

# Minnesota Catholic Youth Partnership



A **FOUNDING  
OPPORTUNITY**



“I SENSE THAT THE  
MOMENT HAS  
COME TO COMMIT ALL  
OF THE CHURCH'S  
ENERGIES TO A NEW  
EVANGELIZATION... NO  
BELIEVER IN CHRIST, NO  
INSTITUTION OF THE  
CHURCH CAN AVOID  
THIS SUPREME DUTY:

TO  
PROCLAIM  
CHRIST  
TO ALL  
PEOPLES”

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II



In the early days of his priesthood, John Paul II, then Fr. Karol Wojtyla, would lead groups of young people on retreats in the wilderness where they would celebrate Mass, kayak, pray, read and sing songs around a campfire.

The same energy that inspired JP II to take young people out of their ordinary lives to experience our Lord in the context of His grand creation, drives us.

**Our goal is to create a safe, fun, supportive environment where young people can have a life-changing encounter with Jesus.**

During the summer, we will offer young people a best-in-class faith camp experience. The rest of the year, the camp will benefit the Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul with a large, well-equipped facility to host retreats and science camps for youth and adults.



# THE NEED

For more than 2000 years, the Catholic Church has been the cornerstone of billions of people's lives. But as our society changes and the world becomes more secularized, the Church continues to grapple with the ever-changing belief systems of our youth. Social media, overt materialism, and addictive technology all further impact our youth in tragic ways. This has become even more evident in the mental health crisis that is gripping

our world. According to a recent study conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 57% of teen girls in the US felt "persistently sad or hopeless" in 2021. The rate of suicide among young people is startling as more teens have thought about or attempted suicide than ever before. Our kids are struggling and these sobering trends reveal that the very lives of young people are on the line.

## WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

We want to offer area youth a transformative encounter with Jesus Christ and build a legacy for our children and grandchildren. To do this, we need to give our children time away from technology and time to experience a beautiful natural environment where they feel safe, accepted, and encouraged. Here, they can meet other teens in a small group setting and be mentored by trained counselors who can make an impact in a way that can't be replicated elsewhere.



## SUMMER CAMP

At our camp, youth will pray, hear talks challenging them to respond to God's calling, see skits that inspire, sing inspirational songs, spend time before the Blessed Sacrament and feel God's grace through the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Mass, and learn to reflect on their experience in small groups with their peers.

To round out the camp experience, the campers will engage in high-adventure activities that not only enhance the joy in the experience, but also provide more opportunities to encounter God by testing their limits, surrounded by natural beauty. High ropes, archery tag and water activities all help youth embrace the camp environment, break down "walls" and build trust among the youth, counselors, and each other.

Combining a wealth of faith and fun opportunities helps young people experience the authentic love, joy and laughter that is central to our Catholic Faith.

In addition to summer camp, this space will be used for confirmation retreats, youth groups, and the Faith & Science retreats required by all Diocesan schools, adult silent retreats and much more.

Camp will offer daily Mass, daily talks pertaining to the theme of the week, Adoration, opportunities for confession, lake time and the chance to enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds the camp through the many engaging activities listed here.

### AMONG THE ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE TO CAMPERS:

- High- and low-rope challenge courses
- Vertical climbing wall
- Low ropes/team building
- Giant swing
- Zip lining
- Frisbee golf
- Wiffle ball field
- Field games
- Swimming
- Canoeing





# THE PLAN

We currently have a purchase agreement in place for a property relatively close to the Twin Cities that meets almost all of our requirements to offer the best experience to the youth who would come: natural beauty, plenty of space for activities, adequate housing and large gathering spaces.

By purchasing and renovating this property, our capacity would more than double, allowing us to open our grounds to over 2,500 boys and girls each summer, not to mention the hundreds of others who would use the camp throughout the year. What's more as owners, we would have the ability to create an environment that is perfectly suited to their needs.

This would fill a major need for the ministries like Extreme Faith Camp, NET Ministries, and others whom we have heard directly from about the struggle to find adequate facilities.

**We are seeking \$10 Million to cover the purchase of the property and enhancements.**

We have seen the rich tradition of summer camp experiences in our Diocese. This location will become the go-to destination for ministries seeking to address the challenges young people face and to allow them to encounter Christ.

