



**The 31st Teens Are Praying Together (TAPT) retreat has been moved to the U.S. Steel Yard, the baseball stadium that serves as the summer home of the Gary South Shore Railcats!**

A recent inspection of Camp Lawrence has revealed a dangerous gas leak that could present a potentially hazardous situation for anyone utilizing the facility. As a result, diocesan officials, with the authorization of Bishop Donald Hying, have immediately closed Camp Lawrence for all groups and retreats. In the months ahead, NIPSCO and other utility providers will conduct tests and perform rehabilitation work to ensure safe conditions for summer CYO camps.

Rather than cancel TAPT, the Office for Youth & Young Adults and representatives of the TAPT Board immediately went to work seeking a cost-effective alternative site that provided sufficient and compatible space. On such short notice, our options were limited, but we couldn't be happier with the space we will utilize at the ballpark!

Almost all retreat activities will take place on the suite level, an area that most baseball fans don't get to see. A large gathering space will serve as our general session and dining area, and small group breakout sessions—integral to the TAPT retreat experience—will take place in the stadium's comfortable **luxury suites** overlooking the baseball field, the South Shore Line, and U.S. Steel. Time for showers will be provided, utilizing the Railcats locker room showers. One suite will be even be converted to a Blessed Sacrament prayer chapel.



There were simply no facilities available that provided cost-effective lodging with beds, but the suite level has plenty of carpeted space, and so we ask all participants to provide their own air mattresses and sleeping bags to create a comfortable "indoor camping space." Males and females, adults and teens will have separate areas.

(OVER)

**NEW RETREAT SCHEDULE:** Because of the simple lodging and the desire to keep costs down, we have consolidated the TAPT schedule and it will now be a 2-day, 1-overnight retreat, **starting Saturday morning at 8:00 am, and ending with the traditional TAPT Closing/Reunion Mass on Sunday at 2pm.**

On Saturday morning, we will have some light breakfast items (think "continental" breakfast), but it will not be a full breakfast. If you have a heartier breakfast appetite, consider eating before arriving. Sunday will include a full breakfast and lunch.

**REDUCED FEE:** The **retreat fee**—originally \$90—**has been reduced to \$75**, as well. Those who have already paid will receive a refund in the weeks ahead.

**SECURITY:** Rest assured, the Railcats staff is ready and able to provide our retreat participants a safe and comfortable experience. Gary Police officers have been contracted to provide security for our event.

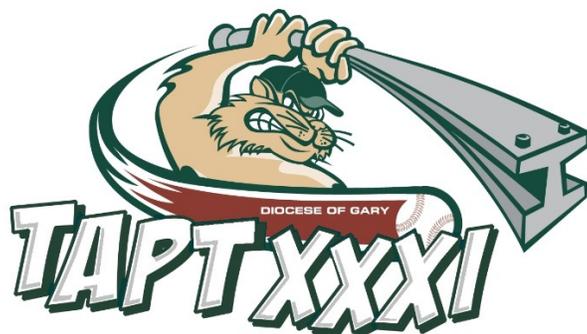
**REVISED CHECKLIST & PERMISSION FORM:** Participants and team members will receive a revised checklist and permission form. Visit [garytapt.com](http://garytapt.com) and download "Pre-Event Mailing."

**PARKING:** Participants who are driving to the retreat, or parents who are parking to attend the Closing/Reunion Mass should park on the lot west side of the stadium (3rd base side), and enter through the administrative offices on the 3rd base side, under a "V.I.P. Gate" canopy. Find the lot by using Google Maps here: <http://bit.ly/railcatsstadium> **Be aware that there are one way streets surrounding the stadium.**

The TAPT retreat will still have everything that has made TAPT great for 30 years: we take great pride in helping teens see the face of Christ; we will simply do that in a different location.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kevin Driscoll at 219-552-4060.

Blessings in the Incarnate Christ,  
*The TAPT XXXI Retreat Team*





Office for Youth  
and Young Adults

## DIocese OF GARY

9292 BROADWAY  
MERRILLVILLE 46410-7088

219-769-9292  
Fax: 219-738-9034  
Web: [www.garyoyya.org](http://www.garyoyya.org)



March, 2019

Dear Prospective TAPTster and parent/guardian(s),

We have received your registration for our Diocesan Youth Retreat... **WELCOME TO TAPT XXXI!** I hope you share our joy and enthusiasm for **TAPT** and I hope you find it a worthwhile experience.

