



Catholic Heart Work Camp

Cincinnati, Ohio

June 16 - 23, 2013

WHY Cincinnati?

This year, planning for CHWC has been a call for faith! We have prayed about and selected several different camps, only to have them either fill quickly or to have strange circumstances (like having the camp dates changed!). One of our former CHWCers pointed out that we go where the Holy Spirit sends and the destination is just part of the process! We'll take that outlook – thanks for the reminder! Currently, we are hoping to attend the Catholic Heart Camp in Cincinnati, OH. As of today, it has only 92 spots remaining. If this camp fills before our deadline closes, we will be attending Milwaukee, WI. Regardless of where we go, we are taking it as a sign of where God leads! We are trusting that we'll be sent to wherever the poor and the elderly most need us!

A little about Cincinnati:

Cincinnati was founded in 1788. It was the first American Boom Town in the heart of the country. It sometimes is thought of as the first “purely American city.” It is home to the Cincinnati Reds and Cincinnati Bengals as well as a Flying Pig Marathon. Eclectic in culture, to say the least! Many of our town settlers had come through or had family in the Cincinnati area. In regards to economics, according to bizjournals.com regarding Cincinnati, *“New data from the 2010 U.S. Census shows the city of Cincinnati has one of the highest poverty rates in the nation. According to the American Community Survey released Thursday, Cincinnati has the seventh-highest rate, with 30.6 percent of its residents living in poverty. The weighted average poverty threshold for a family of four in 2010 was \$22,314, according to the Office of Management and Budget.”*

As we start the sign up process, it's only fair that we tell you OUR EXPECTATIONS and also outline what you can expect from this trip. We expect that if you sign up for CHWC this year, you are committing to a year of service and faith. CHWC is about more than one week of your time. It's about building servant heart attitudes that last a lifetime. It's about committing to participate MORE in our faith actions. It's about spending a year really getting closer to God – going to Mass & participating. It's about being part of a team that people notice there is “something different” than other groups they might encounter. We expect that you will give 110% of yourself and open your heart to an amazing experience. For each participant that does this, CHWC will become an AWESOME life changing experience!

What can you tell me about camp?!? FAQ'S ABOUT CHWC

WHAT IS CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP?

Catholic HEART Workcamp is based in Orlando, FL. The Founders/Directors are Steve and Lisa Walker who love young people and God. After 17 years as Parish Youth Ministers in Pittsburgh, Houston and Orlando, the Walkers have devoted themselves to the development and management of the Catholic HEART Workcamp on a full time basis. They not only are experienced Youth Ministers but National Speakers and Workcamp veterans. The first Workcamp was established in 1993 and has increased in size every year. The Workcamps were established to offer quality service projects and evangelical programs for Catholic young people and their leaders. Whenever possible, Catholic HEART Workcamp works hand in hand with the host city diocese. Catholic HEART Workcamp continues to faithfully and enthusiastically serve the Roman Catholic Church in obedience to the Magisterium and strict faithfulness to the Church teachings. Each Workcamp is equipped with 10 summer staff members, adult associate staff members, a nurse, Priest, and camp Manager. These members are a guarantee the Workcamp will run smoothly.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Any students who are currently in 9th grade or older who are serious about serving others. High school students as well as high school graduates and college students Anyone who attends Unit 50 school or is a parishioner at St. Francis is invited to participate with us. . **We require one adult (21 years and older) for every five young people.**

WHAT IS THE REGISTRATION FEE?

This year's registration fee is \$495.00 to go to Cincinnati (or to Milwaukee if Cincinnati is already full).

WHAT DOES THE REGISTRATION FEE COVER?

The registration fee covers:

- ❖ All meals during Workcamp (except on free day), Room and Board, Travel Expenses, Supplies and materials for worksites, T-shirt

Registration fee does not cover free day expenses. You will be responsible for a meal at a fast food restaurant on the way there and a meal on the way back home.

HOW DO WE TRAVEL TO THE WORKCAMP?

This year, because Cincinnati is a little closer, we will leave on Sunday, June 16 at about 4 a.m. (we think). We will be chartering a Bales Bus and they will take us everywhere throughout the week. We expect to return home on June 21 around midnight(ish).

WHAT KIND OF WORK WILL WE BE DOING?

Each day will be spent either renewing homes by doing such things as painting, housecleaning, yard work, and minor home repairs (experienced trouble shooters will visit the sites to check on workmanship and provide help when needed); or helping at day care centers for low income families by assisting with the children's programs, working at homeless shelters or helping at centers that distribute food to the needy.