## PROPERTY AMENITIES INCLUDE:

- 700 acres full of natural beauty
- 20 km of scenic hike-able trails
- Access to 2 natural lakes
- River access
- Athletic fields
- Tennis, basketball, pickleball courts
- Sand volleyball court
- Wide variety of housing options from 2-bedroom cabins to cottages sleeping up to 28
- 3 large dormitory-style buildings
- Space for large gatherings
- Full-service kitchen

## ADDITIONS NEEDED:

- Dedicated chapel
- Equipment for adventure activities
- Furnishings
- First year of operating expenses
- Activity barn







“YOU WILL  
KNOW THEM BY  
**THEIR  
FRUITS**”

**MATTHEW 7:16**



# THE RESULTS

According to a recent study, of the Catholics who remain engaged in the practice of their faith ten years after confirmation, **89%** identified that it was some type of "experience" like a camp, retreat, or conference that sparked their continued engagement.

We have seen this first-hand in the young people that have been attending camps for years and in the many lives that have been transformed by the camp experience.

## THE RIGHT PARTNERS

MCYP will be partnering with Extreme Faith Camp (EFC), who began in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Over the past 23 years, EFC has grown to deliver an unparalleled experience to youth. By partnering with them, we can offer a unique, fun and deeply prayerful experience to thousands of kids each summer.

Because EFC is local, campers will return to their home parishes and maintain the bonds they made during their week at camp.

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### ARCHBISHOP BERNARD A. HEBDA. ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

“I have been dreaming of the day when the youth of our Archdiocese will have the opportunity to attend a summer camp close to home where they can encounter Christ in the Eucharist, grow in their faith with other Catholic kids and make memories that will last a lifetime. I am confident that the Lord has so much in store for the thousands of young people who could become hopeful and joy-filled disciples of Jesus to go forth to evangelize their families, friends, and the world. How exciting!

I am encouraged to see how the Holy Spirit is working through those involved with planning for a local facility that would make that dream for a summer youth camp a reality, and how those efforts fit into our broader Archdiocesan hopes for youth ministry and discipleship as reflected in our Synod priorities.”



# OUR OPPORTUNITY

There are over 720,000 Catholics living in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. With 185 parishes and 87 Catholic schools, including 16 high schools, there is so much potential to reach more of our youth and adults. Add to that the many parishes and schools dotting the dioceses of St. Cloud, Rochester and Duluth, and our potential to engage thousands of youths each year is even greater. And, most importantly, interest in off-campus retreats and camp locales has proven to be extremely strong. We believe this project directly addressed one of the three key focus areas that came out of the recent synod conducted by our Archdiocese.

This is the best way we know of to reach and inspire young people. We have the opportunity to found an incredible new mission to do just that. This will be a place generations will look back on and remember the incredible experiences they had, thanks to the generosity of people like you. The experiences, friendships, and conversions that will happen here will have ripple effects throughout our diocese and throughout the world.

**WE HOPE YOU JOIN  
US IN THIS MISSION!**

Gifts can be made to the **Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota** and directed to the **“MN Catholic Camp Fund.”** Depending on your preferred method of payment, you may be contacted for more information.

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES	COST PER OPPORTUNITY
Grand lodge	\$3,000,000
Pine lodge	\$1,000,000
1 of 3 large dormitory-style building	\$1,000,000
Adoration chapel (seating 70)	\$500,000
Ice cream shop/coffee house	\$250,000
Athletic field	\$200,000
1 of 4 houses	\$200,000
1 of 5, 2-bedroom cottages	\$150,000
1 of 5 large duplex cabin (sleeps 28)	\$150,000
Beach	\$100,000
Climbing tower	\$100,000
High-ropes course	\$100,000
Big swing	\$100,000
Zipline	\$100,000

**FOUNDING DONORS:** Any contribution above \$50,000

*All donors will be commemorated on donor wall in entry way of Grand Lodge.*







**"THE HARVEST IS  
PLENTIFUL"**

**MATTHEW 9:37**



Catholic Community  
**FOUNDATION**  
OF MINNESOTA

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Youth Partnership**