



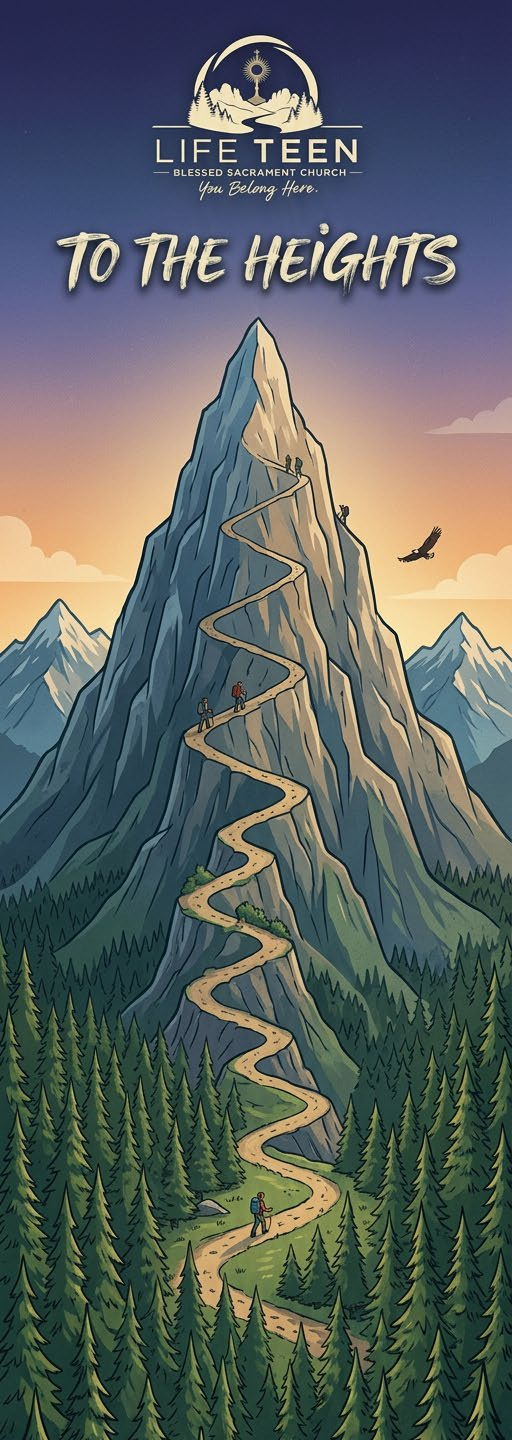
LIFE TEEN

— BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH —

You Belong Here.

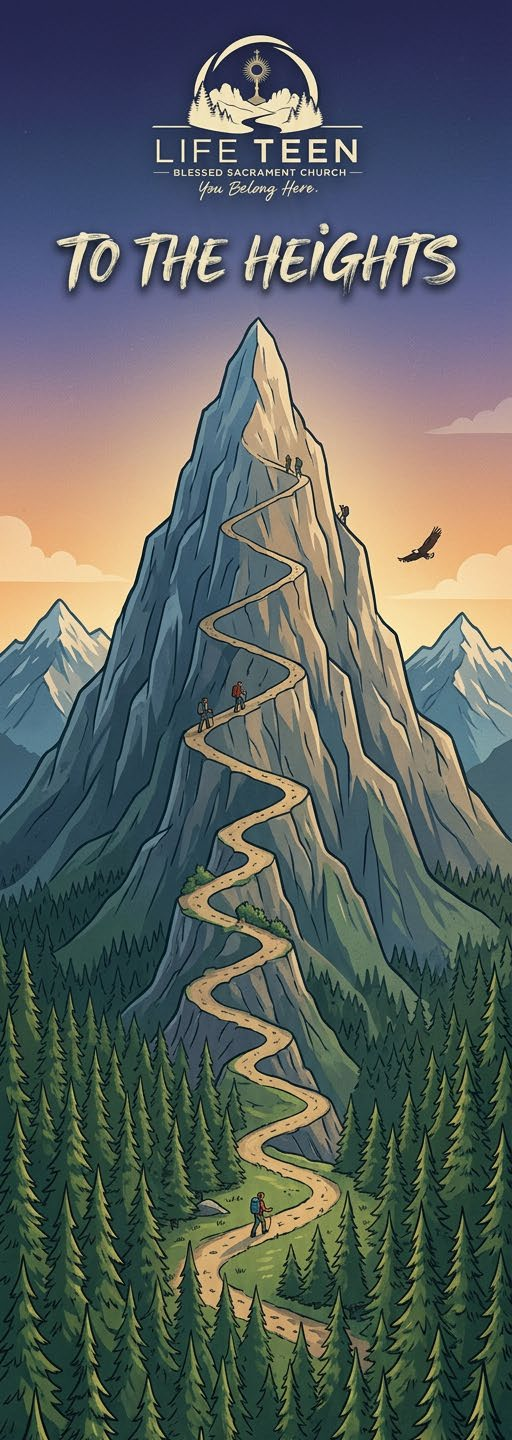
TO THE HEIGHTS





Welcome – You Belong Here!

- If you have not already, please take the handouts and schedules.
- While we are doing that, take a moment to introduce yourself to the people around you.

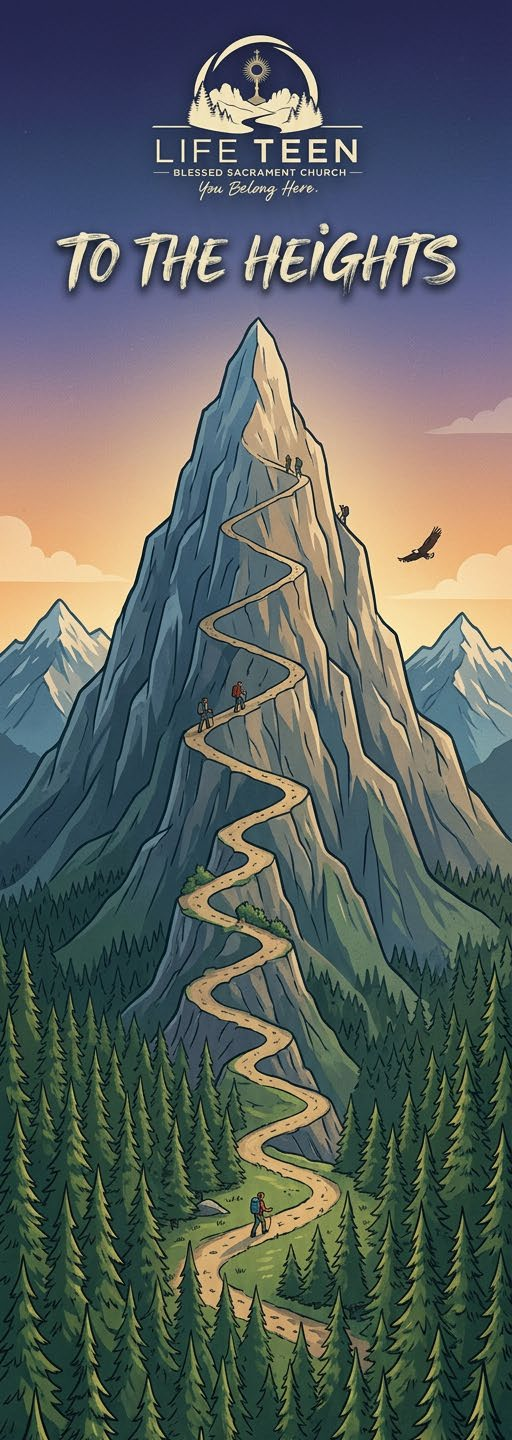


Opening Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and
enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.
Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created.
And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