When do I have to sign up by?

We will be chartering two buses and will take a maximum of 94 people on this adventure. Letters of intent and the \$50 deposit are due by September 20. On September 21, we'll be going through the forms and filling the buses by age range – oldest to youngest. If the buses will fill before a class is all the way through, a lottery will be done for the people in that grade. That's the best way we can think of to be fair to all. Please know we are working on making this trip the best one yet and will do our best to make it work for all we can!

What else can you tell me about CHWC?

We can tell you that going to CHWC can be a life changing experience. We can tell you that it may open your mind & heart up to living a life of service to and for others. You hopefully will find a closer relationship with God and a connection to your faith that you maybe didn't have before. You will learn lots about the people you are traveling with and also working with throughout the week. You may look at all people differently and you hopefully will accept others for who they are and where they are at in life. It changes the whole way you look at service – it's not hours you have to do for a sacrament, but instead a new way to live life! You WILL work hard for 4 straight days. Did we forget to mention... you will have FUN while you are at it!

What are our expectations & camp expectations:

1. Bring your best behavior & attitude – even if you have to fake it til you make it ☺
1 straw will be provided for those needing it. You only get 1...
2. Do the right thing because it's the right thing.
3. No alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, sexual activity – any of these will have you sent home immediately at your parent's expense.
4. We ask that students ***do NOT*** bring Cell Phones... please don't disappoint us by bringing them even though we ask you not to. You are welcome to use chaperon phones at anytime... please know we do this for the good of the group, not as a hoop for you to jump through

HOW ARE WORKSITES SELECTED & ARE THE AREAS YOU WORK IN SAFE?

We work in cooperation with various agencies in each city to choose the sites and write up work descriptions. These agencies work to improve the lives of low- income families, children and the elderly. CHWC hopes campers will develop more of a heart like Jesus and share His compassion and love for the world. Our hope is campers will be stimulated by their service experience and be motivated to continue in their own communities.

As Catholics, we are called to “serve the least of these”. We have a responsibility to help others.....which in the case of CHWC includes the poor and middle class. Jesus constantly talked about helping and feeding the poor. CHWC hopes the service week will give campers an opportunity to grow in their Catholic faith. Many campers are able to learn more about God from the residents they serve. Some feel they have met God through a person with a low income. CHWC hopes campers can see the incredible generosity and hospitality from people who are considered “the least of these”. CHWC hopes campers will have the opportunity to experience who and what impoverished people are all about. It is a humbling experience. God gives grace to the poor. Their hearts are really big. CHWC hopes in the process campers develop meaningful relationships with the people they serve. CHWC wants to teach campers to get beyond their selfishness and teach them to walk with Christ among the poor. Following Jesus can be hard and sacrificial. The things Jesus loves sometimes can be uncomfortable or disgusting to campers (a person who has a house full of junk , hordes stuff and has cockroaches running around it is an example that comes to mind). The questions is can campers forget about themselves and truly follow him in low income neighborhoods? They may have to make sacrifices and get out of the comfort zone but the benefits are substantial.

Our hope is a CHWC week will raise questions such as why is there poverty, why do the richer get richer and the poor get poorer? CHWC desires campers return home with the conviction they need and can do something about improving our world and making it a better place to live for others. CHWC wants them to learn how much they have and be grateful and not take it for granted. CHWC hopes the faith of campers is radicalized and is motivated to advancing His kingdom as a lifestyle, not just a week-long commitment. Our hope is that they will take steps of faith to uproot their comfortable, predictable, secure life and continue on a path of the extraordinary lifestyle that is following Christ.

CHWC hopes that through seeing poverty up close and personal they will discover the richness of Christ. It is something that is easily taken for granted. It gets lost in the pursuit of earthly possessions and pleasures. There is nothing wrong with material wealth. God blesses people with nice things. But He also wants us to understand what it means to be more dependant on Him. God wants us to understand the suffering and poverty of others, so when He blesses someone with wealth, they will have the heart to help the poor with their blessings.

CHWC hopes campers will go away with an exposure and better understanding of what it means to be poor. There are many different levels of poverty. In America, many claim to be poor if they cannot buy the latest clothing or a new car every few years. Others say they are poor because they have to hold two or more jobs to make ends meet. Some rely on government assistance programs to meet their needs, because they have been unable to do it on their own. Still others have no place to call home. They beg in the streets, or dig in dumpsters for their meals.

