



*Diocese of Gary's Youth Council*

**Happy New Year! Thank you all once again for an engaging meeting in December! Here are notes from last month's meeting as well as some updates.**

## **Next meeting: Sunday, January 22, 1-3:00 PM**

Next meeting we will have a follow up from our December meeting, talking about what our "big idea" for DYC can be.

*Don't forget to have your parents fill out your permission forms! Even if you are 18, your parents still need to complete a permission form for each meeting. Thank you!*

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## **Notes from Last Meeting**

We had our December DYC meeting on Sunday, December 11. DYC met with Elizabeth Ortlepp, staff member for the San Damiano Scholarship Program at Marian University, Indianapolis. Elizabeth led the DYC members through a reflection on their gifts and talents they discovered at Christ Alive and went a little deeper to better understand how we might use them for our communities and our parishes. Elizabeth had us answer two questions:

- How can we use our gifts in our church?
- In what ways can you use your gifts and talents to be a leader in the Church?

Then she described a way of think about how we can put our gifts and talents to use called: **The Big Idea**. Elizabeth reminded us that a "big idea" didn't have to be a huge project. If your gift is one of hospitality, it might be to make an effort to smile and introduce yourself to one new person a week at Church, or if your gift is evangelization, your big idea might be to share one thing about your faith life with a friend. We will go deeper into this idea in January and see how we can use our collective gifts to create one big idea for DYC. I'll include handouts we went over.



## Missionary Disciples Institute

As mentioned, Elizabeth comes to us from Marian University in Indianapolis. The Big IDEA handout is from Marian's Missionary Disciples Institute, a weeklong summer program bringing together high school students (rising sophomores to rising seniors) from throughout the US to learn how to be missionary disciples ready to serve their community through the Church.

Youth participants will move onto Marian's campus for one-week over the summer - June 12-16, 2023. During their time on campus, students will live in an intentional community of high school leaders from around the country, discover dynamic ways to pray, be mentored by college students preparing to be Church leaders, learn from MU theologians, and, ultimately, build a mission plan designed to help share the joy of the Gospel in practical/concrete ways with their peers.

If you are interested in attending, please let me know. We have had past DYC members attend. If you are interested in attending, I would be happy to nominate you for the program. Students who are nominated by a parish or ministry employee will receive \$50 off the total cost of MDI. More information can be found at [marian.edu/MDI](http://marian.edu/MDI). Applications are due on March 1, 2023.

There are a lot of summer programs like this around Indiana, including Notre Dame's Vision Conference (a few scholarships are available for high school students from the Diocese of Gary) and St. Meinrad's One Bread One Cup. Let me know if you are interested in learning more.

## DYC White Elephant Christmas Party

We had a blast with the White Elephant Christmas Party!

