

**“DISCIPLESHIP 2020”**  
**EASTERN DIOCESE YOUTH RETREAT @ BLESSED TRINITY FALL RIVER**



2020 has been a year that no one could have imagined – the world has changed so drastically but yet our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continues to be that constant in our lives. Since we could not gather as planned at Camp Howe in Goshen, Massachusetts, Blessed Trinity in Fall River opened their doors to host Youth Retreat 2020. “Discipleship 2020” was the theme and more than 30 youth, adults, and clergy from five parishes across the Eastern Diocese gathered for a



wonderful, inspiring, and faith filled retreat. We also had Charles join us virtually while in quarantine prior to resuming college. This was our 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Youth Retreat and as one who has attended them all - the youth really needed this time in prayer, worship, fellowship, fun and faith to have some bit of normalcy in their lives as they prepare for who knows what in the upcoming school year.



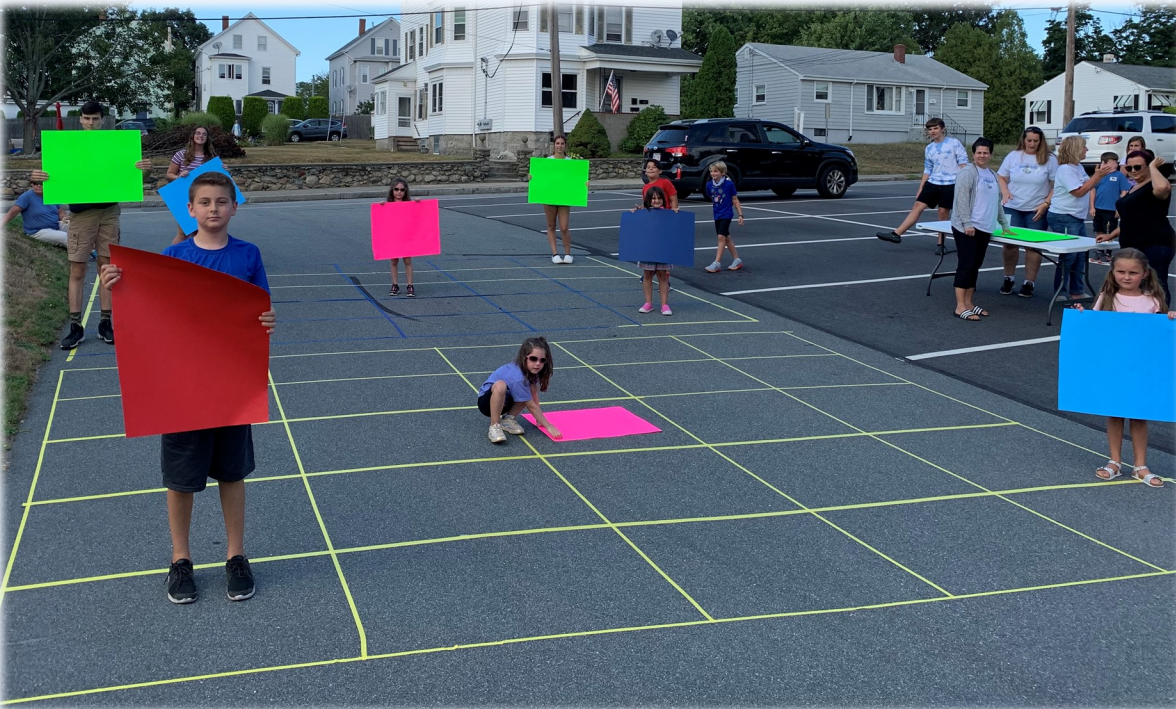
The retreat began with a prayer service on Monday, August 17, 2020. During this service, our diocesan youth retreat and PNCC flags were hung near the American flag in the air-conditioned parish hall. Everyone gathered for the opening session led by our diocesan youth chaplain, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich. After a quick overview of the retreat with a review of the retreat/camp rules and logistics for our three days together, Joanne Oliveira and Kathy Nemkovich (our amazing activity leaders for the retreat) led the group with some fun and exciting Ice Breakers— the Freeze Dance and Water Fill!

The First Session on St. Joseph: Protector of the Lord – Obedience, Trust and Patience was given by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich. Fr. Sr. Rob spoke about how St. Joseph accepted God’s will in his life and was the guardian and protector of the Lord – we are not sure who enjoyed the Saddleback kids video more – the youth or the chaperones. The session concluded with the song “Christ in Me” and reminded us to follow the example of St. Joseph “that is it not I but Christ in Me!”





