

# St. Simon Parish Youth Council Charter

## Objective

The objective of the Youth Council at St. Simon Catholic Church is to be an advisory council to the Pastor in order to help provide direction to the programs, groups, ministries, and councils that serve the needs of, or are influential in, the spiritual and social development of the youth in the parish while bringing them into full communion with the church. The Council's effort is to help bring focus to the youth of the parish, engage them more fully into the life of their parish, and provide opportunities to help them put their faith into action. The long term objective is to create present and future leaders in the Church who possess a deep sense of spirituality and of God present in their lives. The Council works with the administration of the school, the leaders of the youth programs, the pastor, and the community as a whole to:

- Advocate for youth and the growing and changing spiritual needs of youth in the parish.
- Provide welcoming groups at every age for youth to feel a part of the St Simon Community.
- Provide opportunities for the development of a strong Catholic faith and a deep fulfilling relationship with God.
- Provide opportunities for involvement and leadership within the youth groups and the larger parish.
- Develop an understanding of and the integration of stewardship as part of their life as a Christians.
- Encourage adequate resources are devoted to youth by the parish for staffing, for training and for space allocation (ie. Center for Youth in Ministry).
- Collaborate with other parish councils and ministries for developing spirituality in our youth and providing opportunities for outward demonstration of faith via social justice & parish involvement.

## Membership

The Council should consist of a variety of parishioners to ensure all perspectives are considered in council decisions and recommendations. Council members are to serve a three year term with the exception of the students, who will rotate yearly. Each member should have a passion for or previous background in youth ministries. Council membership should include representatives from the following:

High School Parent  
Middle School Parent  
Children's Faith Formation Parent  
Scouting Parent  
St. Simon School Parent  
High School Student (one or two)  
Middle School Student (one or two)  
Young Adult  
Parent of Previous CFF/Middle School/High School Student  
Youth Ministry Director  
Children's Faith Formation Director  
St. Simon School Principal or Faculty Member designated by Principal  
Member from Clergy

<b>Areas of Responsibility</b>	<b>Council Owner</b>
<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the Parish Mission and Vision concerning Youth is established and communicated.</li> <li>• Review the Parish Pastoral Plan activities and provide focus on the implementation of the Youth Plan goals and strategies.</li> <li>• Assure collaboration and coordination among all youth programs and the schools to create an annual calendar of events for youth.</li> <li>• Collaborate with parish councils such as Outreach and Social Justice, Liturgy Board to assure opportunities are available for youth participation and spiritual growth.</li> <li>• Identify opportunities and communicate ways for youth and families to participate in youth and parish wide activities.</li> <li>• Recommend specific youth issues for parish wide action and support.</li> <li>• Assure our programs are in collaboration with Diocesan activities.</li> <li>• Solicit community for feedback on youth programs to ensure they are meeting the needs of youth and their families. (i.e. annual survey or other feedback methods.)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Education/Service</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate the parish and parish leadership regarding the growing and changing spiritual and community needs of youth.</li> <li>• Ensure faith formation activities and programs are supporting the spiritual development of youth within the Catholic faith and meet Diocesan Catechetical Standards.</li> <li>• Educate and promote service opportunities for youth and families within St. Simon Parish and in the broader community.</li> <li>• Help assure that visible youth leadership opportunities are evident in the liturgical, catechetical and service activities within St Simon Parish.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Chair will prepare agendas to be distributed to council members and pastoral staff for archiving. Council Chair will assure annual review of the Council Charter and Work Plan.</li> <li>• Council Co-Chair will prepare minutes and distribute to council and Pastoral Staff for archiving.</li> <li>• Provide reports as requested by the Pastoral Council summarizing Youth Council activities and annual plan progress.</li> <li>• Liaise with Diocese of San Jose as appropriate.</li> <li>• Participate in combined council meetings to ensure cross council communications.</li> <li>• Ensure youth programs are included on the parish wide calendar.</li> <li>• Provide communication to the parish about the activities of the council and youth ministries.</li> </ul>	