Because of an unexpected emergency gas leak, we are unable to use Camp Lawrence. We are happy to announce that TAPT has been moved to the home of the Railcats- U.S. Steel Yard. Please see information enclosed for complete details.

Plan to arrive at U.S. Steel Yard on **SATURDAY, MARCH 16th at 8:00 a.m. The check-in process- *not the retreat*- starts at 8:00 on the 2nd floor Luxury Suite Level. Enter on 3rd base side (see directions). To ensure the TAPT team has enough time to prepare, please arrive no earlier than 7:45.** On Saturday morning, we will have some light breakfast items (think "continental" breakfast), but it will not be a full breakfast. If you have a heartier breakfast appetite, consider eating before arriving. The retreat will conclude at **appr. 3:15 p.m. on Sunday March 17th.**

The TAPT Closing Mass, also known as the "Reunion Mass," is open to guests, including family members and former TAPTsters. **Mass begins at 2pm**, but if guests plan to join us, please arrive early to ensure seating. If you are attending from outside the diocese, please note that Railcats- U.S. Steel Yard is on Central Time.

In the event of an emergency during the weekend, contact Kevin Driscoll: (219) 552-4060. Teens are allowed to have their mobile phones, but are told to restrict their usage to emergency use and periodic evangelization-inspired use only.

Included with this letter is a list of items of what to bring and what not to bring. Parents, a licensed nurse will be available on the retreat. If you wish for your child's medications to be distributed by a member of our staff, please see the nurse when you check your child in on Friday night. Otherwise, the Diocese of Gary will not be held responsible for the distribution of medications.

If you did not pay online with a credit card and instead chose the "pay later" option, please be prepared to submit your payment at TAPT Saturday morning check-in. Please contact Emily Sutton, TAPT Registration Coordinator (219-769-9292 x282) if you have questions about any billing/financial arrangements.

Also, if you have not submitted it already, please make sure you complete and mail the parent/guardian "Diocesan Activity Release Form" to the address above. **We prefer to collect this in advance** to better prepare our staff for any and all medications, allergy, special needs and food situations, but please do not mail after March 11th (bring it with you). No one will be allowed to participate in TAPT without this form. You can also download the form at [garytapt.com](http://garytapt.com).

Our staff has been working hard to make TAPT a successful retreat. We hope that you arrive with an open mind and a positive attitude. Above all we ask that you pray for yourself and all of us that we have a successful retreat. God bless you and I'll be looking forward to seeing you at TAPT!

Blessings in Christ,

**Emily Sutton**

Administrative Assistant/Registration Coordinator for Diocese of Gary TAPT Retreat

Email: [esutton@dcgary.org](mailto:esutton@dcgary.org) • Ofc: 219-769-9292 x282



## TAPT CHECKLIST – UPDATED FOR U.S. STEEL YARD (RAILCATS STADIUM)



Lodging will be simple: participants are allowed to bring air mattresses and sleeping bags and use carpeted space on the suite level at U.S. Steel Yard. If you don't own an air mattress and want an inexpensive option, consider a pool float- they're not great, but better than a hard floor!



The Railcats locker room has open showers, and shower time will be provided for both sexes. If you prefer not to take a shower for one night, that's okay too. Simply utilize your shower time to take a "wet washcloth shower" in the locker room facility.

\_\_\_\_\_ WARM CASUAL CLOTHES FOR 2 DAYS

\* Dress is casual, but modest. If your dress is deemed inappropriate for a Christian event, adult leaders reserve the right to ask you to change into more appropriate attire.

\* Entire retreat is indoors, and the stadium provides sufficient heat. However if you get cold easily, consider wearing a hoodie, sweater, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ AIR MATTRESS, PILLOW & SLEEPING BAG (or sheets and blanket)

\_\_\_\_\_ TOWEL AND WASHCLOTH

\_\_\_\_\_ REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE (marked with your name)

\_\_\_\_\_ AN OPEN MIND

\_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE CHARGER &/OR BATTERY BACKUP

\_\_\_\_\_ LOTS OF ENTHUSIASM

\_\_\_\_\_ Medication(s) or prescriptions\*

\* An experienced health professional will be available on the retreat. If you wish for your child's medications to be distributed by retreat leaders, please tell us when you check your child in on Saturday morning. Otherwise, the Diocese of Gary will not be held responsible for the distribution of medications.