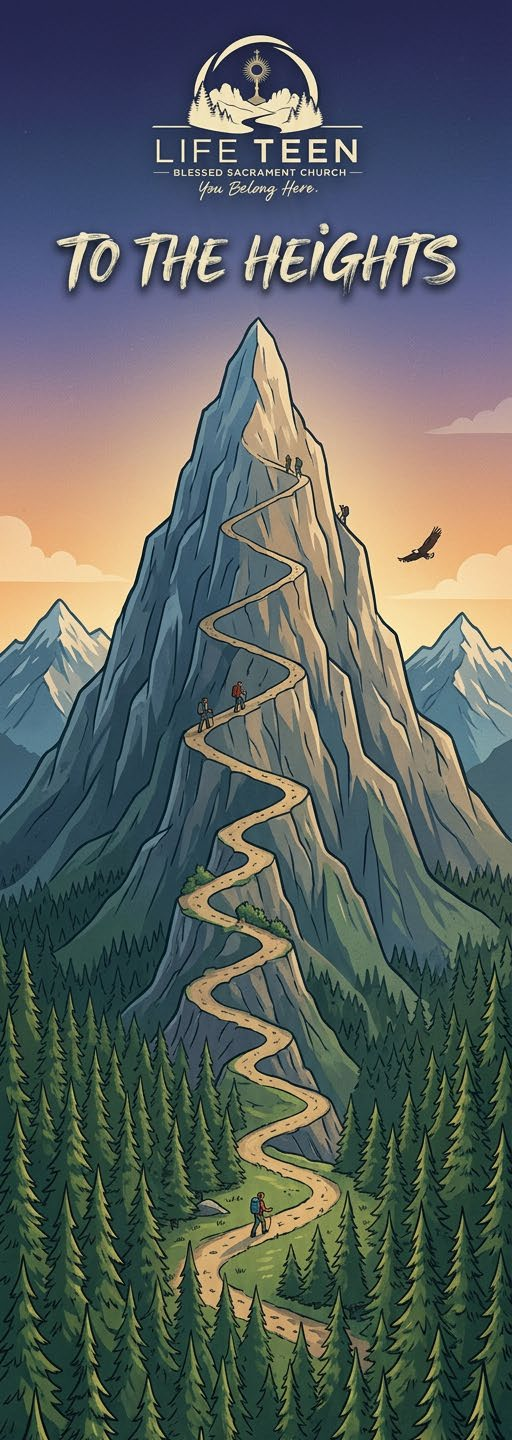
Let us pray

O God, Who didst instruct the hearts of the faithful by
the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us in the same Spirit
to be truly wise, and ever to rejoice in His consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



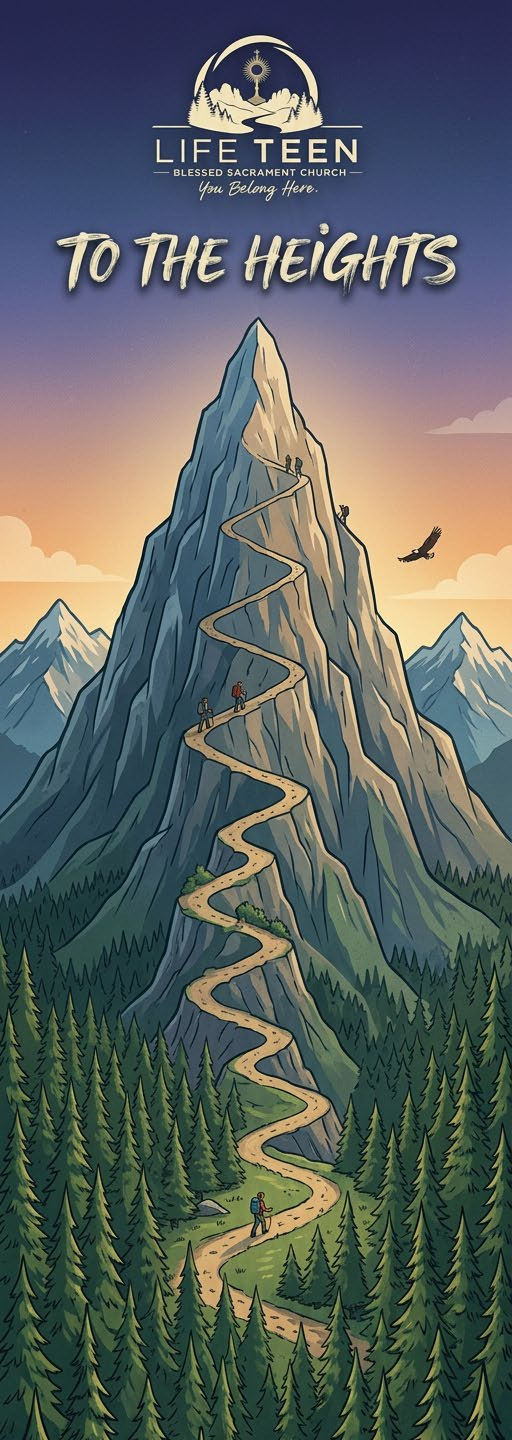
What is Life Teen?

- Life Teen is an expression of the life of the church for teenagers.
- It is a place for young Christians to mature into saints.
- It is a place for friends to share faith and values.
- It is a place for mentors to accompany the young in faith.
- It is a place to learn and explore the faith.
- It is a place to live Sacramentally.



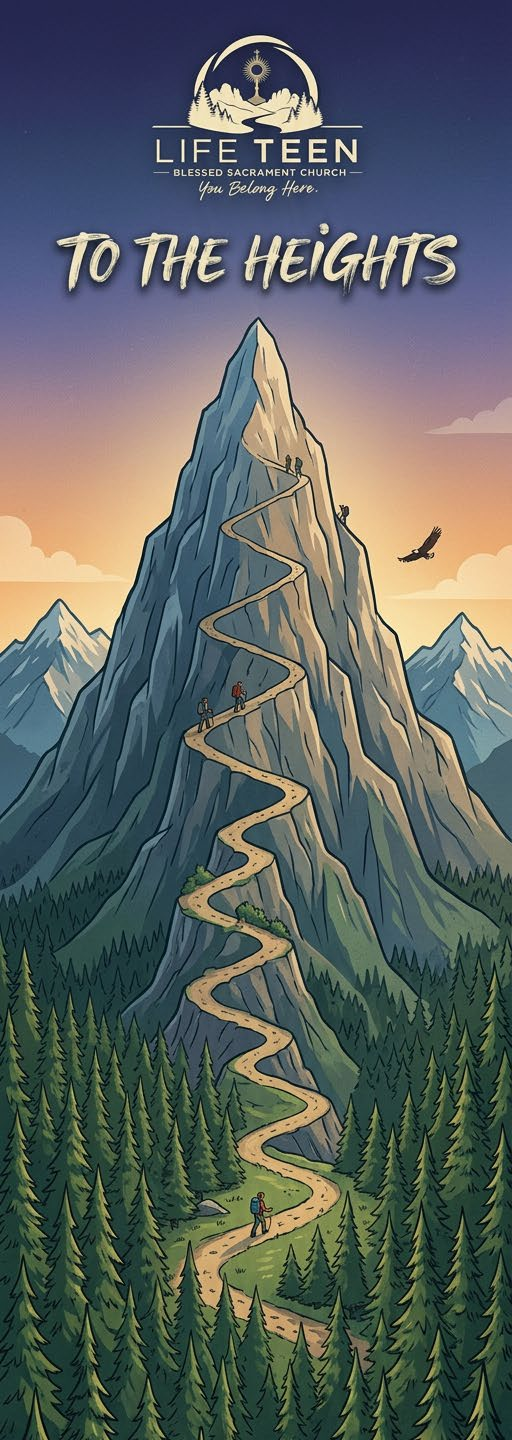
How does Life Teen Work?

