**Here’s what the youth from St. Joseph’s in Penfield had to stay about this year’s Steubenville Youth Conference!**

Our 32 teens and 7 adult chaperones who attended the Steubenville Youth Conference on July 19 –21, 2019 had a wonderful and moving experience. We are so thankful to all of the parishioners at St. Joseph’s for showing our teens you care through your prayer and financial support.

Here is what some of our teens had to say about the Conference:

 “Steubenville was such a unique experience I will never forget. I had no idea what to expect going into it, and ended up enjoying it so much. It doesn’t matter where you are in your faith, it will impact you in some way. For me, Adoration was the most powerful and inspiring thing we did all weekend. I can’t even explain what I felt and the power the Lord has.”

 “I absolutely love going to Steubenville. The speakers are always really down to earth, and awesome people who genuinely love our faith and want to share it with everyone. The worship music is always a high energy, entire crowd involving experience. The entire weekend helps to deepen and strengthen my faith and connection with God, however Adoration is always most impactful to me.”

 “Even though I had my doubts about how much I would enjoy this weekend, all of it really pleasantly surprised me. The music and speakers were so powerful and inspirational and Adoration was amazing. It is an incredible thing to see and spend time with thousands of people with the same goals and beliefs as you. I really enjoyed it!”

 “I enjoyed how this year I allowed myself to do what was best for me instead of just following everyone else. I loved seeing my friends experience God in ways they never have before whether this was their first conference or they’ve been there multiple times.”

 “I cried.”

 “I have been raised Catholic my whole life, but I never felt a truly strong connection with God. That changed this weekend on Sunday especially, I felt like God was my best friend standing right next to me.”

 “One of my defining moments was being able to clear my mind during Eucharistic Adoration. I was able to clearly focus on God and His message during this time.”

 “My favorite part was during Adoration and how I felt the presence of God. I heard a voice saying that ‘God wants me to know that He loves me and that He trusts me.’ I am so thankful that I was able to experience that.”

 “At first I felt okay about coming on this trip—almost like I didn’t care. I went to Confession on Saturday and the priest told me to say, ‘Lord, here I am’ five times throughout the day. During Adoration I kept repeating it in my heart over and over again. I felt the Holy Spirit rushing through me and God’s love like how He died on a cross for me. Me. A sinner. And I just became so overwhelmed with emotion.”

 “This was the best year yet!”

 “I did not know what to expect going into Steubenville, and I can honestly say I was blown away. The music by far was my favorite part, because it was such a great way for me to express my faith, and hear all of the kids around me passionate about it as well. The Eucharistic Adoration was so powerful and made me feel so comforted by the love of God. This weekend helped me to reflect on the areas of my life that I want to work on, and find the strength in God to change them.”

 “Adoration is much more powerful in Steubenville because you are among thousands of teens who share your faith and you are set free in a way you never knew you could be. Every minute you can feel your soul getting closer to God.”

 “My experience this year was amazing! Nothing like the past two years. I felt as if God was talking directly to me. I want to grow deeper in my faith life.”

 “My experience at Steubenville was very unexpected and enjoyable.”

 “I am grateful for having the opportunity to go on this trip. I feel like I really experienced Christ this weekend and I feel more healed in my heart now. I love that it is so many people but everyone can have their own experience with God. Seeing how everyone was affected in their own way strengthened my faith and I look forward to sharing the impact of this conference with my friends.”

 “Adoration, knowing that God’s love is always there.”

 “One of my favorite experiences this weekend was Adoration. It was totally different than at church.”

 “This weekend was well needed for me. I just needed time to focus on my relationship with Jesus and strengthen it as I move onto the next chapter in my life.”

 “My favorite part of this weekend was the constant repetition of the theme that you don’t have to be perfect to be loved by God. The quote that Church is a hospital for the sick, not a hotel for the perfect, made me truly feel like I belonged.”

 “I loved watching my sister experience the conference for the first time.”

 “This year was a very different experience than my previous year. The first year I was very lost and had little faith so it was about me finding Christ in myself and learning about the love of the Lord. This year though I think it was about finding God’s love through my friends and just how awesome the fellowship of God is. Having recently been struggling to understand some bonds in my life, I really found the talks very helpful to navigate my own relations with people.”

 “My favorite part was the music. I’ve always loved Christian music and listen to it constantly, and play for church on Sundays. But while we were praying and in Adoration, I sang louder than I ever have (I can’t sing) and really focused on the lyrics… I didn’t feel much during Adoration, but mentally felt the beauty, overwhelming, reckless love of God in Jesus Christ. This feeling combined with Reconciliation, and singing my tone deaf heart out allowed me to be fully immersed in Jesus’ beauty. I felt connected and peaceful while singing, and didn’t care who heard my bad voice. It was utterly amazing and spiritual, like nothing I’ve ever imagined.”