CHWC goal is to give campers an opportunity to open themselves up more to the light of Christ and be more concerned about the things that concerns God ... which is helping the poor. Working and serving in poor communities raise serious questions for people who live in a 'cultures of comfort' vs. a 'culture of poverty'. In the ease and affluence of our lives, making sacrifices can seem unreasonable. The world we live in whispers in our ears that we are entitled to hold on to every comfort – that we have a right to do so. This is not to say, our campers are not needed to serve in middle to upper class neighborhoods. According to Mother Teresa it is among the wealthy that we can find the most terrible poverty of all – loneliness. Wealthy countries like the USA have the highest rates of depression, suicide and isolation.

HOW WILL WE GET TO THE WORKSITES?

The vehicles your youth group uses to get to the Workcamp will be needed to transport work teams to and from the worksites during the week. Vehicles must conform and abide to their Diocese travel requirements regarding usage. Only adults designated by their Parish will drive to worksites.

HOW WELL SUPERVISED & SAFE IS THE WORKCAMP?

The Workcamp staff takes supervision and safety very seriously. Besides the Workcamp adult staff, each group is required to bring one adult sponsor for every five young people to provide supervision at the work sites and the school. The Workcamp will not involve young people in any kind of dangerous projects. No youth will be allowed to use power tools at all. Adults are as long as they have previous experience. Every participant is asked to bring protective safety gear. Every young person is matched to a project they can handle. To compensate for the hot weather, work campers are supplied with plenty of liquids to drink and given frequent breaks. Each residence and worksite is inspected beforehand. Home repair projects are well organized and prepared. First-aid kits and emergency care instructions will be available at every worksite. Medical facilities are located a short distance from every site. Every safety precaution is exercised to produce a safe and injury free atmosphere.

CHWC's bottom line is the safety of its campers. As a service organization this is our top priority in choosing which communities we will be involved with. Unfortunately, no neighborhood is totally safe and secure. There are no communities free of crime. Families and people are victimized in upper-class nice neighborhoods. Crime occurs in wealthy neighborhoods and middle class suburbs. If a work team feels unsafe CHWC will remove them from their worksite. CHWC policy is to remove work teams from the worksite if they do not feel comfortable. In some cases, teams choose to finish their work project...even though there is criminal activity going on around them...such as someone selling drugs down the street.

CHWC policy is to contact the local police when we have work teams in neighborhoods that have a high crime rate. In some situations they have placed a squad car close by or in front of the house we were working in. They often will send additional patrol cars through the community and keep a closer eye on it. CHWC does not send work campers when there is a clear risk of violence, crime or danger or deemed unsafe for our campers. CHWC does not haphazardly send teens into unsafe neighborhoods. The safety of campers is our highest concern. CHWC considers the welfare of campers much more important than improving the living conditions or a particular person. Campers are not required to work in conditions or communities that make them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

WHAT TYPE OF COMMUNITIES DOES CHWC USUALLY WORK IN?

If we are to follow the passions of God and be concerned about the plight of the poor, CHWC needs to be in communities which are not considered the best places to live. That being said, CHWC does occasionally work in middle class/wealthy areas in which there is obvious need – either the home is in apparent need of repairs or the resident physically can not complete the needed repairs because of someone is handicapped, widowed or has a physical disability. CHWC does it's best to make sure - both the structural conditions and environmental conditions are safe for work campers. As a mission/service organization, serving in middle class communities (with lower rates of crime) but not also in low income neighborhoods (which may have a higher rate of crime), raises some interesting question/issues about justice.

- What kind of message are we communicating if we only serve those in middle class neighborhoods while ignoring those in low income neighborhoods?
- Would it be better to send campers in more middle class or wealthy area?
- What about the poor communities? If CHWC only offer services in middle class communities how do the people who really need the help receive it?
- And what about Jesus' concern to help the poor, if we focus on only middle class communities?
- What about the opportunities for teens to be educated and learn more about the meaning of poverty and what poor people have to endure everyday?
- Would campers miss out on an experience to be jolted out of complacency or motivated to do something about the problems of poverty if they were not in a low income community?
- When is a neighborhood considered too dangerous for CHWC to send in?

It is not always cut and dry or apparent and clear when it comes to deciphering what is considered a high crime area or low crime area. CHWC partners with local social agencies in locating homes. CHWC depends on them to locate our work projects. Serving people in low income areas is not always easy or comfortable. CHWC does not intentionally send campers into dangerous communities or situations. CHWC depends on a local Manager and social agencies to be aware of keeping campers away from high crime that are dangerous. At the same time sending them to low income communities that need the help is also part of our mission.

