Diocese of Grand Island
www.highergroundretreats.org