Human Bingo was the next activity where spaces were filled with our youth when the correct answers were given to discipleship questions, questions about our Lord, His Church and our precious Catholic and Apostolic faith. This activity will become a permanent one going forward! Judge Julie had some tough calls with the bell ringers. Our retreat participants then enjoyed a Pizza Party from a local legendary establishment and in true Eastern Diocese Retreat tradition all the meat pizzas were the first to go!!



Time at a local beach was our first excursion of the retreat – once we all gathered at Grinnell's beach Fr. Sr. Rob spoke to the youth about Jesus walking along the sea and calling his first disciples – the fishermen. What





was striking during this sacred time is that besides our retreat group there was no one else on the beach except for just 5 or 6 fishermen. The youth then enjoyed walking the beach and of course climbing on the rocks out into the water and sitting in the lifeguard's chair.



# DISCIPLESHIP

2020

PNCC

EASTERN  
DIOCESE  
YOUTH  
RETREAT



BLESSED TRINITY PARISH - FALL RIVER, MA



We all returned to the parish to see the “Moo Mobile Ice Cream Truck”. Our ice cream social was sponsored by District 3 of the PNU. We were happy to have our District 3 Director Maryann Zarek and Vice Director Mike Zarek join us; the

PNU was well represented as our Vice President Kathy Nemkovich and PNU Board member Fr. Sr. Rob were a part of the planning of this retreat. Kathy and Fr. Sr. Rob also gave all the youth participants a discipleship themed backpack for their afternoon at the beach.





Our next excursion took us to some woods and a campfire with s'mores. Thanks to Matt and Jill for hosting us. After s'mores and time around the campfire Eric Nemkovich led the youth in several Classic Camp "Repeat after Me and Do as I Do" songs. And yes, the youth were all social distanced and outside – we of course heard from our *SMCP* as we always do when we gather in Jesus' name at Blessed Trinity even though we are outside! We then retired for the evening – some youth at their homes and others at a local hotel.



We also celebrated two birthdays during our Retreat - A Happy and Blessed Birthday to both Dylan and Dave who spent them with their Church Family!

Tuesday began with the celebration of Holy Mass for Youth celebrated by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich. During the Mass + Jason Fairclough was remembered in prayer (it was seventeen years ago that Jason lost his life as he traveled home from our youth retreat). We also prayed for Katherine Gnat as she is recovering from surgery (as Bishop's wife she was a part of our youth retreat program for 33 years and gave legendary sessions). During his sermon – Fr. Sr. Rob encouraged the youth to serve as an example of discipleship for others by the way they live their faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. After Mass we took our group picture with our 2020 Youth Retreat shirts (great job Paul Gorgol)!



Thanks to the amazing parents and grandparents at Blessed Trinity for providing so many of our meals for us during the retreat. For breakfast we enjoyed bacon, eggs, fruits, homemade muffins and more bacon. It was also wonderful to have good coffee during the retreat as well!

Kathy Nemkovich gave an amazing session on Mary and Martha of Bethany. Another instant classic of showing Martha and her interaction with Jesus distracted by so many things thus missing the most important one - Him. It was the first time many of us had seen curlers in her hair! The youth learned about the importance of Prayerfulness and Service and





this was reinforced with the activity that followed – the Priority Jar. We were reminded to prioritize the most important things in life and always make room for those, namely: Jesus, Faith, Family, Church, Love, Health and Friends to name a few.

The Canaanite Woman, the Gospel from this past Sunday and the theme for August in the Future Direction PNCC 2020 Program, was given by Cleric Justin Daviault. The Cleric spoke about the humility, persistence and perseverance of this woman and the great faith that she had. The youth then played a game “two truths and an untruth”. The questions were based on



discipleship, the Holy Scriptures and a confirmation review as many of the 2020 Blessed Trinity/Holy Cross class were present. We had two categories: the confirmation level and first communion level – what was great is how many of our younger youth took the harder questions and got them right! To God be the Glory as they are absolutely listening during Holy Mass, SOCL and at home!



