

## Youth Ministry Newsletter - August 2025

Six of our youth members recently attended our first retreat at Steubenville East in Massachusetts in late July. The experience was a great success, filled with meaningful moments and spiritual growth. We are hopeful that next year even more of our youth will have the opportunity to join this special weekend.

We are deeply grateful for the funding that helped offset the cost for families, making it possible for our young members to participate. Below, you will find reflections from the teens and chaperones who attended the retreat, sharing their personal insights and experiences from this memorable event in their own words.

### **Fatima (Chaperone):**

As a chaperone and parent at Steubenville East 2025, the experience was emotional, uplifting and encouraging. The teens were excited, fulfilled and enthusiastic about experiencing God's presence and truly invested in their faith by being fully present in the experience. It was a privilege and honor to share this event with them all.

### **Milly (Chaperone):**

It was a unique experience to see hundreds of young people gathered to worship the Lord our God. It was what filled my heart with hope. Personally, I learned a lot from each conference, but my special moment was the Eucharist, at each Mass, and during the hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Serving as a chaperone was a privilege to have that opportunity!

### **Taylor:**

Coming back to Steubenville was a dream come true. God was able to help me return to the conference with my old friends as well as my own youth group. Having my youth group join and meet other kids that I knew was amazing. All of us worshipping God and creating new experiences is something that felt calming and fulfilling.

Increasing my faith for God and learning more about not only him but myself was reflecting. Overall, I had an amazing time with my friends and glad that I got to create new bonds with more people this year.

### **Isaith:**

It was an experience that you could never see in your life. All the pride and joy of God in the presence of different people. You take in the experience of God and your presents to listen to you and making your Faith stronger.

### **Domenica:**

My trip was very nice because I felt God was there. I enjoyed talking with other kids my age and sharing our thoughts about God.

The best part was the concert where we sang to praise God. I also liked when they said God loves us because we are His children. My favorite moment was when the priest brought the body of Christ—I felt God hug me and be close to me.

### **Alejandra:**

The Steubenville trip was a truly unforgettable experience that exceeded my expectations. At first, I had some doubts as the conference began. I wasn't sure what to expect or if I was ready for what would happen. Seeing so many young Christians gathered together for one event was incredible—something you don't often see these days. Hearing the speakers share their stories and struggles, many of which mirrored my own challenges in developing a closer relationship with Jesus, was deeply comforting. It reminded me that I am never truly alone in this world.

I met many new people and created lasting memories. When the Eucharist was passed to me on the second day, I was overwhelmed by Jesus's presence, feeling His genuine presence among everyone. The conference lifted my spirit and deepened my belief that Jesus is always with me. Overall, I will definitely be going on this trip again, and I think everyone should experience it because the people you meet and the moments you share are unforgettable.

### **Guadalupe:**

My experience at the Steubenville retreat was a true blessing and a beautiful opportunity to deepen my faith in God. It was my first time attending something like this, and although I wasn't sure what to expect, it turned out to be far more incredible than I imagined. Throughout the retreat, I felt a profound sense of peace and joy. Every moment was comfortable and meaningful. Being surrounded by so many people worshiping God was powerful; it's hard to put into words how beautiful it is to truly feel His presence.

I'm incredibly grateful for the chance to attend the Steubenville retreat. It inspired me to continue growing my faith with God every day. This was a weekend I will never forget, and I would love to go back and experience it all over again. Everyone deserves to have the opportunity to experience something so life-changing. Thank you so much, Cecilia, for encouraging me to attend the Steubenville retreat.

### **Jeremy:**

My time at the retreat was deeply special and will always hold a place in my heart. It was the most vivid encounter I've had with the Holy Spirit in my brief but beautiful journey of faith. The most impactful moment came during adoration, where witnessing Christ's physical presence in the monstrance reminded me of why He bore the cross and our sins—not because of anything I did, but through God's goodness and grace. This experience renewed my faith, strengthening it beyond its previous uncertainty. I am truly grateful to the Lord and hopeful for more moments like this.



Steubenville East Retreat, MA.

