

Dear Prospective New OLW Peer Ministers (& Parents),

What an exciting venture you are considering/been invited to consider. Peer Ministry has the potential to radically shape your teen years. I can say this without exaggeration because I've heard it over and over again from present-day Peer Ministers and alum.

The high school years can be so crazy and chaotic. A million activities to choose, the pressure of grades, and just the up and down adventure of being a teen. Maybe Peer Ministry can be an exciting yet calming force for you. A safe place to just be your self, make new fiends, stay connected with old ones, an environment where you feel comfortable to ask the tough questions, feel supported by a strong community, and journey toward a relationship with God and how faith fits into your life. These are the goals of OLW Peer Ministry.

Peer Ministry (PM) is an essential part of the Wayside Youth Ministry program. PM will focus primarily on community building with small groups being a central component of this community. The emphasis will be on coming together, discussing, sharing, and journeying with one another. Peer Ministers (PMers) are asked to commit to the team-especially their small groups. Gatherings are three times a month—almost exclusively on Sundays evenings, with one of them being our Outreaches which are open to any high age youth. The other gatherings are reserved for PMers only.

Because of the necessity of the commitment factor in establishing a tight community, we are initially opening Peer Ministry only to 10th through 12th graders, with the exception of those who were involved on the jr. high level through Peer Council or Camp Wow. Second semester freshmen may apply in Dec/Jan. Exceptions apply.

As you take a moment to look over the following information, please sincerely consider applying to be a member of the Peer Ministry community. The deadline for teen applications and parental consent form is Friday, Aug 7th. The Peer Ministry Retreat is from Sat, Aug 23 (3pm)-Sun, Aug 24th (concluding with the 11:30 Teen Ministered Mass).

**In the Peace of Christ,
Kevin O'Connell
(Honored) OLW Dir. Of Youth Ministry**

Please Keep This Page

OLW Peer Ministry APPLICATION 2009-2010

***Please return to Kevin's mailbox in Parish Center
absolutely no later than Friday, Aug 7th.***

**This application is for teens applying to be a
Peer Minister for their first time**

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____ High School: _____

City/Zip: _____ Grade: _____

Phone: (847) _____ Teen Cell :() _____

Teen E-Mail: _____ Birthday: _____

Adult T-Shirt Size: _____

**Please complete the following questions as thoroughly and thoughtfully as possible.
You may print/type your responses. If you need more room, please use back page
or add pages to this application.**

1. Why would you like to be a part of PM Small Groups? What helped you decide?

2. Give your definition of what being a part of a group means. What are your expectations of such a community?

3. What do you expect of yourself as part of this community?

4. Please list and describe 2 of your strengths and 2 of your weakness.

5. Briefly tell us about your current relationship with God and you Catholic faith. Has a relationship with God made a difference in your life so far? If so, how?

6. Have you participated in Wayside Youth Ministry events previously (ie. outreaches, mission trips, retreats, lock-in, camp, jr, high)?

7. How would you like your relationship with God to grow in the coming year?

8. Tell us about your family?

9. How do your parents feel about your participation in Peer Ministry?

An opening Peer Ministry retreat is so incredibly important for a successful year. The PM Retreat runs from 3:00pm on Saturday, Aug 23rd and concludes with the 11:30 Teen Ministered Mass on Sunday, Aug 24th. This is one of our few mandatory commitments. Please make sure your schedule is open and have all your homework/summer readings completed before this event.

Please plan ahead. You will not regret the effort.

I am available for this overnight retreat _____ (please initial)

*Those attending the St. Viator Freshman & Family Mass
will be ready to leave in time for that celebration.*

A) Just like any other activity, participating in Peer Ministry is a commitment and will take time.

1. List any other activities you anticipate you will be involved in the coming year in addition to Peer Ministry, include season/time period: (Academic, Social, Sports, Band, Drama, Job) ---i.e. Volleyball/Fall or Winter Play

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Do you feel you can participate in the activities mentioned above and still be a committed participant on the PM Small Group community?

B) What would you like to see Wayside Youth Ministry do in the coming year? What would you be willing to do to make that happen?

Interviews are necessary for all new applicants. In order to have enough time for planning for the mandatory overnight Peer Ministry Retreat (Aug 23rd-24th), interviews must take place in the beginning of Aug. Please check which days and time periods would work for your interview. Exact times will be decided once application is received:

___ **Thurs, Aug 6th**
morning, afternoon, evening

___ **Mon, Aug. 10th**
morning, afternoon, evening

___ **Wed, Aug. 12th**
morning, afternoon, evening

EXTRA SPACE/COMMENTS:

Thank You for Applying the 2009-2010 Peer Ministry Team.