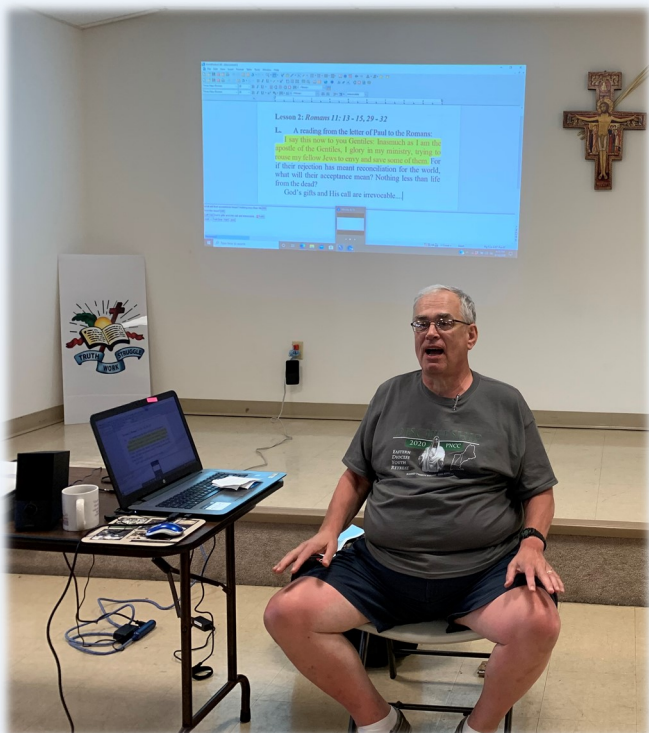
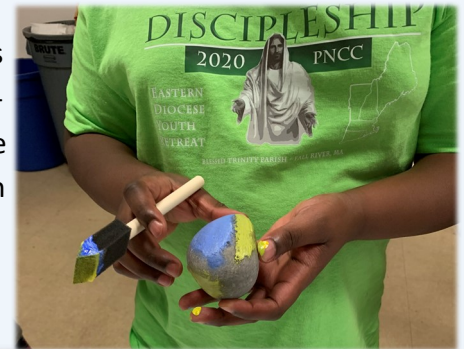
After some great Jersey Mike's subs for lunch, it was off for our excursion for the day to Horseneck beach. What a great afternoon we had where with the wind and earlier passing storms the waves were great and some of the kids were in the water the entire time. The sharks stayed away from us (about one mile or so as per local reports) as none of us looked very much like a seal!



After a few hours in the sun and waves we gathered back at Blessed Trinity for a great cookout of hot dogs, hamburgers and kielbasa. Thanks to our three great grill masters: Carrie, Eric and Matt! The homemade desserts were just delicious as well.



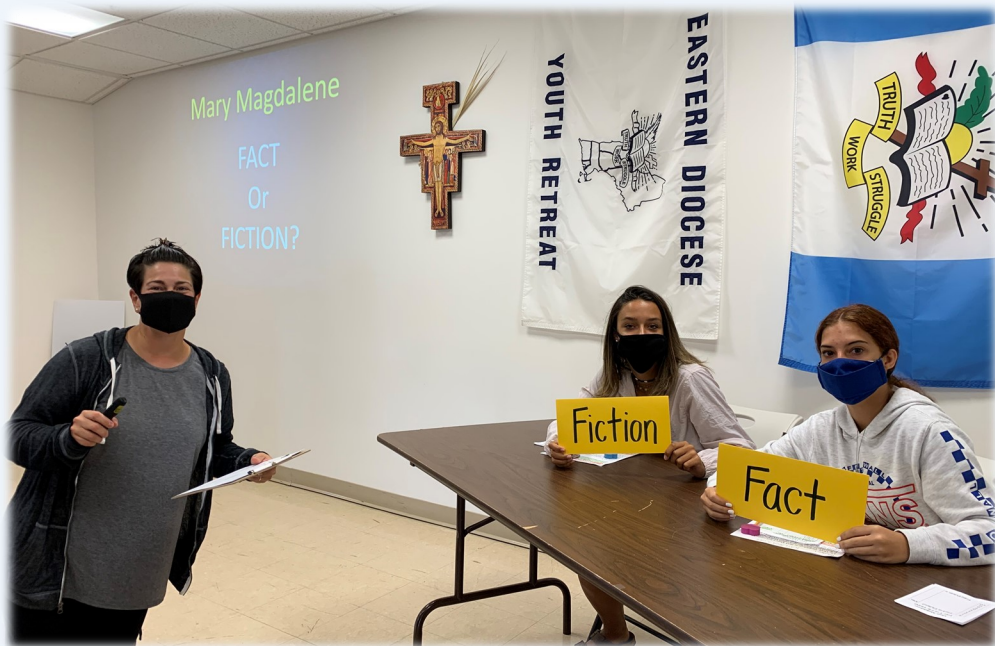
St. Paul was the final session of the day given by Bishop Paul. Bishop spoke to Paul's conversion and his great missionary efforts giving his life to Christ - exemplifying Repentance, Fortitude and Spiritual Endurance. The youth then painted rocks, some with great messages about our Lord and Discipleship. The day concluded with move night where we enjoyed the Little Rascals and plenty of popcorn.

