

## St. Mary Christian Formation/Youth Ministry Behavior Policy

Starting in September, 2006, St. Mary Parish and Christian Formation Program will enforce the following policies to ensure the safety, respect, and comfortableness of everyone on any given retreat or service trip. These policies will be closely adhered to so please make sure all youth and adults attending such an outing are aware of these new policies *prior to* attending any retreat or service trip.

- **All participants must return this signed form prior to attending any such outing.**
  1. Because retreats/service trips are a time for individual spiritual growth it is imperative all youth respect each others personal space so everyone feels safe at all times of the day or night.
    - **This space includes retreat/service trip journals, beds, showers, luggage or back packs, sleeping bags, pillows, coats, or any other personal items.** No youth at any time should be violating or going into another youth's personal space and/or items without direct express permission.
      - *While adult leaders and chaperones have the right to search personal items at anytime, youth may never do so.*
  2. Youth should never apply or throw any objects on other youth at any time. This is especially true in dorm rooms or sleeping quarters when youth are trying to sleep.
    - **Examples are throwing food, water and soda bottles, clothing, pillows, spraying things on others such as water, soda, shaving cream and so on.**
  3. Youth who are dating other youth on the retreat or service trip are prohibited from any open displays of affection at all times.
    - **Examples would be holding hands, kissing, laying on each other, excessive touching each other, going off alone, or doing any other behaviors that distract the other participants from feeling comfortable.**

**If a youth does any of the above, parents will be called immediately. Parents will need to come to get their youth to take them home or the parents will need to come to chaperone the remaining part of the retreat or service trip at their own expense. The decision on which of these options to be offered will be left up to the Director of Youth Ministry and will depend upon the offense the youth has committed.**

- If a youth is sent home from a retreat or service trip, they may be prohibited from attending *any* other event offered through St. Mary Parish and Christian Formation Program. This includes retreats, service trips, outings, CYM athletics, and so on. Final decision on this will be determined by the Director of Youth Ministry and the pastor of the parish.
- If a youth is sent home from a Confirmation retreat, they will need to attend another retreat at their own additional expense. Confirmation retreats are an Archdiocese of Milwaukee requirement at all Archdiocesan parishes for reception of the sacrament of Confirmation.
- **PLEASE NOTE: All retreat and service trip fees are non-refundable.**

**Youth Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_