- We follow the same format as the Mass:
 - Gather – (Ice breaker) Join together in faith as family.
 - Proclaim – Listen to a teaching, explore the Word of God
 - Break – Like the Road to Emmaus, we share with one another our life and experiences of faith.
 - Send – We always end with a prayer experience before being sent out to live and share the gospel.



Are There Different Types of Nights?

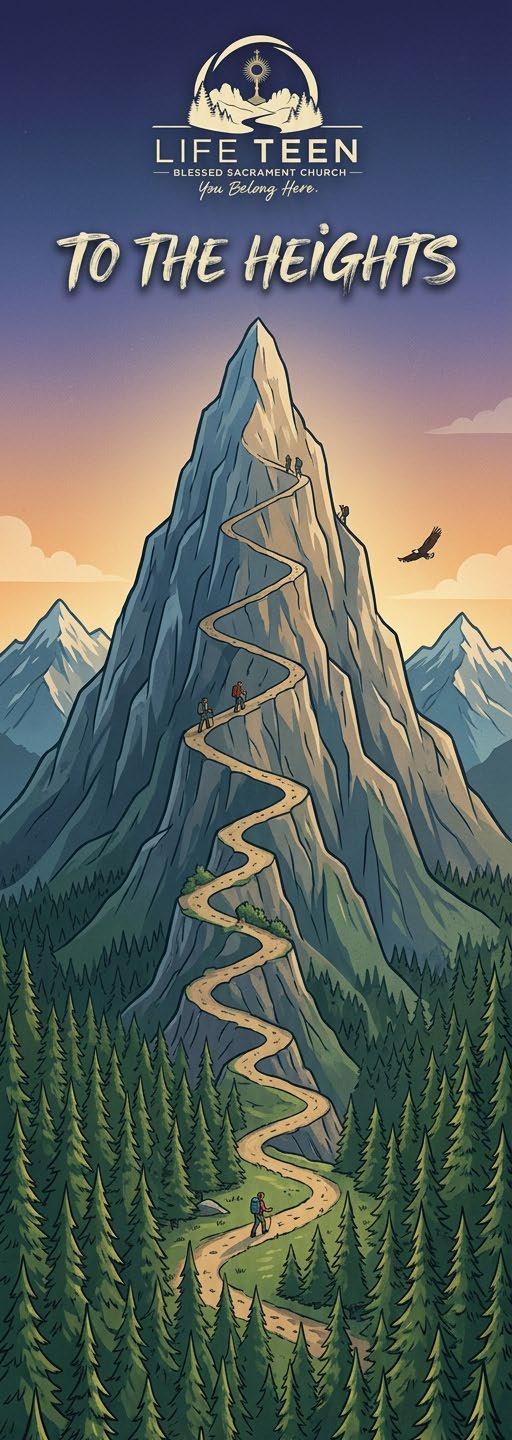
- Life Teen has three different types of Life Nights:
 - Themed Nights will follow the semester theme with a different angle each night. Each night stands alone, so missing a night doesn't put someone behind.
 - Social Nights – Nights designed for fun & fellowship – Christmas Party, contests, etc.
 - Issue Nights – Nights designed to take on more serious issues – Our safety Night in January is an Issue Night.



This Year's Themes

Fall – To the Heights





This Year's Themes

Spring – Road Trip



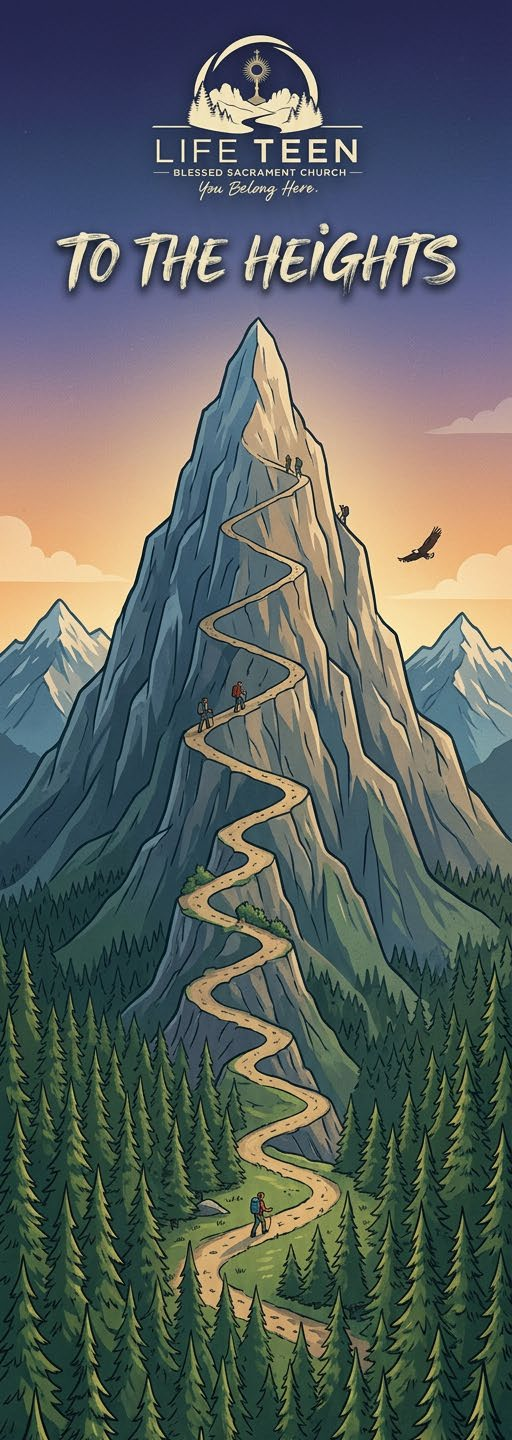


TO THE HEIGHTS



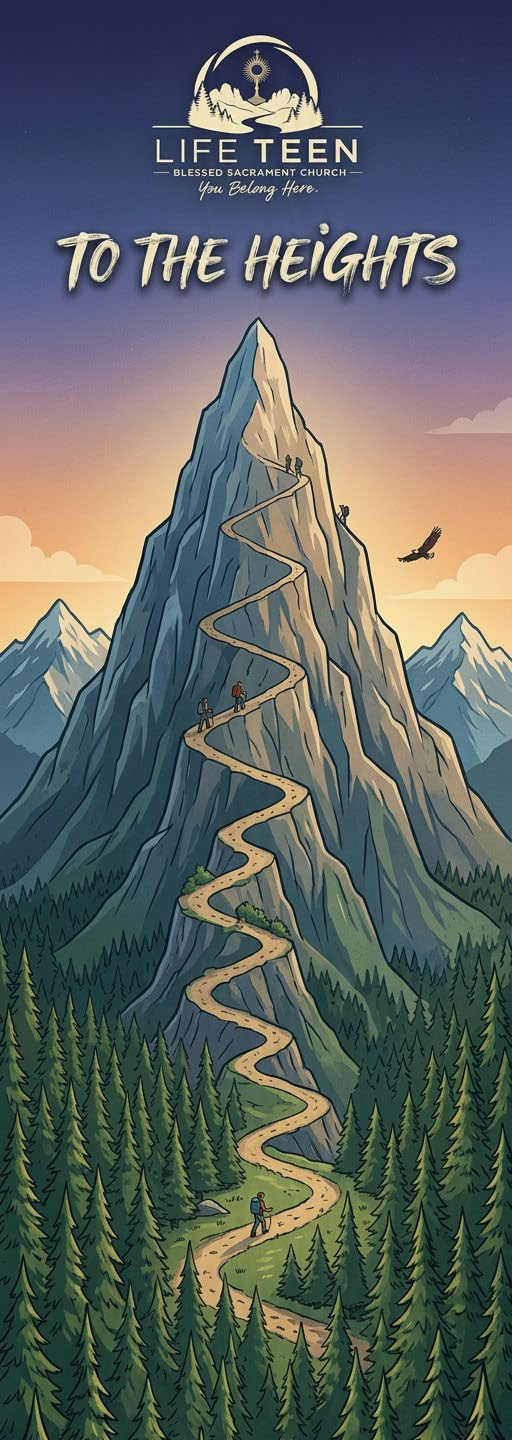
SNAC – A Weekly Social Night Sunday Night At Church