\_\_\_\_\_ TAPT Outreach Effort: New pillow or pillowcase for Hammond City Rescue Mission men's shelter (or \$10 donation that will be used to purchase pillows)

**About cellular phones:** Mobile phones connect you to the world outside of TAPT, which can be distracting to the TAPT experience! We insist that mobile phones be turned to their OFF or SILENT settings during the entire weekend, and that teens restrict phone calls to parent/guardian check-ins and emergencies ONLY. Personal calls are not allowed, to encourage teens to be fully present for the retreat experience. Text messaging is prohibited during retreat activities, but will be allowed during breaks and during free times only. Teens are encouraged to use their mobile phones to text or post positive messages about their TAPT experiences on social media websites.



### DO NOT BRING:

\_\_\_\_\_ ILLEGAL DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

\_\_\_\_\_ NEGATIVE ATTITUDE

\_\_\_\_\_ GUNS, KNIVES OR WEAPONS

\_\_\_\_\_ FOOD OR SNACKS\*

\_\_\_\_\_ HOMEWORK, BOOKS OR SCHOOLWORK

*\*We'll have plenty of snacks and food!*



*Parents, Family Members, Youth Leaders, Former TAPTsters...*

## **YOU ARE INVITED!**

**to attend this year's...**

# **TAPT REUNION MASS...AT THE BALLPARK!**

**PARENTS & FAMILY MEMBERS...** We know your teen's faith life begins at home. Join us for liturgy to see your teen joyously celebrate the culmination of his or her weekend faith journey and show him or her your support!

**FORMER TAPTSTERS...** Show this year's group of TAPTsters that you support them in their faith journey by joining them at the celebration of Eucharist that concludes their TAPT experience! Hundreds of youth and adult youth leaders have gone before these TAPTsters in the 31-year history of the retreat, and we're hopeful that many of you will come out as a visible link to past, present, and future! Maybe you can connect with former TAPTsters you haven't seen in a while. Wear your old TAPT shirts!

**YOUTH LEADERS...** Teens leave TAPT on fire for the faith and ready to LIVE it! Be there to show your support for them and to show them that you are ready to join them in mission when they return home!

*Be sure to  
remember the  
TAPTsters in  
prayer all  
weekend long!*

The Teens Are Praying Together (TAPT) retreat is a presentation of the Diocese of Gary Office for Youth & Young Adults. For more information, visit [garytapt.com](http://garytapt.com) or 219-769-9292 x282.

**Mass begins at 2:00 pm  
Sunday, March 17th  
Luxury Suite Level • U.S. Steel Yard, Gary**

- No RSVP is necessary. Just show up!
- Please plan to arrive no later than 1:45, to allow us enough time to arrange for seating, host counting, etc. Come as early as 1:00 to enjoy social time with current and former TAPTsters!
- This mass fulfills obligation for Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- U.S. Steel Yard (Railcats Stadium): 1 Stadium Plaza, Gary, IN 46402.
- Park in lot west of stadium, enter through doors under "V.I.P. Gate on 3rd base side. Take elevator to 2nd floor.
- Google Map: <http://bit.ly/railcatsstadium> Be aware that there are one way streets surrounding the stadium.



## TAPT • DIRECTIONS TO U.S. STEELYARD (Railcats Stadium)



**Be aware that there are one way streets surrounding the stadium.**

For Google Maps directions directly to the parking lot, follow this link: <http://bit.ly/railcatsstadium>

### From Indiana Toll Road (I-90)

Westbound: Take I-90 to Exit 17 (US-12/US-20/Dunes Highway). Continue West on Dunes Highway. Stadium will be on left.

Eastbound: Take I-90 to exit at Broadway Ave. Turn right on Broadway Ave. Drive two stoplights to 5th Ave. Take left on 5th Ave. Stadium will be on left.