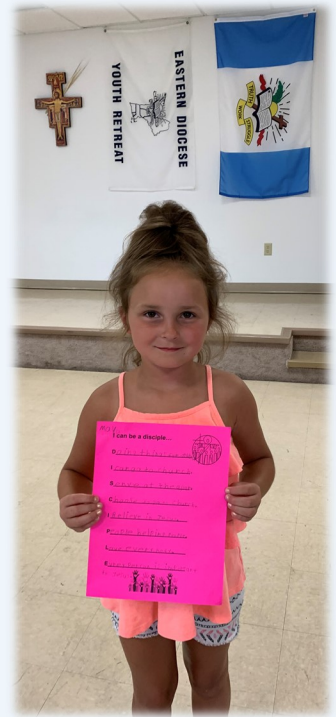
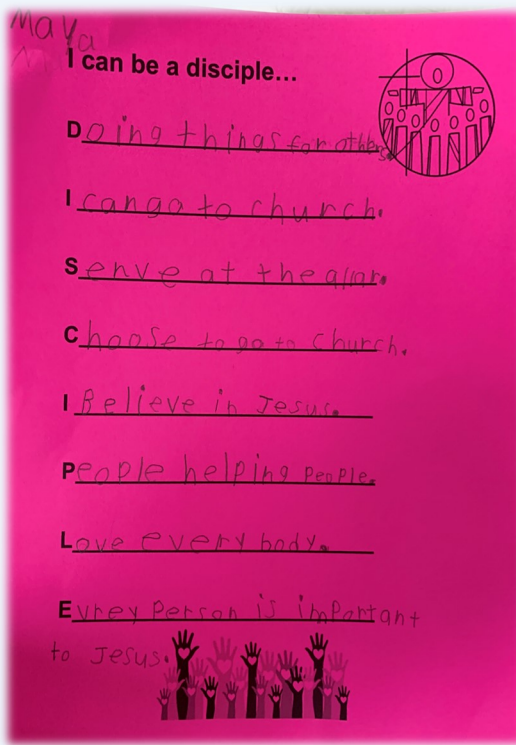
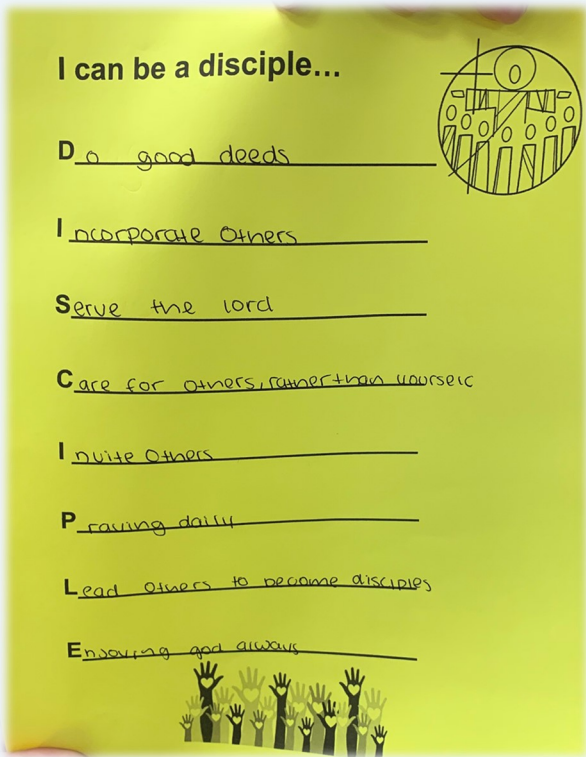




Our third and final day of Youth Retreat 2020 began with Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich celebrating Holy Mass of the Day. Thanks to Cleric Justin for proclaiming the readings during the Retreat Masses and the Blessed Trinity Altar Servers for serving “Camp style” – that is not vested.