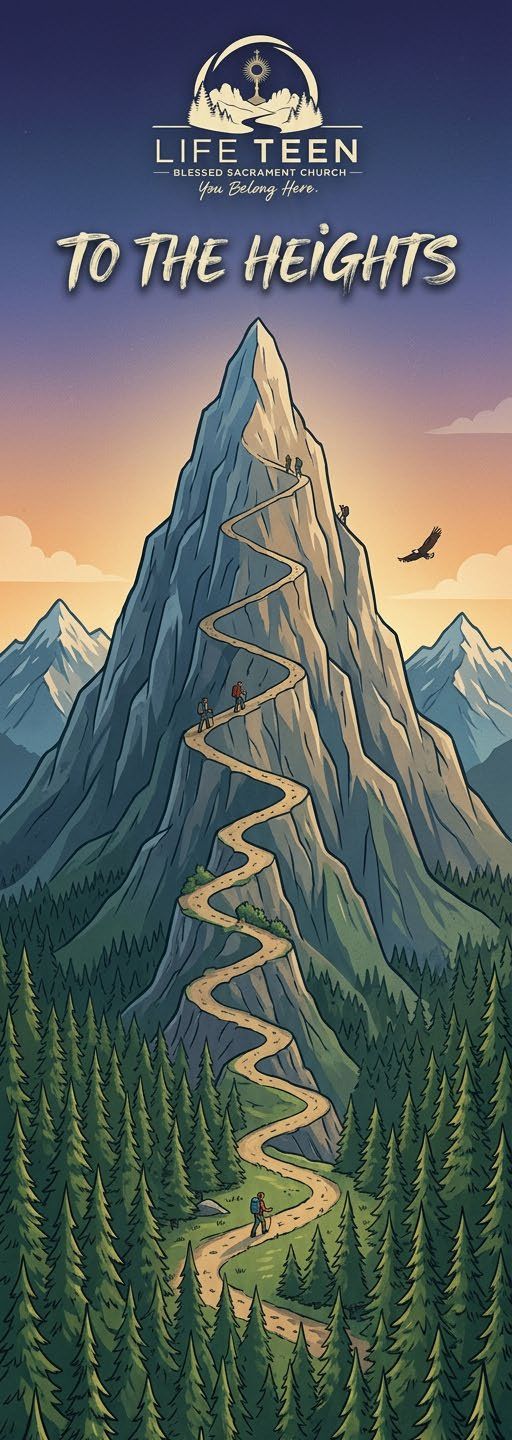
Present by Choice!

- We require Life Teen attendance only for 8th Graders awaiting Confirmation in October.
- We want the opportunity to for each kid to “Come and See,” so that they are making an informed choice for future attendance.
- The reason we don’t want kids “Forced” to be there is that voluntary and active participation is what makes the social environment work.
- Youth who do not want to be there will end up distracting themselves and others from the goal.



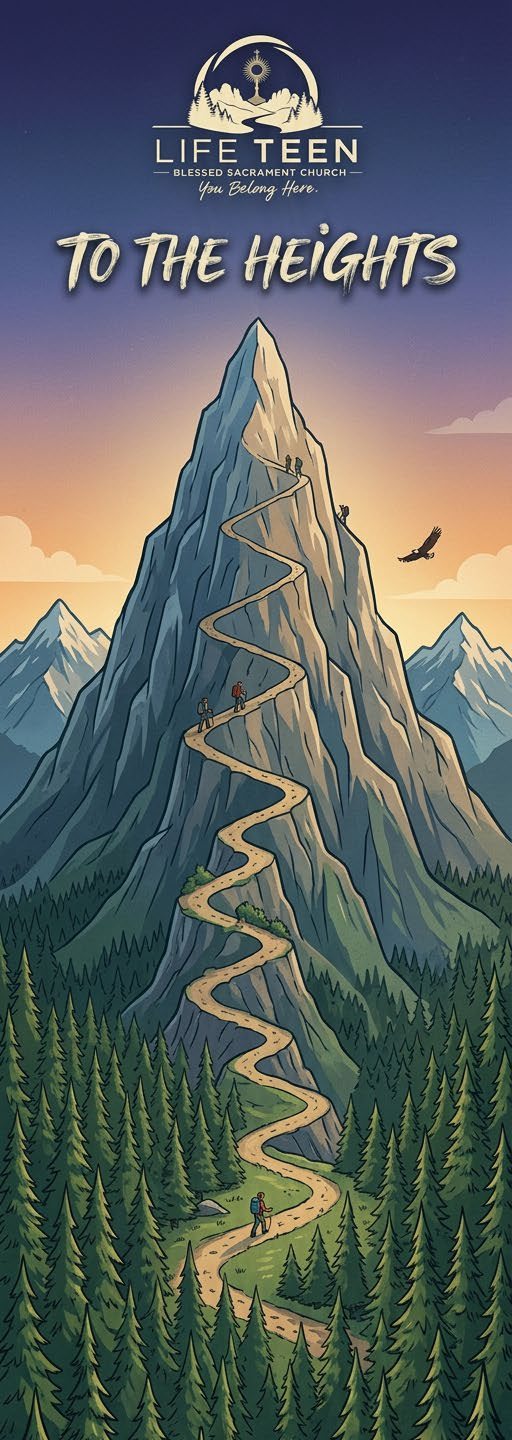
Discipline & Safety

- For this reason we have very few disciplinary issues in Life Teen; but they do occur.
- We use rapport, loving kindness, and gentle redirection.
- If a child is non-responsive to this method we will give them a specific and formal warning.
- If lack of proper participation ensues, the child will be sent out of the Life Teen.
- A second time sent out, we will inform and include parents in the conversation.
- A third incident will require a meeting for suitability of the child to the program.



Discipline & Safety

- We are mandated reporters if someone is threatening to harm themselves or someone else, or if they reveal abuse.
- We take this very seriously and we use reason, religion, and loving kindness when speaking to kids.
- It is wise to remind your children not to use expressions like “I’d kill myself,” as we will report this even if we are confident it was colloquial.



Breakfast Club

- As a part of our ministry to youth, we want them to be active in the sacramental life of the church.
- Therefore, we host breakfast club on Tuesday Mornings (Possibly Fridays too) where youth attend daily Mass @ 7:00AM and then have breakfast afterwards before heading to school.
- This is helpful for kids who go to Stevens as STM is on the other side of town.
- However, I'm sure if there is demand, STM students may coordinate to have Breakfast club there.

