



SOUTHSIDE PARISH RENEWAL

CHRIST THE KING • ST. BARNABAS • ST. CAJETAN • ST. JOHN FISHER

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Executive Director, Journey *a youth ministry initiative of Southside Parish Renewal*

Southside Parish Renewal (SPR), a collaboration of four Catholic parishes in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, was formed in 2022 in response to the Renew My Church initiative of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Its board is comprised of clergy and lay persons from Christ the King, St. Barnabas, St. Cajetan and St. John Fisher parishes. SPR's mission is to develop programs that will enhance the faith lives of the Catholics in these communities. The development of a successful youth ministry program has been a priority for SPR from its inception, as we know that a relationship with Jesus Christ will strengthen young people on their journey through life. We are pleased to announce the creation of Journey, a bold youth ministry initiative.

The Opportunity

SPR seeks a founding Executive Director to launch and grow this exciting, life-changing initiative. The right candidate will be provided with adequate resources to shape and grow this program from its inception, targeting the youth of the four SPR parishes initially, but growing it to encompass a larger footprint over the southwest side of greater Chicago over time. The responsibilities of the position, and the qualifications for the Executive Director, are outlined below. We view this as a unique opportunity for the right person to grow this critical ministry in our communities.

The Vision

Journey aspires to accompany teens as they deepen their relationship to God, experience a sense of cherished belonging in their community, and become outfitted with a "spiritual backpack" filled with tools and practices they can carry into adulthood. In this innovative program, teens will experience ways to use their Catholic faith when life is difficult and they face challenges. The need is great as our teens live with pressures beyond what they are capable of handling without God. Today's youth cannot escape social media, physical standards of beauty, packed schedules, anxiety, perfectionism, striving for grades, awards, college worthy resumes, and the list goes on. These cherished young people share that they feel they are "never enough" and are increasingly lost in their phones and disconnected from each other.

Journey hopes to attract these teens and have them experience the beautiful, mystical and contemplative practices of their Catholic faith coupled with living the gospel through service. Our goal is

that through Journey they will experience the joy of belonging, whether as part of a small faith group, their parish or the broader Catholic community.

Responsibilities

Journey's Executive Director will:

- In collaboration with SPR parishes and surrounding Catholic schools, develop and implement engaging youth ministry programs for high school students, deepening their relationship with Christ now and for the future
- Continually seek to develop and implement creative programming that captures youth's interests and meets their needs
- Create visibility and awareness of Journey among youth and parishioners
- In collaboration with the SPR board, develop a strategic plan, including a vision, mission, goals, strategies, and success measures
- Secure additional resources that empower Journey to thrive and grow programmatically, geographically, and financially
- In collaboration with the SPR board, establish governance, financial, administrative, and personnel policies and processes
- Retain and direct staff and volunteers and provide for their formation

Qualifications

The successful candidate will possess:

- At least three years of experience in Catholic youth ministry and/or education
- At least three years of experience of management responsibilities in a nonprofit or similar organization, including responsibilities such as working with a governing board, managing finances, and managing employees
- Understanding of the social, emotional, and spiritual challenges facing teens and experience with the programs and strategies for supporting them
- Experience raising money from both from individuals and foundations
- Familiarity with Catholic parishes and schools
- Knowledge of and experience with a range of communication media, especially with social media practices of teenagers
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Experience organizing projects, events and volunteers
- Familiarity with the Beverly neighborhood or surrounding communities is preferred but not required

Hours and Compensation

This is a full-time position. Hours are flexible and will require evenings and weekends. The salary for this role is \$75,000 to \$95,000, commensurate with the skills and experiences of the successful candidate. Benefits package included.

To apply, send a cover letter and resume to Mary Claire Millies at journey@southsideparishrenewal.com

Learn more about Southside Parish Renewal at www.southsideparishrenewal.org