WILL MY TEENS BE MIXED WITH OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE WORKSITES?

Yes, this is one of the beautiful aspects of the HEART Workcamp. New relationships and friendships are formed with other people from around the country. Everyone is divided into teams most teams consist of six teens and one adult each team is assigned to work at a site. There is free time each afternoon and evening for the young people to join their own group members. For youth leaders that do not want their teens mixed with campers from other parishes on a work team, the option is available to request a work team consisting only of their youth group members.

CHWC will also accommodate groups that request their young people be placed at a work site with two adults. A

CHWC work team typically consists of one adult per 6 teens. CHWC does not require 2 adults per work team. Procedures are in place if an adult has to leave a work site. If a youth group leader requests that their young people be placed at a worksite with 2 adults, the process is as follows:

- Your group must stay together with members of your own youth group.
- You must provide enough adults for your group to be split into teams with 2 adults.
- You will create your own teams based on your vehicles. (Form Provided by CHWC)

*Your campers could be split up if a particular camp is able to provide 2 adults for every work team and enough adults are available. This decision will be decided the week before camp by the camp manger. If you would like to be kept together, even if we have enough adults, please make that request known to the camp manager when you mail in your applications.

WHAT WILL THE MORNING AND EVENING PROGRAMS CONSIST OF?

Our goal is to communicate that "OUR CATHOLIC FAITH IS NOT BORING!" A program at Catholic HEART Workcamp can leave you speechless! **Why?**

- SOUL STIRRING MESSAGE TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS
- SKITS THAT TEACH (AND SOME JUST FOR LAUGHS)
- LIVE MUSIC
- INSPIRATIONAL MEDIA AND VIDEOS
- YOUTH INVOLVED ON STAGE
- OUTRAGEOUS CROWD BREAKERS
- DANCING
- SERIOUS LAUGHTER
- LIFE CHANGING

HOW WILL CHWC HELP YOUNG PEOPLE GROW IN THEIR CATHOLIC FAITH?

Young people and their leaders will be spiritually renewed after participation in the Workcamp, by putting their faith into action. They will be living out Christ's command to love and serve others. By participating in the HEART Workcamp, the young people and their leaders will be celebrating their Catholic faith. The Workcamp promotes the signs, symbols, stories and rituals affiliated with the Catholic Church. The sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, as well as prayer services, will be offered throughout the week to help young people become more aware of the presence and love of God. Catholic Heart Workcamp is centered on:

- Faith and works: (James 2:17).
- Corporal works of mercy (Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned)
- Sacred Scriptures: Written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and have been handed on by the Catholic Church. We consistently refer to scriptures throughout the week of camp
- Divinity and saving value of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus: CHWC calls campers to renew their baptismal call on their journey of faith
- Parish life: Call to active participation in the life of the local parish and youth program. The Church is an assembly of faithful followers of Jesus as Lord.
- Mary: Call upon Mary for prayer and intercession. Belief in Mary's Immaculate Conception, as The Mother Of Jesus, her Perpetual Virginity, her intercessory power, and her Assumption into Heaven
- Prayer: Belief in the power of communion with God
- Belief in the power of the sacraments.
- Reconciliation offered
- Eucharist: The heart of our faith in which Jesus is fully present and alive. Daily Mass offered
- Saints: Role models of how to live a holy life. Call upon the saints to watch and protect our campers
- Full conformity with the hierarchy, doctrines, traditions, rituals, practices and beliefs of the Catholic Church

WHAT CAN WE DO ON OUR FREE DAY?

Everyone is given a well deserved free day to visit local attractions. We will send you a list of what your group can do on your free day once your group has registered. Free day activities are also listed on the web page under the information for each city. Cost of free day activities is not included in the registration fee. Leaders are responsible for their own groups and transportation needs. There will be morning mass and program on the free day morning starting at 8:00 am, then the rest of the day is yours. Groups will have the option to leave after the morning program or at the end of the free day or return to the school and leave the following morning. However, we do encourage groups to stay for the free day activity and return to the school. .

HOW ARE THE ADULTS FROM EACH PARISH USED?

Every adult (21 and older) is assigned to a work site. (This does not apply to "Associate Staff Member" volunteers) This adult is part of the overall team. We depend on adults to work side by side with the young people in accomplishing the work projects. For the safety of the teens, each parish must have at least one adult chaperone in each sleeping quarter. The Catholic HEART Work Camp also depends on adults to supervise their own parish young people during the free time and programs. CHWC requires 1 adult (21 or older) for every 5 youth. If you register male and female campers you will need at least 1 male and 1 female adult leader.