TO THE HEIGHTS



Confession

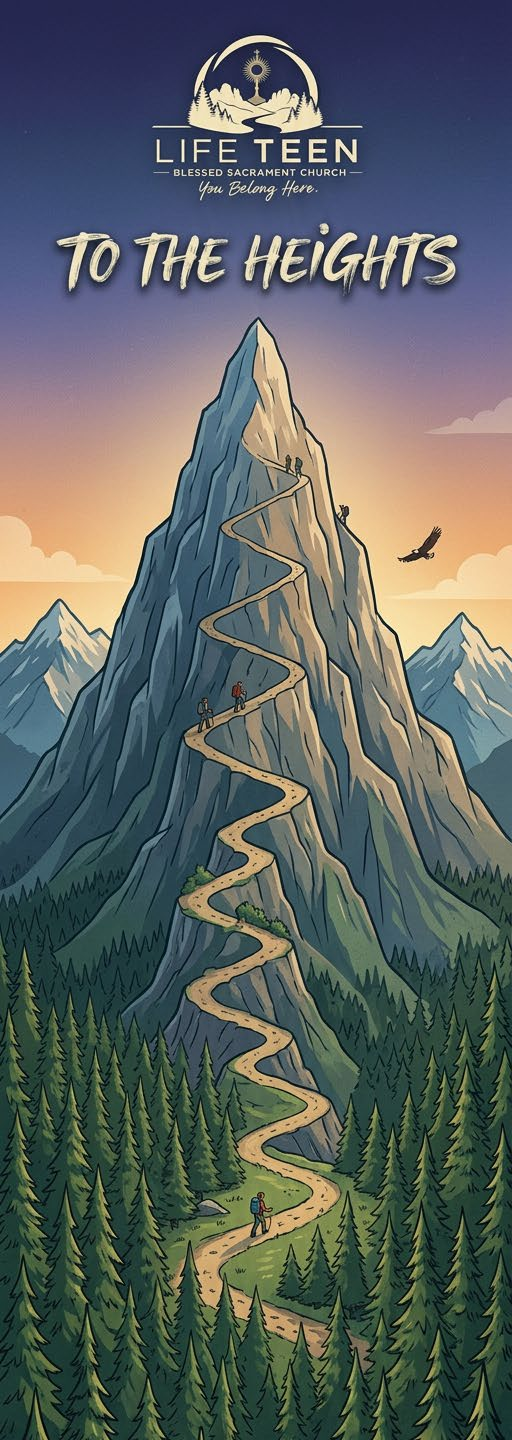
- The other essential Sacrament for youth to practice is going to Confession.
- As parents, encourage your youth to go and lead by example.
- This sacrament is essential for forming a conscience that is still maturing.
- When the habit is formed and the conscience is regularly informed by examination, it is a barrier to vice and a freedom to live in mercy and love.

TO THE HEIGHTS



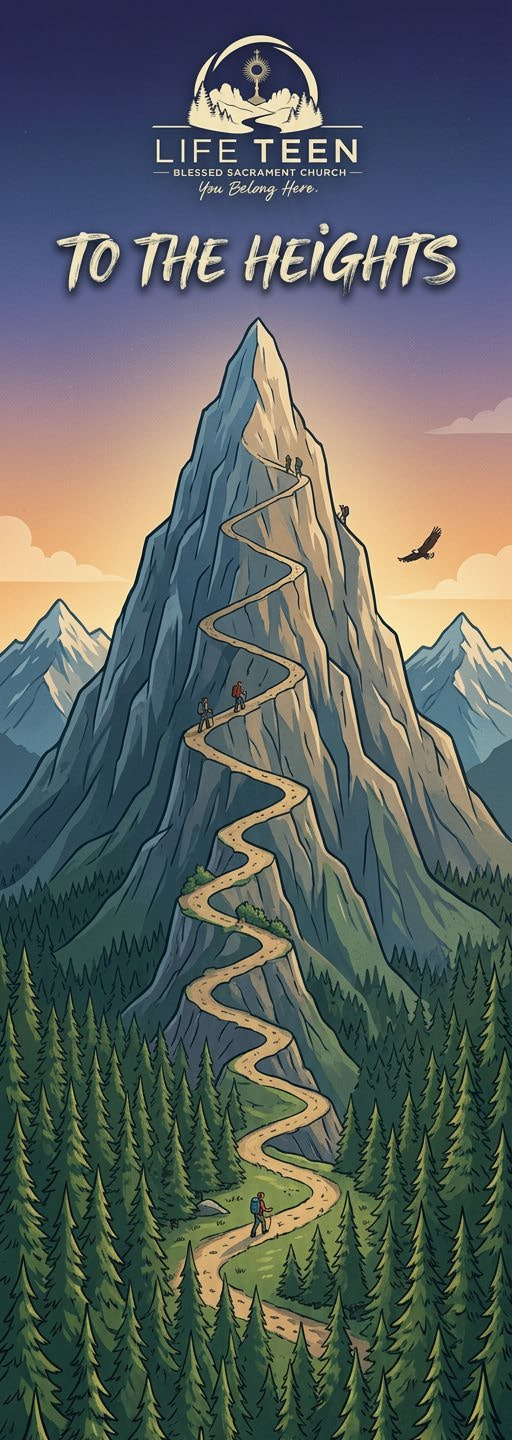
Adoration

- Eucharistic Adoration is one of the celebrated acts of piety of worship among our youth.
- I have to say, “Besides Adoration... What was your favorite part?”
- With our parish motto to “Facilitate an encounter with Christ” this pious devotion yields a lot of fruit.
- St. John Bosco used to say, “If you want a few graces, spend a few minutes before the Blessed Sacrament. If you want many graces, spend many minutes.”
- We include this regularly in Life Teen and now also include “Adoremus” nights through STM.



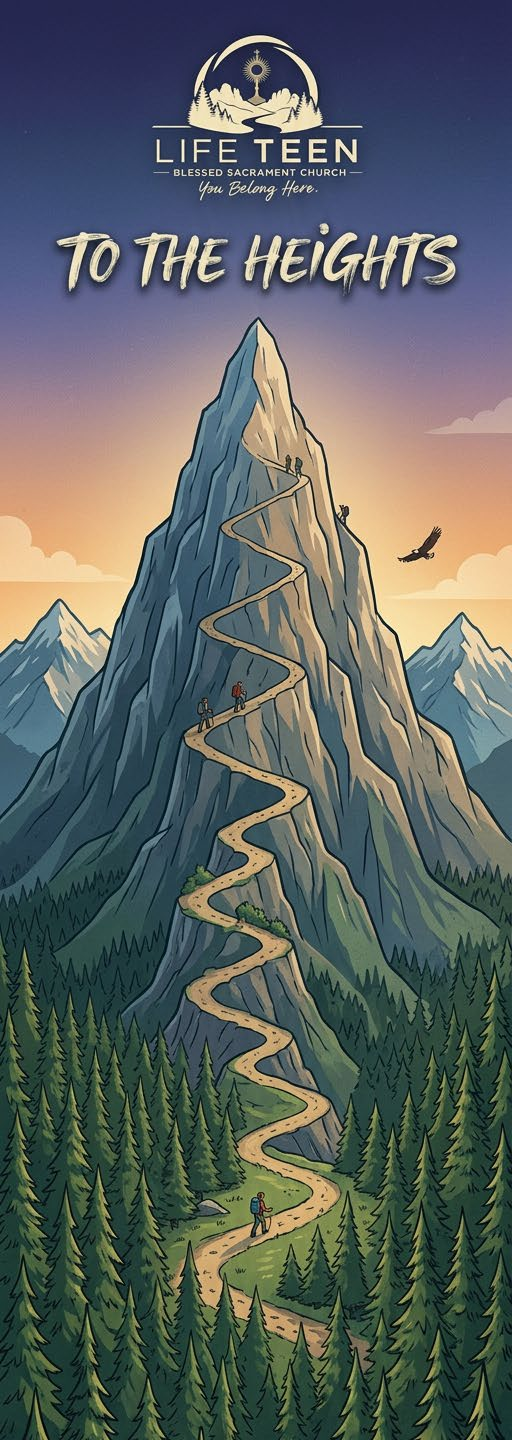
Retreats

- Diocesan Youth Rally – October 11
- Going Deeper Retreat – November 13-15
- Life Teen Lock In – March 13-14
- Covecrest – Summer 2027
- Steubenville – Summer 2027