After a great breakfast of Pancakes, sausage, bacon and some fruit, Julie McLean gave a great session with some from the confirmation class – Kaylana and Peyton. They gave a series of ten questions on Mary Magdalene; on her life and how she followed of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The youth received some special Jesus pencils and all got some great cross candy too! Great work Julie as you taught about Fortitude and Faithfulness!





The Discipleship Acrostic Activity was next – this again reinforced the entire theme for our youth participants. The youth took this very seriously and just did an amazing job. Our hope and prayer is that this is lived faithfully throughout their lives. Community Service was the next morning effort as our youth gave back to the city of Fall River that hosted this retreat. We cleaned up Father Kelly Park as well as islands on Plymouth Avenue. It was good to be a part of Fall River Mayor Paul Coogan’s City Wide Clean Up Program and make the city where we gathered for retreat better because we were here.

**The City of Fall River's Clean Up Competition**

**AUGUST 13TH- AUGUST 27TH**

Contact Elaine at the Mayor's Office with questions: 508-324-2500.  
Share your progress on social media with #CleanUpFallRiver.

**Step 1:** Form your group. It can be your friends, family, co-workers, neighborhood group, teammates, etc.\*

**Step 2:** Pick an area- a park, a street, your front yard. Take before photos. Spruce up your area!

**Step 3:** Take a picture of the final product. Email your before and after pictures to [mayor@fallriverma.org](mailto:mayor@fallriverma.org).

**Step 4:** Stay tuned! The photos will be judged based on group size, area size and the amount of change. Winners will be announced at our drive-in movie, August 28th at Durfee High School.

\*\*\*We urge all groups to follow Covid-19 protocol.

**PRIZES**

\$300 for first place  
\$200 for second place  
\$100 for third place





The 2020 Camp Spirit Award (this is given each year in memory of ✠ Jason Fairclough remembering his camp spirit and looking out for others) was awarded to both Peyton Oliveira of Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River and Zachary Richard from Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls. Their names will be added to the plaque and will be remembered at future diocesan Youth Retreats. Congratulations Peyton and Zack - well done!

At our last meal at Youth Retreat 2020 (Taco's) the participants recited the retreat grace as we did before each meal "For food and health and happy days - accept our gratitude and praise - in serving others Lord may we - repay our debt of love to Thee. Amen." Due to the ongoing covid situation we missed singing grace as we were inside. Bishop Paul gave his Apostolic Blessing to us as we departed Blessed Trinity for the last time.





The retreat ended with a trip to Battleship Cove in Fall River. Again, thanks to PNU District 3 for sponsoring this afternoon on the battleship where the kids enjoyed their time and had a blast even without firing the guns on the ships.





Thank you  
PNU District 3

Thanks are given to Bishop Paul, the session presenters: Kathy, Cleric Justin, Julie and Fr. Sr. Rob , our activity coordinators Joanne Oliveira and Kathy Nemkovich, to our Eastern Diocese Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Society for their generous annual donation to our retreat, to District 3 of the Polish National Union and to all the chaperones who gave of their time to make Youth Retreat 2020 an outstanding success. The youth were appreciative of the diocesan clergy who made an effort to be with them for time in prayer, learning, fellowship and fun – Thanks Bishop Paul, Fr. Sr. Rob and Cleric Justin.

A special and heartfelt Thank You goes to the parents, grandparents and some parishioners of Blessed Trinity for their amazing support to help with the logistics, food and expenses making the retreat so amazing: Thank You Joanne, Kathy, Julie, Bev, Joanna and Ryan, Nancy and Dave, Jill and Matt, Laurie and Eric, Carrie, Eric and Tom. On a personal Blessed Trinity note as your pastor it brings tears to my eyes and warmth to my heart to see your love and support for the youth of our parish and diocese – true discipleship in action. May God bless you all!

We are excited to announce our next diocesan youth event will be our Winter Youth Gathering that will begin on Monday afternoon, December 28 and end on Tuesday afternoon December 29<sup>th</sup> at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA. God bless, live as faithful disciples and we look forward to seeing you all again at Youth Retreat 2021 either at Camp Howe or Blessed Trinity.

**In Christ, Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich - Diocesan Youth Chaplain**

