

## **PARISH LEADER & CHAPERONE INFORMATION**

### **LOVE BEGINS HERE**

July 11-16, 2017 – St. Augustine Mission, Winnebago

Session 2: High School

#### **LBH 2017 THEME: THIRST**

**Love Begins Here** provides all Archdiocesan high school youth with an opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ in a life changing way through a four day, three night, local mission trip where they live in Catholic community and continue His work on earth.

Inspired by the life and work of our patron, Blessed Mother Teresa, missionaries live a simple and beautiful life on Love Begins Here. We pray, serve, and have fun in community.

Love Begins Here launched in 2009 as an apostolate of the Catholic Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin. For more information about the mission and history of LBH, please visit:

[www.lovebeginsheremissions.com](http://www.lovebeginsheremissions.com).

#### **LBH MISSION MANIFESTO**

##### **Neighbors First**

We boldly take initiative to bring love to our neighbors, evangelizing with patience and joy. We are aware that when we close our eyes to our neighbor, it also blinds us to God. We encounter Him in those we serve. By putting God first in all we do, we live to serve others. Things of the world come last. We will find ourselves and come alive when we make a sincere gift of ourselves to our neighbors.

##### **Small things. Great Love.**

We work on a small scale with a larger perspective. No task is too small in the eyes of the Lord when filled with great love. We will aim for perfection in our work because our work belongs to the Lord.

##### **Missionary Disciples**

We are missionaries who work with passion, knowing we can bring God's love to our brothers and sisters who hunger. Love, in order to survive, must be nourished by sacrifices, especially the sacrifice of self. We refuse to settle for comfort and complacency, because we know each person is infinitely loved. We are the ones who enjoy life most, leaving security on the shore, on a mission to spread the joy of the Gospel.

## YOUTH MISSIONARIES

On LBH, we refer to our youth participants as “missionaries.” This helps the teens to understand and embrace their identity and calling to be missionary disciples in all places, at all times.

### **Youth Cost:** \$125

- Includes food, lodging, t-shirt, and other program materials
- All youth should register online at [www.archomaha.org/events/conferences/love-begins-here/](http://www.archomaha.org/events/conferences/love-begins-here/).

Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Since this is our pilot year, a very limited number of spots are available. The registration deadline is **Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> or until spots are filled**. We encourage you to register as soon as possible!

**Scholarships:** If you are in need of financial assistance, please secure a spot for your youth by registering them online and paying a \$25.00 deposit. After reserving your spot, please contact Jen Moser at [jkmoser@archomaha.org](mailto:jkmoser@archomaha.org) for information on available scholarship funds.

**Parish Groups:** We highly encourage parishes to organize a group of youth to attend together. All parishes with 3 or more teens must provide an adult chaperone(s) to attend and transport your participants. Please check to make sure there is enough room in vehicles for everyone from your parish throughout their LBH experience.

The ratio on Love Begins Here is 1 adult for every 5 high school youth. (Groups with 6-10 students must provide 2 adult chaperones.) If the majority of your missionaries are male, we ask you to please provide a male chaperone. Please contact Jen Moser at [jkmoser@archomaha.org](mailto:jkmoser@archomaha.org) with any questions or concerns.

A couple of additional notes:

- We are using an online registration system to help us keep the process fair and to cap registration when we reach capacity. This also helps reduce the administrative tasks during a very busy, event-heavy time of the year. We know this system has its drawbacks, but we are VERY appreciative of your understanding to make it work!
- We are happy to update you when a youth from your parish registers if you simply ask in advance! Please contact Beth Carlson at [bccarlson@archomaha.org](mailto:bccarlson@archomaha.org) or 402-557-5610.

**Individual Registration:** Youth may register individually to attend Love Begins Here. Please contact Jen Moser at [jkmoser@archomaha.org](mailto:jkmoser@archomaha.org) with any questions about individual registration.