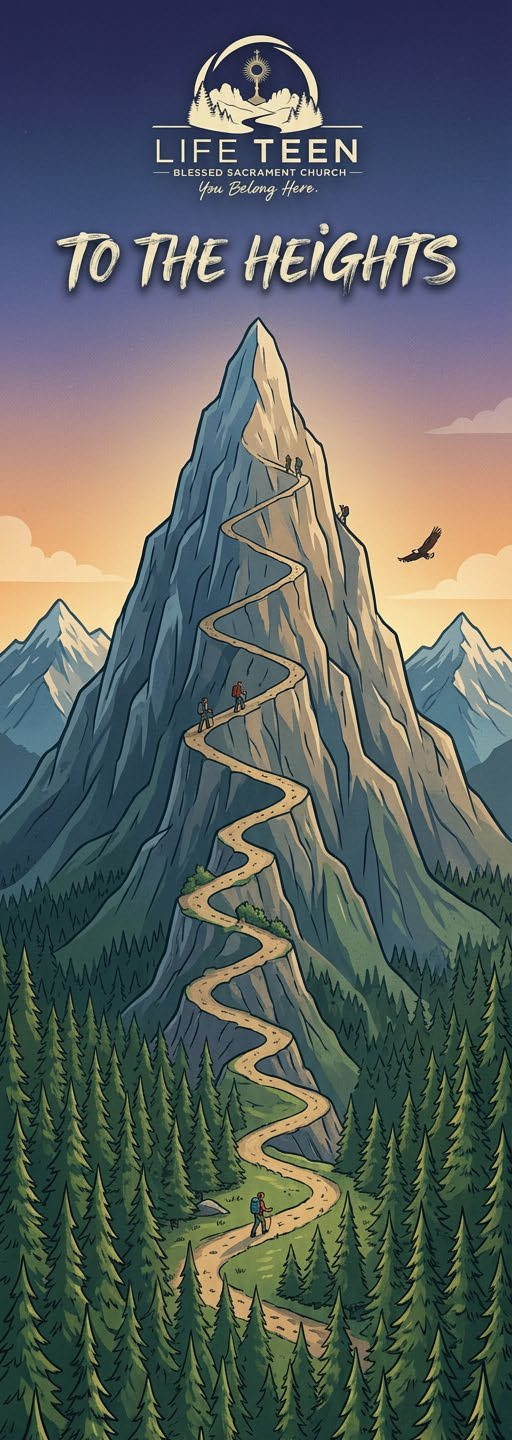
Retreats

- Diocesan Youth Rally – October 11
- Going Deeper Retreat – November 13-15
- Life Teen Lock In – March 13-14
- Covecrest – Summer 2027
- Steubenville – Summer 2027
- Totus Tuus Leadership – Summer 2027



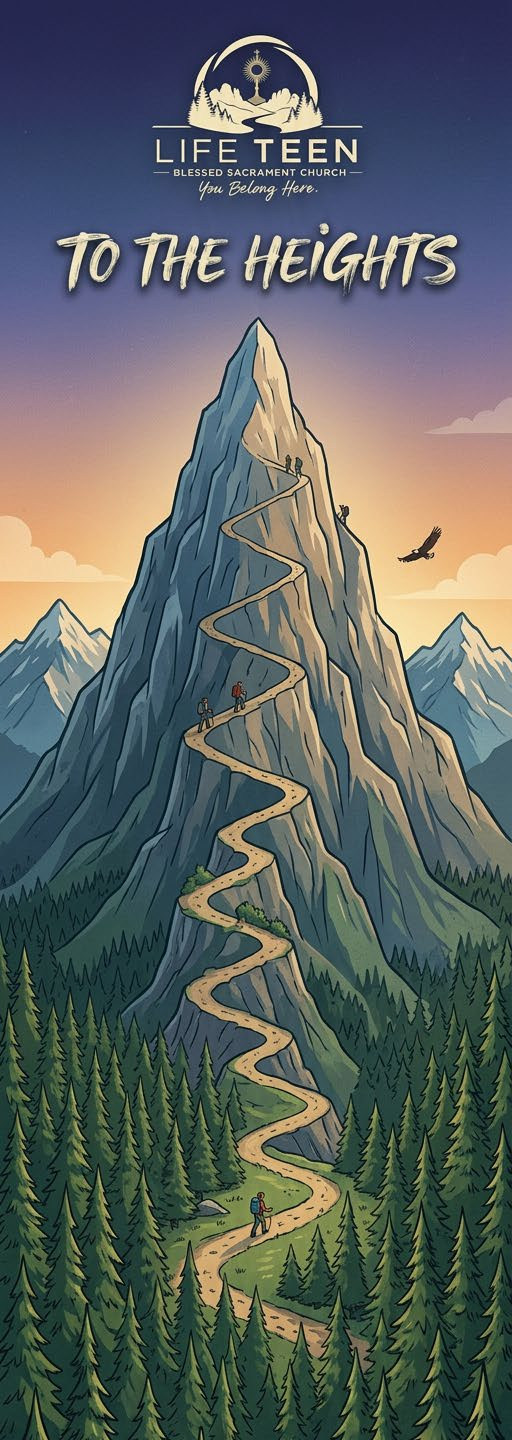
Rendicanto – A friendly Chat

- This year we are offering our youth the chance to have a “Rendicanto” or “Friendly Chat” with our Core Team Members.
- These chats were an effective tool used by St. John Bosco and those who followed him, to check-in with youth and also allow the youth to share what’s on their heart.
- This facilitates a more personal interaction, outside of small group, where a team member can offer a listening ear, a word of advice, or other simple mentorship.



