

For the past five years, I have been travelling with Catholic Heart Work campers and chaperones to three different camps, including North Arlington, NJ Melbourne, FL and St. Croix in the Virgin Islands. If you want your faith restored (in more ways than one), I suggest that get involved with the youth of our parish and share in this experience.

The first time we travelled, it was a challenge for all of us as we suffered through “Awkward Sunday,” more praise and worship than we had previously experienced and general exhaustion from long days of work, challenging food choices and group sleeping environments. However, once you get past that first day, you realize that God has placed you exactly where you should be – at the service of others.

When I am on these trips, I often think of the old song, “They Will Know We are Christians By Our Love.” As a camper (and chaperone), you are working side by side with participants from all over the country. These fellow campers help raise my faith in God and others as they candidly share faith stories, praise God through song and worship without reservation and generally work hard uncomplaining to the service of others. We also encounter members of the community who have a need that is far greater than ours whether it be for food, clothing and shelter or just time spent to help them accomplish the mission of their organizations’ work. I could spend columns of this bulletin writing about the people that I encountered and the chaperones that I worked alongside.

I encourage each of you to consider supporting the CHWC through your prayers, time or financially. There is good work being done each summer by the youth of our parish and I think you and your family should plan to join in! Please contact me through the parish office if I can provide any answers to your questions.

Love will hold us together

Make us a shelter weather the storm

And I'll be my brothers keeper

So the whole world will know that we're not alone.

.....Song by Matt Maher (if you haven't heard it, google it!)

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