## CHAPERONE MISSIONARIES

LBH welcomes adults 21 and older to serve as chaperones who help the teens make the most of their experience. We are especially interested in partnering with adults who are passionate about God, working with teens, and service work. Parish Group Leaders must insure that all LBH chaperones have completed Safe Environment certification. In the Archdiocese of Omaha, chaperones must also be 21 years of age and have completed Catholic Mutual's "Be Smart- Drive Safe" Defensive Driving Course in order to transport youth to service sites.

Chaperones are expected to live on-site during the week with the missionaries. They are to care for the youth 24 hours a day and be available to drive whenever needed.

We understand that it is a large sacrifice for adults to spend several days of their summer on the mission field, and we appreciate that sacrifice! Because middle school sessions of LBH take place within a shortened timeframe, we will not allow parishes to split chaperone duties between two or more people. Thank you for your cooperation!

**Chaperone Cost:** There is no registration fee for adults. We simply ask that parish chaperones pay for gas to provide transportation during the week and prepare to spend approximately \$20 on taking their car group out to get ice cream following service on one of the days. We suggest that parishes consider reimbursing their chaperones for these expenses.

**Chaperone Training:** Training resources (including videos and other documents) for chaperones will be made available at least a month in advance of the LBH session. **We cannot stress enough how important it is for chaperones to use these materials to prepare beforehand.** Your preparation will enhance the experience and enable you to make a greater impact on the lives of all the youth missionaries. If you have questions, we are happy to answer them!

**Chaperone Registration:** Chaperones can register online at:  
[www.archomaha.org/events/conferences/love-begins-here/](http://www.archomaha.org/events/conferences/love-begins-here/).

## **PROMOTION**

**You are excited about Love Begins Here.  
That is awesome.  
You may be wondering,  
“Self, how do I get my youth signed up for LBH?”**

### **STEP ONE - - SHARE THE MISSION**

Share the idea behind Love Begins Here with both teens and parents - local, life changing mission work; help others while learning about yourself and the faith. You can also encourage them to think hard about what Mother Teresa said to the world when she accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979: “And so here I am talking with you - I want you to find the poor here, right in your own home first. And find out about your next-door neighbor - do you know who they are?”

Blessed Mother Teresa did not want us to come to India to join her in service to the poor. She wanted us to begin right in our own backyards. Love Begins Here is the perfect way to do that.

### **STEP TWO - - SHARE THE EXPERIENCE**

Tell them - with confidence - that they will enjoy coming on Love Begins Here. There are many ways to do this. You could show them some of the many LBH films where they will see other teens having a lot of fun. Give out copies of the LBH Promo Books (which can be obtained by contacting Lisa Hunke or Jen Moser). These resources were inspired by the youth who love LBH, with their peers in mind. This may help them envision having the same life-changing experience. Also, use the suggestions for sample bulletin and Mass announcements we have provided (see below)!

### **STEP THREE - - SHARE SOME ADVICE**

You are wise. Probably beyond your years. Feel free to share any of the following and elaborate where necessary.

... Serving others really changes your life.

... In serving those in need, you are able to serve Jesus Christ and know Him more intimately.

... It's okay to miss \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank: a week of work, a baseball game, etc.). You are young, and you'll have plenty of other opportunities for these things. Take advantage of this opportunity while you can.

... The people who go on Love Begins Here are cool.

... If you or your family cannot afford Love Begins Here, no worries. Just contact Jen Moser ([jkmoser@archomaha.org](mailto:jkmoser@archomaha.org)), and we will help.

### **PRACTICAL WAYS TO PROMOTE LBH:**

- Publicize LBH in your parish bulletin, newsletters, on your website, and in the classroom. Make the dates available to families.
- Hang promotional posters around your Parish.
- Share the “Love Begins Here- 2017 Promo Film” ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L\\_0Eq4cmtWY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_0Eq4cmtWY)) created by the Diocese of Madison, WI with your Faith Formation classes and/or youth groups.
- Hold an informational meeting with interested young people and their families.
- Recruit chaperones. (The number of chaperones you need to provide is a minimum of 1 adult for every 4 youth. You also need to make sure you have room in vehicles for transporting everyone from your parish throughout their LBH experience.)