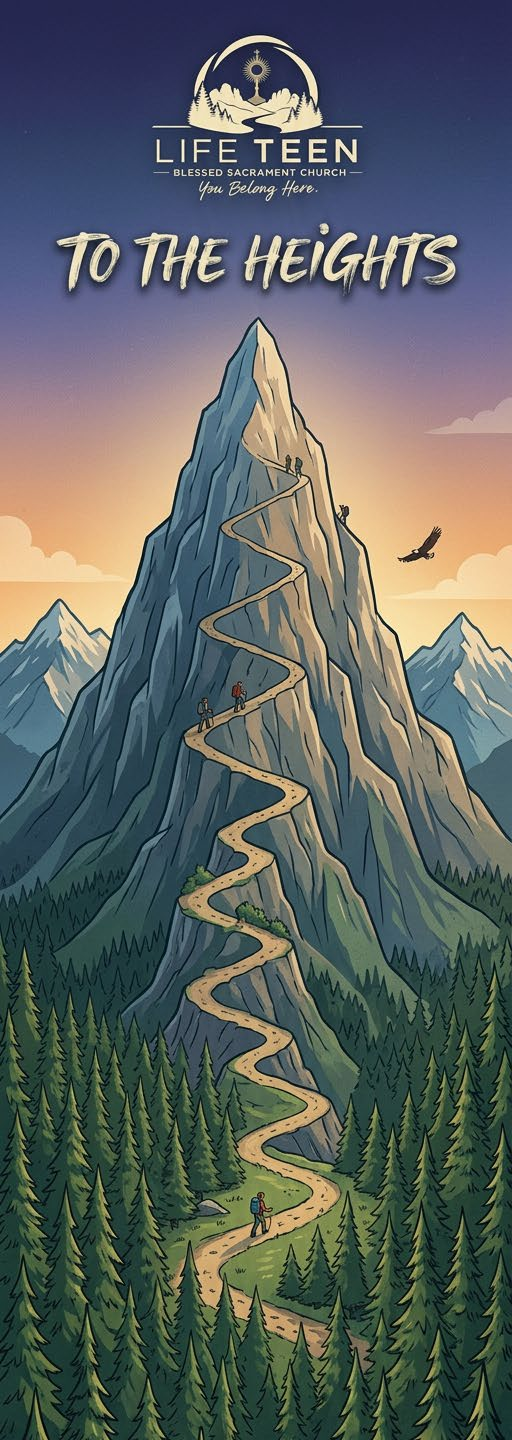
Rendicanto – A friendly Chat

- The formula for the Rendicanto looks like this:
 - Opening Prayer
 - General Discussion – Is there anything they would like to talk about? Is there anything weighing on their heart?
 - Human Growth – How is your health, family, etc.?
 - Intellectual Growth – How is school, hobbies, etc?
 - Spiritual Growth – How is your spiritual life?
 - Social Growth – How are you getting along socially?
 - Resolutions – What is an improvement goal?
 - Prayer Intentions – What would you like to pray for?
 - Closing Prayer



Snacks!

- One of the major elements of Christian Life is hospitality.
- Therefore, we like to provide drinks and snacks.
- As a parish we try to offer the Wednesday night meals.
- Please inform me if your child has specific allergies as we can provide “Safe Snacks” for your kids.
- Youth feel welcomed when the fridge is stocked, fresh popcorn, and warm faces greet them.



Youth Stewardship

- Middle and high school aged parishioners are “receivers” and are not really the givers.
- Our youth stewardship program is designed to begin building the habit of giving and receiving.
- We ask youth to donate their time, talent, and treasure.
- This year we have special envelopes for youth (and/or parents) who would like to practice giving.
- Any funds in these envelopes go directly to youth ministry.
- There will be a donation box in youth room for kids to contribute to the ever-growing “Snack Fund.”



TO THE HEIGHTS



Youth Stewardship

- If they are working, they choose to give a few dollars a week with an envelope at church.
- We also ask youth for their time and talent.
- Nothing brings me more joy than seeing our youth become regular Altar Servers, Greeters, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, etc.
- We also have youth work days where we take on projects to improve our youth room and supplies.
- Last work day we put together our brand new foosball table!

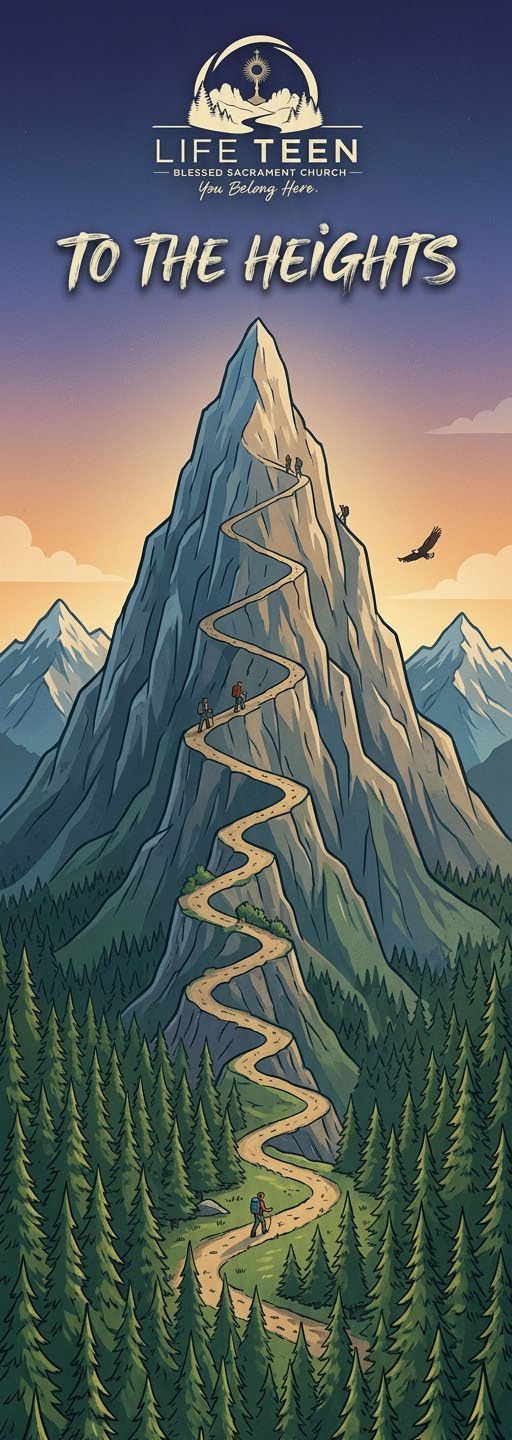


TO THE HEIGHTS



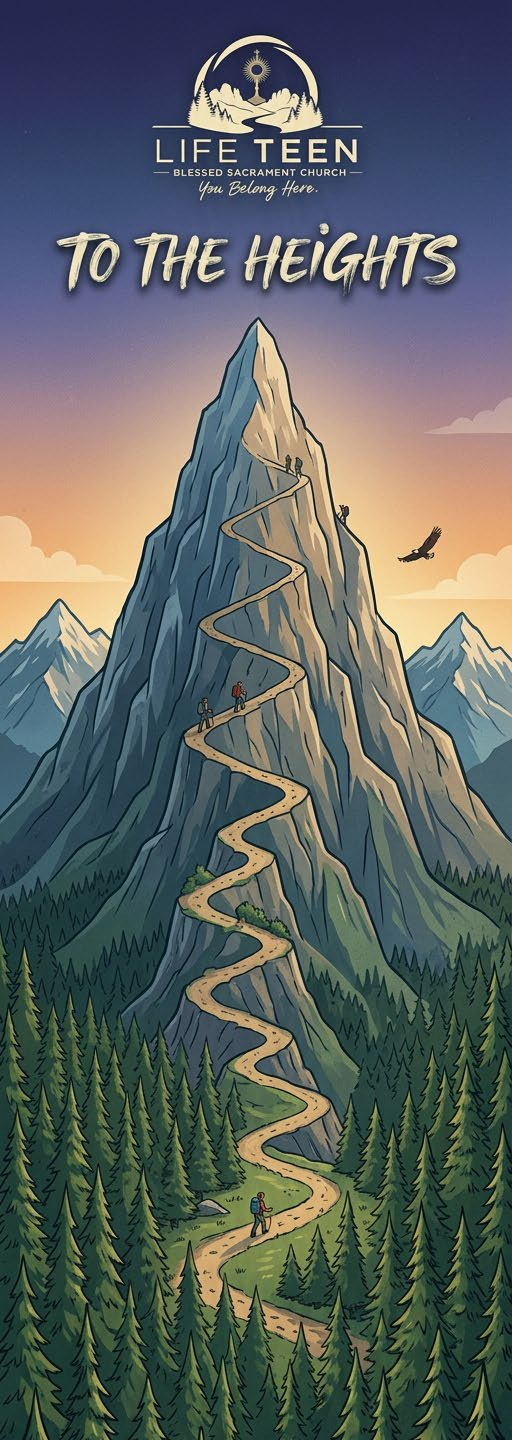
Youth Stewardship

- If they are working, they choose to give a few dollars a week with an envelope at church.
- We also ask youth for their time and talent.
- Nothing brings me more joy than seeing our youth become regular Altar Servers, Greeters, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, etc.
- We also have youth work days where we take on projects to improve our youth room and supplies.
- Last work day we put together our brand new foosball table!