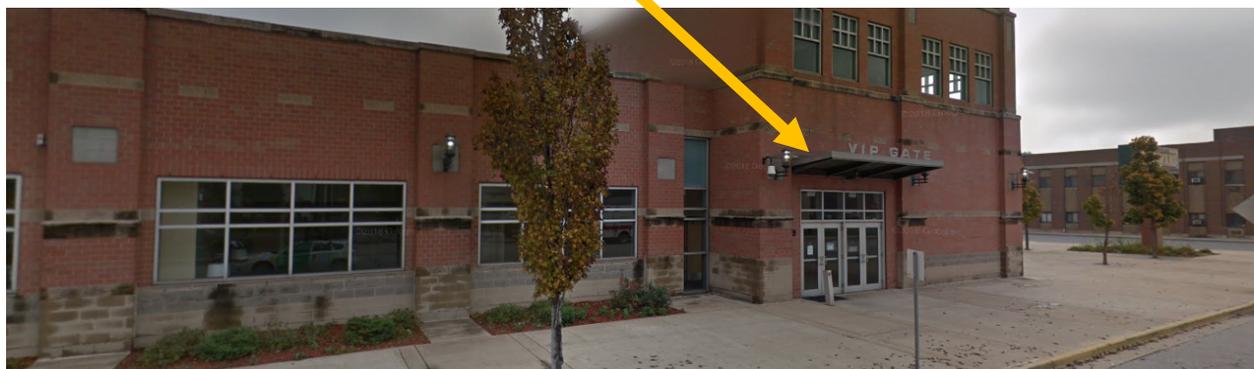
### From I-65

Take I-65 North to end of highway at U.S. 12/20 [Dunes Highway]. Turn left on U.S. 12/20 heading west for 1.5 miles (three stoplights). When you near the ballpark, stay in the far left lane. Take the first left past the ballpark.

### From I-80/94

Take I-80/94 to I-65 North, all the way to end of highway at U.S. 12/20 [Dunes Highway]. Turn left on U.S. 12/20 heading west for 1.5 miles (three stoplights). When you near the ballpark, stay in the far left lane. Take the first left past the ballpark.

All TAPT activities will be held on the Luxury Suite level. Enter through the administrative offices on the 3rd base side, under a "V.I.P. Gate" canopy.





## TAPT XXXI COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT: PILLOWS FOR THE HOMELESS



In a sign of Christian solidarity, we are asking for ALL TAPT participants and their families to do what they can to contribute to the ministry of Hammond City Rescue Mission shelter for men by donating either or both\*:

- **NEW PILLOW**
- **NEW PILLOWCASE**

\*In lieu of a pillow or pillowcase, we can accept a \$10 cash donation, which will be used by our volunteers to make pillow purchases prior to dropping off donations in Hammond.

We will collect the pillows and pillowcases at Friday check-in. TAPT is about seeing the face of Christ in one another. Let's be the face of Christ for those served by Hammond City Rescue Mission!

**About Hammond City Rescue Mission men's shelter:** Located in downtown Hammond, the shelter provides a warm place to sleep and a good meal for up to 60 residents. A ministry founded by First Baptist Church of Hammond, the shelter collects generous donations from many churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals throughout Northwest Indiana to make life better for those in need.

**WHOEVER CARES FOR THE POOR LENDS TO THE LORD,  
WHO WILL PAY BACK THE SUM IN FULL.  
(PROVERBS 19:17)**



Office for Youth  
and Young Adults

## DIOCESE OF GARY

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### Memo

**TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, Coaches, and Activity Directors**

**FROM: Kevin Driscoll, Coordinator, Diocese of Gary Office for Youth & Young Adults**

**RE: Absence for Catholic Diocese of Gary TAPT Retreat**

Each year since 1989, the Catholic Diocese of Gary Youth Ministry office has sponsored the *Teens Are Praying Together* ("TAPT") retreat for high school teens. It is always held two weeks prior to Easter, as it contains many Lenten themes. Held at Camp Lawrence in rural Valparaiso, teens from across Lake, Porter, La Porte and Starke Counties gather together to explore and deepen their faith, and to be inspired for religious leadership. It is staffed by youth ministry leaders from across Northwest Indiana, and is a ministry of the Most Reverend Donald J. Hying, Bishop of the Diocese of Gary, who also attends.

The Diocese of Gary Office for Youth & Young Adults realizes that attending this event will entail absence from school and extracurricular activities. **I am writing to request student participation in the TAPT retreat be counted as an excused absence due to the nature of the program.**

TAPT is an opportunity for young people to join together to strengthen their Catholic identity, to meet other young people striving to live out positive values, and to be inspired to bring Gospel values into an increasingly-challenging world. For many, their participation is not only life-affirming, it is life-changing.

