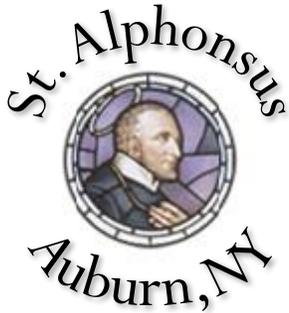


2016 ST. ALPHONSUS SUMMER SERVICE PROJECT

JULY 10-16, 2016

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

YPWC SUMMER SERVICE PROJECT

A week of Christian Service to the people in and around Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, in the northern Appalachian Mountains. Our program is especially designed for High School Students, at least 16 years old, and includes work, prayer, recreation, education, community, and mutual support.

This publication is meant to be a source of basic information about the project. Complete information is found in the Volunteer Packet.

Applications Due Tuesday May 31, 2016

Visit our YPWC page at stalphonsusauburn.org

Where, exactly, is Frenchville, PA?

Frenchville, PA is about 25 minutes outside of Clearfield, PA, on Route 80 in West-Central Pennsylvania. Since there is no direct route from here (those pesky Appalachian Mountains), it takes about four hours to drive there. Frenchville is in a region known as Appalachia.

What is Appalachia? The Appalachian Region is defined as the 13 states in which the Appalachian Mountain Range is located. It reaches from Mississippi and Alabama to the Southern Tier of New York State. Appalachia is a region whose people, for many reasons, are especially affected by poverty. Their poverty may be a lack of money, a lack of resources, loneliness, or just needing help around the house.



Bethany Youth Retreat Center
On a foggy morning



What is the YPWC Summer Service Project? The YPWC Service Project is a week-long volunteer experience especially designed for High School Students. It is a week of work, prayer, recreation and learning, all done in community with other parishioners, other volunteers at Young People Who Care, and the people we serve. Participants are housed at Bethany Youth Retreat Center in Frenchville (a ministry of Young People Who Care) and participate in service in and around Clearfield County.

What is *Young People Who Care*?

First, *Young People Who Care* (YPWC) is a rural Catholic mission which was founded in 1976 by Sr. Therese Dush, C.A. and her high school youth group from Pennsylvania. It started off with the purchase of a small farm in Frenchville, PA and is now a multi-ministry mission. In nearby Clearfield, PA, YPWC runs a shelter for women and children, as well as and a free health clinic right in Frenchville.



What is this Application Process I am hearing about?

Each person who wishes to be a participant in this year's *YPWC Summer Service Project* must complete a four-part application. Applications are available at www.stalphonsusauburn.org or at the YPWC display in the church.

What might a typical day look like?

The day begins at about 7:00 AM with breakfast

Morning Prayer

Travel to assigned jobs:

Volunteers are divided into groups each day. One group will stay at the center for the day doing “chores” and preparing the evening meal for the rest of the group. The other groups will travel to their job sites. Each participant will remain at the center for one day during the week. Weather permitting, we all spend some time in the morning in the blueberry patch. Blueberries are a “cash crop” that supports YPWC’s ministries.

In the late afternoon we return for:

A swim in the river, Dinner, Recreation

A “quiet hour” for reflection, prayer, journaling, or even a nap.

Evening prayer which might include the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, and we will have mass one night during the week.

A snack and, finally, well deserved sleep.

What types of jobs would we be assigned?

No two trips are exactly alike, but some typical jobs are

- visiting people in their homes or in nursing homes
- house cleaning
- washing windows
- painting (inside and out)
- yard work
- Indoor and plumbing repair (if we have the skilled people needed)
- building a wheelchair ramp or repairing steps
- One day “at home” cooking for the rest of the group as well as doing chores and odd jobs around YPWC.
- Most often, participants go to a different job site each day.



Who is the YPWC Summer Service Project for?

The *YPWC Summer Service Project* is designed especially for students in high school. Participants must be at least 16 years old and have completed their sophomore year, as well as those completing their junior and senior years. Prayer services, work tasks, and other activities are well planned so that high school students will be able to learn from them, appreciate them, and safely participate in them.



What skills do participants need to have?

First and foremost, participants must be willing to live in solidarity with the poor and in a community of faith with one another for a week.

Solidarity with the poor is experienced through living simply; that is, doing without some things that we may take for granted. For example, participants are not allowed to use phones, mp3 players, and TV during the week.

We also build solidarity by spending time with those who are in some way poor. We visit them, assist them in some way, as well as make their day and their lives a bit brighter.

Community is experienced in our cooking meals for one another, praying together, working with one another, and playing games together.

Skills that would be especially helpful might be: carpentry, roof repair, visiting elderly, working with people with disabilities, yard work, playing a musical instrument, house cleaning, a good sense of humor, a desire to serve and learn, etc.

Not only is the *YPWC Summer Service Project* a great place to use your skills, it is also a great place to discover and develop new skills. It



It may be the first time a participant uses a hammer, visits a nursing home, paints a room, helps plan a prayer service, cooks for a large group, or makes a home repair. There are always adults on hand to teach and assist in whatever experiences are new to the participants.

Adult participants are needed who relate well with high school students, can drive and have a reliable car available, and have skills that will add to the quality and variety of the week.

Some important requirements

Applications must be completed by those wishing to participate in *YPWC Summer Service Project*. Applications will be reviewed and then participants will be chosen.

Participants must be at least 16 years of age and have finished their sophomore year of high school, as well as those completing their junior and senior years.

Participants must be practicing Catholics.

All adult participants, who have not yet done so, must receive diocesan training in “Creating a Safe Environment” which is mandated in all dioceses in our country. We will be offering this training.

Everyone under the age of 18 must have completed permission forms and all participants must have medical release forms.

All participants must attend one informational meeting and both of our preparation meetings. The dates of these are at the end of this booklet.



I’ve heard we live “simply” while we are there. What does this mean?

Life at YPWC is different from the life that we typically experience. One reason we will live simply is because we want to live in solidarity with the poor. Another reason is that we recognize how some modern conveniences and technologies prevent relationships. So, there are no TV’s, cell phones, mp3 players, electronic games, etc. allowed. This creates an atmosphere that is

more conducive to conversations. Meals and snacks are hearty and healthy, but are simple. We don’t bring any of our own “junk food”, but there are snacks that we make while we are there.

Participants have one shower during the week, but there is opportunity to swim in the river. The water is warm, refreshing, and enjoyable.

Information Meetings

Every applicant must attend one of the following information meetings in St. Alphonsus' Rectory:

1. Thursday, May 5, at 6:30 PM (after the 5:15 Ascension Thursday Mass) in the Parish Rectory
2. Wednesday May 18 at 6:00 PM in the Parish Rectory
3. Sunday, May 22 at 11:15 AM in the Parish Rectory

Mandatory Preparation Events

There will be two brief mandatory preparation events:

Sunday, June 5 at 11:15 AM to 12:30 PM in the Parish Center Gym

And

Sunday, June 12 at 11:15 AM to 12:30 PM in the Parish Center Gym

And we will each participate in one free-will collection by standing at the exits of the Church to receive the free-will gifts of the parishioners on June 18 & 19, 2016

How much will it cost?

\$250 per participant, which includes everything *except* the cost of gas during the week, meals while traveling, and any personal purchases. There are some funds to defray the cost if needed. Please let me know if they are needed.