Covecrest – Life Teen Camp

- This summer, we would like to return to Covecrest in Tiger, GA.
- Life Teen does camp right, from high quality ministry, good food, adventure, good housing, and a balance of activity and free time.
- Adventures include a mud run, white water rafter, ropes course, zip line course, and messy games.
- Ministry includes – Mass, Reconciliation, national speaker, Adoration, Lectio Divina, and more.
- Here is a preview!



Steubenville

- We join the rest of the diocese and go to either St. Paul, MN.
- This high energy week begins with a trip to Valley Fair amusement park.
- It is a conference packed with national speakers, great ministry, sacraments, and lot's of praise and adoration.
- The youth who went last year have given powerful witness to how God worked in their life.

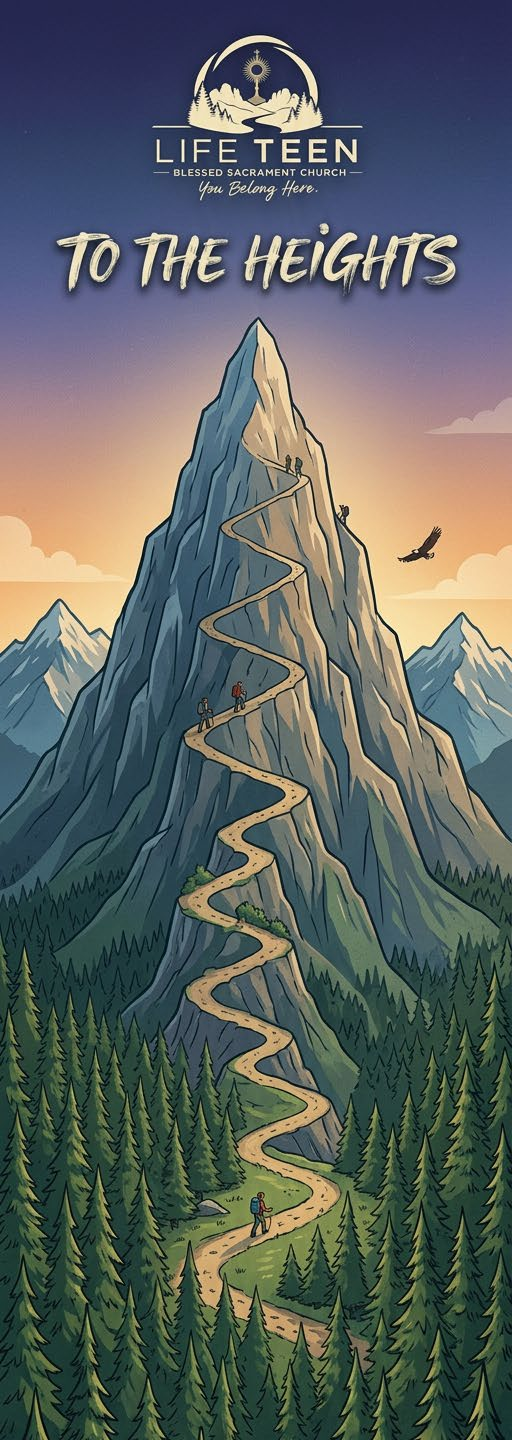


TO THE HEIGHTS



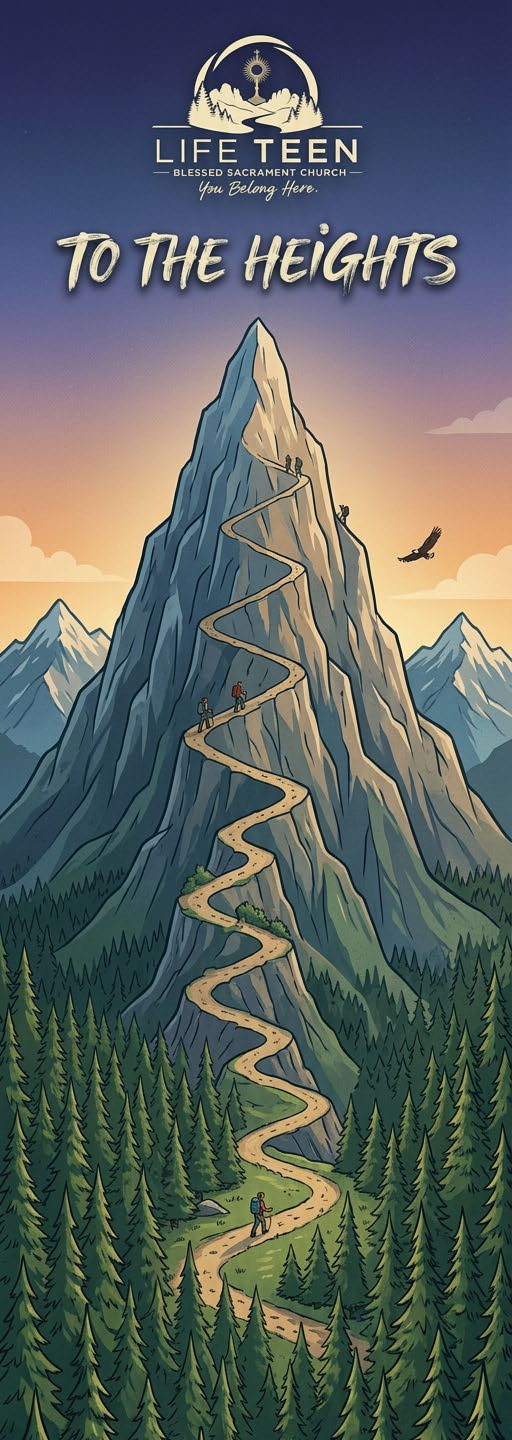
Fundraising

- Steubenville is about \$650 a person.
- Covecrest is about \$2000 a person (with airfare etc).
- If we are intentional about early commitment and regular fundraising we should be able to significantly reduce these fees.
- Our Goal would be to cut those fees in half.
- My duty is to coordinate the fundraising, it is for the youth and their families to raise the money.
- My favorite opportunity is raffles because, with donated prizes, the youth get every dollar they sell.



Commitment is Essential

- When we would run these camps twenty years ago, there was a lot more tolerance for youth dropping out. Unfortunately, now we just have to eat that money.
- It seems absurd to lock in spots in October for something in the summer, but that is how it works.
- The logistics is a job unto itself, and the price is contingent on the logistics which we can't assess without commitment.
- Adults go for free.



Closing Prayer

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be