I appreciate the conflict: as a parent of a high school athlete, I know the commitments that coaches, activity-leaders, and teens make for each other, and the positive values extracurricular activities provide. We hope you'll appreciate that our retreat leaders are similarly trying to foster an atmosphere of passionate conviction for their faith. Because of the intimate nature and intentional process of the TAPT small group dynamic, partial attendance is not allowed at TAPT, requiring the teens to be fully-present to the retreat—and their fellow teen participants—from Friday evening (7pm) until Sunday afternoon (1pm).

Without support from administrators like you, many teenagers would find themselves unable to attend as they and their families are committed to your activities. If TAPT was an experience that would regularly take students from their playing fields, performances, and practices, I would not ask you consider excusing their absence. However, a teen may only participate in TAPT once (they may also apply to serve as a peer leader afterward), meaning that this commitment is a fraction of the requirements for their extracurricular activities.

"Through attending TAPT my faith has grown in a huge way. I have become closer to God and I am ready to take my faith to the next level."

~ former TAPT participant

"What can I say? Moving, life-changing, emotional, awakening, unexplainable."

~ former TAPT participant

Further, I must point out: this retreat is completely voluntary. What a powerful witness that teens *choose* this retreat! I hope you will agree that it is a positive thing for students to want to take a few days to explore their faith. **I believe that TAPT helps make them a better person**, and this world needs faith-filled teens.

Your cooperation in enabling attendance for the TAPT retreat is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact information is listed above in the letterhead. You may also visit the TAPT retreat website at [garytapt.com](http://garytapt.com) to learn more.

# **DMCESE OF GARY TAPT RETREAT • MARCH 16-17, 2019**

## *Consent to Participate, Waiver and Release*

### **Participant Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In the case of an emergency, if I cannot be contacted at the address or phone number provided above, please contact:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Activity Information**

Parish/Organization: **DIOCESE OF GARY**

Activity: **TAPT retreat**

Place: **U.S. Steel Yard; One Stadium Plaza; Gary, IN 46402**

Date of Activity: **March 16-17, 2019** Event Contact Number: **219-552-4060**

Adult Chaperone(s): **Kevin Driscoll, Diocese of Gary**

### **Authorization and Waiver of Risk**

I hereby agree and consent to my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ (“Child”) participating in the above-named “Activity”, which includes traveling to and from the above-named “Place.” I further consent to my Child traveling to and from the above-named “Place” by way of \_\_\_\_\_. I acknowledge that, despite careful and proper preparation, there is still a risk of injury when participating in any activity. I release and hold harmless the Diocese of Gary, the Parish, the Parish Youth Minister, the Parish Chaperone, as well as any and all other participating organizations, their officers, agents, representatives, employees, and volunteers from any and all responsibility and liability for any injury, claim, costs, or any other damages whatsoever which may result from my Child’s participation in the above-named “Activity”. I further agree to assume full responsibility for the actions of my Child as well as for the payment of any and all debts incurred by my Child during his/her visit and participation in the above-named “Activity.”

### **Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment**

I hereby agree and consent to my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ (“Child”) receiving emergency medical treatment in my absence should the need for such treatment arise during my Child’s participation in the above-named “Activity”.

Should the need for emergency medical treatment arise, the following health information pertaining to my Child is voluntarily disclosed:

a) *Special Dietary Needs*: \_\_\_\_\_

b) *Medications*: \_\_\_\_\_

c) *Allergies*: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Promotional Photographs**

In the interest of promoting future activities, video and still photographs may be taken during this event. This form constitutes written permission for Child’s participation in the videotape and/or photographs, which may be used for future promotional efforts, including the Diocese of Gary website (names are not used in photos).

By signing this Consent to Participate, Waiver and Release, I hereby acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the provisions contained above, and I knowingly consent to my Child participating in the above-named “Activity” and agree to be bound by the terms and provisions of this Consent to Participate, Waiver and Release.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature(s) of Custodial Parent(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name(s) of Custodial Parent(s)

**This form should be delivered to OYYA on or before March 11:**

**MAIL/DROP OFF:** TAPT Form – Emily Sutton;  
Diocese of Gary OYYA; 9292 Broadway;  
Merrillville, IN 46410

**EMAIL:** Scan this page as a PDF/hi-res JPG and attach it to an email. Email: [esutton@dcgary.org](mailto:esutton@dcgary.org)

**FAX:** 219-738-9034

FORMS MAY BE DOWNLOADED AND PRINTED  
AT [GARYTAPT.COM](http://GARYTAPT.COM)