WHAT IS AN ADULT ASSOCIATE STAFF POSITION?

Please check off "Associate Staff" on your Application, which are usually mailed out in Feb. or March. We no longer offer discounts for Associate Staff position (except for Sisters/Brothers and Priests whose registration fee is \$75.00) **WORK BEHIND THE SCENES (18 years or older)**: Help prepare & serve breakfast & dinner as well as clean up after meals. They also do other jobs such as working the snack booth, emptying trash, take pictures at the worksites and run errands. They will have several hours free time each day – usually late morning or early afternoon. These adults do not participate in worksite projects.

TROUBLE SHOOTERS (21 years or older): People with experience in construction willing to work at a variety of job sites assisting groups with question/difficulties which arise related to a work project. They also assist the Workcamp supply manager, deliver/pick up tools/supplies from worksites and pick up supplies from the local hardware store in the evenings.

NURSE/PARAMEDICS (21 years or older): Certified medical personnel help at the "home base" whenever a minor medical problem arises (sunburn, twisted ankle, headaches, etc). This person has the option of being on a work team and going to a worksite or staying at the home base and working behind the scenes with the Workcamp set up.

PRIEST: Help with Eucharist celebration though out the week and with Reconciliation. Priests are assigned a team and go to worksites, unless they choose to work behind the scenes with the Workcamp set up.

ARE ADULTS THAT PARTICIPATE IN CHWC SCREENED?

Catholic HEART Workcamp is diligent in providing a safe environment for every camper. Teenagers, young adults, adult leaders and their families can be assured that CHWC is concerned with every campers well-being and protection.

Catholic HEART Workcamp requires all camp summer staff members to provide personal information, references and a recommendation from their Parish Priest/Youth Minister prior to employment. **We also require all summer staff to conform to a FBI National background check. All CHWC Staff will also be trained in the Virtus program "Protecting God's Children" in order to be in compliance with the U.S. Catholic Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.**

CHWC requires anyone eighteen and older, either as a chaperone or camp participant (belonging to your Parish or not), has successfully completed the requirements of the Parish and be in compliance with their Diocesan policy for interacting with children and teenagers, in accordance with the U.S. Catholic Bishops Charter for the protection of children and young people. CHWC mandates a signed and notarized Verification Agreement Form from the Parish Youth Minister and the Pastor stating that each person 18 years or older has completed the requirement of its Diocese as it relates to their sexual abuse risk prevention policies, training and background checks. If there are no such requirements all adults must complete the requirements of Catholic HEART Workcamp, by conducting a sexual abuse risk prevention background check. These documents are stored in our home office, in Orlando, Florida and copies are at each of our camps throughout the week they are operating as well.

Anyone 18 and older **MUST** complete a training course on Protecting God's Children for Adults or similar program that is offered in their Diocese and be familiar with resources regarding safe environment, abuse of minors, sexual misconduct and sexual harassment. In addition any young adult between the ages of 18-20 are placed on their own work team, with an adult (21 and over) as their group leader and are not mixed with any teens under the age of 18 at the worksites.

WHAT ABOUT LIABILITY AND INSURANCE?

The Catholic HEART Workcamp does not allow any participants without personal health medical insurance to participate in Workcamp. If for some reason a participant does not have health insurance, you may purchase a temporary policy through www.temporaryinsurance.com. In the unlikely case medical attention is needed, the participants personal health insurance is needed to cover any expenses that occur. The Catholic HEART Workcamp will employ reputable staff members and take reasonable precautions to safeguard the Workcamp participants during the week of Workcamp. However, neither the Catholic HEART Workcamp, social agencies or the school acting as "home base" will be liable for loss or damage to property of participants prior to, during or following the Workcamp due to theft, fire, accident or any other cause beyond its control. It is the sole responsibility of the participants to obtain insurance at their own expense against property loss, damage or injury and against liability for personal injury. The Catholic HEART Workcamps liability for injury to persons or loss or damage to property shall be limited to such as may be caused by negligence. The Workcamp participants assumes responsibility and agrees to indemnify and

defend the Workcamp, employees and agents associated with the Workcamp against any claims and expenses arising from negligence, theft, loss, damage or personal injury. The Catholic HEART Workcamp has limited General Liability coverage.