### **ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS:**

- Plan for “Car Group Bonding” style ice cream outings with your youth (see below).
- Hold a meeting with your teen missionaries and their families (and chaperones, if possible) about some of the specific details they will need to know about LBH. Agenda items could include:
  - Times/Locations of Departure and Return
  - Share Packing List
- Recruit others in your Parish to pray for your teens by name during their Mission Trips and for LBH, in general! Think about having them write notes to share with your missionaries during Parish Time each night.
- Pray daily for the mission of LBH, the Core Team, and the youth who are attending from your parish.

### **PRE-LBH PARISH MEETINGS: A LESSON IN CAR GROUP BONDING**

On Love Begins Here, we want to be very diligent about making sure that every youth missionary is individually loved and supported throughout the week. One element of the mission trip that ensures this will happen is our practice of forming car groups at the beginning of each week. A car group encompasses on average about one or two chaperones, youth ministers, or Core Team members, and three to four missionaries from different parishes. This group remains the same throughout the week and is the unit that you will travel with to each event throughout the week and do your service with every day. Each car group leader (the chaperone, youth minister, or Core Team) is responsible for checking in one-on-one with every member of their group every day as well as facilitating

community within their car group throughout their time together. One way we foster bonding within car groups is by encouraging car group leaders to treat their group to ice cream (or some treat) at some point during the week.

We would encourage you to use this idea as an opportunity to connect with your students before attending Love Begins Here by initiating a “car-group-style” hangout with the group of kids you will be bringing. Before the mission trip, create a time to get together with your youth. Contact them and let them know that you will be at a coffee shop or ice cream parlor where you would love for them to connect with each other and ask any questions they might have about the week.

For example, you could send out a group email to the youth and/or their parents:

“Hey y’all! As of right now all of you are scheduled to be attending Love Begins Here on July 17-20! First of all, I am super excited to serve with you; it’s going to be a blast! Second of all, I thought it’d be fun to meet up before we all go on this epic mission trip. With this in mind, I will be at Dairy Queen on Saturday, May 25 from 1pm-2pm. I would love to treat you all to some ice cream and share in each other’s excitement for LBH! Let me know if you can make it or not, peace be with you!

As previously mentioned, this is a prime opportunity to start connecting with teens before the mission trip; this will only add to the excitement and help prepare them for the week of service! Whether in the form of ice cream or any sweet treat we strongly encourage meeting your students in a group setting where they can spend time with each other before LBH.

## **EXAMPLE OF A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT**

Christianity is a call to love and a call to serve. We invite you to put your faith in action this summer and serve alongside other middle school missionaries through a local mission program called Love Begins Here. Inspired by Blessed Mother Teresa, Love Begins Here invites you to encounter the Lord in an intimate way through service, community, and fun.

- Open to youth entering 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades in the fall.
- Cost is \$100 to attend
- Held at St. Mary’s, West Point from June 4-7

“I really found myself this week and came alive with the joy I felt when I was serving others and gifting myself to our neighbors and those who are in need.” - First Year LBH Missionary.

Answer the call to serve this summer and come, be His light to the world. Find out more at [www.archomaha.org/youth](http://www.archomaha.org/youth), or contact (your name here) at (your contact info here).

## **EXAMPLE OF A MASS/RELIGIOUS ED. ANNOUNCEMENT**

Hey y'all (or insert any colloquial phrase that interests you here)! I just wanted to take a minute to share with you an opportunity for local service this summer. I'll be taking middle school students on a local service trip this summer with a program through the Archdiocese of Omaha called Love Begins Here. <<Insert a 1-2 sentence testimony of what you have heard about the program or why you would be excited to take a group. >> I will be taking kids to St. Mary's parish in West Point on June 4-7. If you are interested in learning more about Love Begins Here, you can reach me here <<insert multiple ways they can reach you>> or check out Love Begins Here at the Archdiocesan webpage. Peace be with you!