

"Providing Moments of Encounter to Awaken and Strengthen Young People's Relationship with Christ"

Letter from the Executive Director

As part of our monthly staff meeting, each member of our staff has the opportunity to share a story in which they experienced a "moment of encounter." Each month I am touched by the stories that are shared. Many times the stories surround a conversation with a complete stranger, at the coffee shop, on an airplane, at a conference, during a phone call, or in the grocery store. And almost always these encounters happen around the mention of the Steubenville Youth Conferences.

One such encounter happened during my recent trip through the Minneapolis Airport. I was purchasing a cup of coffee at Caribou, and I gave the barista my Caribou Perks number. She said, "Amy Cummings, right?" I replied, "Yes." She said, "Do you by any chance know Brett "Yogi" Cummings?" I laughed and said, "Yes, actually, he is my husband." :-) She proceeded to tell me how she had heard about the Steubenville St. Paul Conference from him and that she is planning to volunteer at this summer's conference. She then shared with me that her grandmother had recently passed away and that morning she had lost her wallet. She asked me to pray for her, and she wrote her name and number on my receipt. I think the man behind me in line wasn't particularly amused by all our "God" talk, but Chelsea and I had a "moment of encounter" that was deeper than my ordering a Mint Condition with milk chocolate, skim milk and no whip! These encounters require us to stop, pause, listen and engage others. These encounters are not by chance; they are little God-appointments. We just don't have them on our calendars.

The conferences and events that we have been organizing for over 17 years have made a difference in the lives of thousands. Young people are choosing lives of holiness because of their personal encounters with Christ. Our events give them opportunities to pause and reflect as well as to help them figure out what is really important – and to listen to what God is saying to them.

We would like to hear your "encounter" story. What impact has the work of Partnership for Youth had on you, your family, your parish, and your community? If you feel moved to offer your moment, please write to me to share your thoughts at amy@partnershipforyouth.org.

In Christ,

Amy Cummings

Amy Cummings
Executive Director

"REVEALING" OUR IMPACT

Since our founding in 2001



42,000
YOUTH
SERVED



51
DIOCESES
SERVED



19
STATES
SERVED



#Steubie18



REVEALED

1 John 4:9

SUMMER 2018

WHAT TEENS ARE SAYING ABOUT STEUBENVILLE CONFERENCES

"It was last summer when I met our Lord and Savior in my heart. My Catholic youth group and I were at the 2017 Steubenville Conference in Rochester, Minnesota. During this lovely, holy weekend we worshiped, we listened, we learned, we danced, and we cried - joyful tears. During adoration, an intense time of worship and praise, I spoke to the almighty God, one on one. He spoke very slowly and gently. Before this day I did not feel too great about myself. I felt used, lonely, and numb. During this heart-wrenching moment I will never forget these five words that He said to me. He said, "Sally, let me love you," and I replied, "yes." I said yes to God and to his plan for me. From that day on, my life had changed for the better. I believe that the Holy Spirit has taken a dwelling in my heart. I had never experienced anything like that moment before Steubenville, but ever since that weekend I talk to him daily, experiencing similar peace, love, and joy."



Sally - New Prague, MN

WHAT TEENS ARE SAYING ABOUT FRANCISCAN LEAD

"While I was on Franciscan LEAD, I met some awesome people. I had a great experience with daily prayer, having conversations with Jesus, and praying Lectio Divina. None of the LEAD participants had the schedule for the week. Every once in a while someone would ask "what are we going to do next?" Everyone on the LEAD team would say "just trust me!" After a while when someone would ask "what's next?" the LEAD participants would say, jokingly, "just trust them!"

So on the last day of the retreat, during personal silent prayer time, I was praying about what would come in the future. Asking questions like "Lord, what do You want me to do with my life?" College? If so what college? What will I study at college? Do you want me to become a priest? Or do you want me to get married? As I was praying about these things I got distracted, thinking about how funny it was when someone would ask the LEAD team "what's next?" and they would say "just trust me!" Through that distraction I feel like God was saying, "just trust me!" So coming out of LEAD, I knew I just needed to trust Him! He knows what He's doing."



Solomon - Rockford, IL



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