HOW DOES CHWC EXPRESS THE CATHOLIC FAITH THROUGHOUT THE WEEK?

1. As stated in "THE CHALLENGE OF CATHOLIC YOUTH EVANGELIZATION" (Justice and Service section), the HEART Workcamp is a lived out experience which provides young people an opportunity for making the Gospel real. "The ministry of justice and service is an opportunity for evangelization when our approaches are infused with Scripture and Jesus' teachings. Immersion experiences, service projects (work camps) and justice education programs present opportunities for youth to see the face of Jesus in the marginalized, oppressed and poor. The challenge for those in youth ministry is to enable young people to bring the Gospel into a transforming dialogue with society and culture".
2. Our Catholic identity as Roman Catholic Christians is unique. Young people are able to celebrate their Catholic identity at the HEART Workcamp. It promotes the signs, symbols, images, stories and rituals that express the Catholic faith.
3. The HEART Workcamp gives young people a sense of the larger Catholic Church in our country by giving them opportunities to meet, interact and serve with other Catholic young people.
4. The HEART Workcamp celebrates the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist throughout the week. These sacraments help young people experience grace and become more aware of God's gift of love and presence. This communal and sacramental dimension of Catholicism makes it easier to understand why we as a "universal" Catholic Church believe that following Jesus and participating in service is an integral part of our Catholic faith.
5. The HEART Workcamp offers prayer services using Catholic symbols such as holy water, oil, crucifixes and candles. These experiences encourage young people to value these symbols when they return to their own Parish and use them as a tool to enhance their prayer life.
6. The HEART Workcamp is not limited to general evangelization or foundational Christian principles (as are the non-denominational workcamps). The HEART Workcamp is able to further develop "Catholic Spirituality" by interpreting scriptures and communicating teachings in line with the Roman Catholic Church.
7. The HEART Workcamp exposes young people to other Catholic leaders in the Church such as Priests, Lay Ministers, Youth Ministers, Religious Ed Coordinators and adult volunteers, thus planting the seeds for Catholic vocations.
8. The HEART Workcamp offers young people and leaders pride in the fact our Catholic denomination sponsors a Workcamp. (As one youth leader stated, "I am tired of all the other denominations having workcamps and am glad to see our Church has something for us to offer our young people").
9. The HEART Workcamp "stirs" up kids in a positive way. They leave excited about service and the Church. In many ways the HEART Workcamp is a tool for pre-evangelization and evangelization. Youth leaders are able to use this experiences as a way to excite young people about service and their Catholic. Hopefully the young person will bring this excitement for service and the Church back to their own youth program. Youth leaders have the opportunity to follow up with them back home by nourishing this passion and helping the young person formalize it in a deeper manner. All of this happens within the context of the Catholic Church, thus helping to guarantee the next generation for Christ in the Church.
10. A Workcamp that is based on "Catholic spirituality" increases the chances of consent for participation, support and funding from Pastors, Parish Councils and Parents. The knowledge that a workcamp has a Catholic focus eases the minds of many people who have the authority to approve or disapprove young people attending in a week long work camp. (Many people are fearful of non-denominational youth gatherings).
11. The HEART Workcamp gives young people an opportunity to live out some of the aspects listed in Scriptures on service as well as the corporal works of mercy. It also gives young people a better understanding and lived out "taste" of what the Catholic Church teaches about social action, social work and peace and justice issues.
12. There are many non-denominational workcamps offered across the nation. Most of these workcamps are positive experiences for young people. One of the beautiful features of a non-denominational workcamp is it gives young people an opportunity to experience and interact with other youth who have different Christian faith traditions. The exposure to ecumenism is important for young people to experience. But as relationships grow between a Catholic young person and a Protestant young person or leader there will inevitably be questions which arise as they explore their faith with each other. Questions about the Bible, Salvation, Mary, the Pope, Sacraments or other "Catholic" issues. Catholic young people are then put in a position to defend their Catholic faith. This could be a positive or negative experience. It becomes negative when a Catholic young person is put on the defense because they are being challenged about what the Church believes. They also could become confused or upset because they are not equipped to provide answers. A Catholic Workcamp, on the other hand, offers young people within an environment of support and encouragement when it comes to questions and matters of faith. The HEART Workcamp offers youth leaders opportunities and "teachable moments" to discuss the Catholic faith in a non-denominational atmosphere. Instead of having to defend the Church, young people are put in an environment in which they can ask questions and receive answers as well as support in their Catholic faith.

