# **St. Catherine of Siena**

# **Core Member Covenant**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, am honored to respond to my baptismal call by serving Life Teen through this ministry. Life Teen is a Eucharist-centered, relational ministry whose primary purpose is to lead teens closer to Christ. In order to respond fully, I understand that joining Core involves committing to four things: Holiness, Core, Teens, and Life Teen.

### **Core Team Mission Statement:**

*“Inspired by the witness of others and responding to a personal experience with Jesus, we invite teens to encounter Christ, guide them in discovering their true identity, and equip them to transform the world. We entrust our mission to the Blessed Mother”*

# **Commitment to Holiness**

The most important thing that we can do for the teens that we minister to is continually grow in personal holiness. Teens will not seek Christ if they do not see those that they look up to seeking Christ. The following are the ways in which I commit to improving my spiritual life:

* I will develop my personal relationship with God through prayer and the Sacraments. I understand that Life Teen ministry is very challenging and I will succeed only by the grace of God through prayer.
* I will seek to know God and to know our Catholic faith by holding steadfast to the four basic components of any faith journey – teaching of the Church, fellowship, the breaking of the bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42).
* I will abide by the teachings of the Catholic Church. Because I am a representative of the Church, I will actively study to understand the teachings of the Church.
* I will actively seek opportunities to pray with friends, teens, and other Core members.
* I will frequent the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.

# **Commitment to Core**

St. Paul helps us to see that there are many gifts in building up the kingdom of God.

*“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”* (1 Cor. 12: 4-7)

It takes a diverse team with many talents and personalities to minister to teens. It is absolutely crucial as a Core Team that we model what a holy Christian community looks like. This encompasses everything from our interactions with one another to the subjects of our conversation.

* I will develop Christian relationships with all the members of our Core Team, knowing that the teens will model relationships that they see and experience.
* I will support all Core members in their ministry with teens. I understand the importance of our Core team functioning as a unified team.
* If there is a conflict between myself and another Core member, I will lovingly confront them individually. If the conflict cannot be resolved, then I will speak with the Youth Minister.

# If I cannot attend a meeting or will be late, I will call/text the youth minister as early as possible.

* I will make every effort to attend spiritual and social gatherings for Core.

# **Commitment to Teens**

*“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, to is because they are witnesses.”* – Evangelization in the Modern World paragraph 41 by Pope Paul VI

As a Core Member, you are a role model to teens, serving as an example of a holy person following the teachings and beliefs of the Catholic Church. We are striving to create a community within St. Catherine’s where teens feel loved and accepted. This atmosphere is one where they feel comfortable to dive deeper into their faith. This makes the following conditions vital:

* I will develop Christ-centered relationships with high school teenagers.
* I am committed to being an adult Christian friend—not their buddy and not their authoritarian.
* I will make outreach to new teens a priority in my ministry. I will dedicate as much time to developing new relationships with teens as I do fostering old ones.
* In the area of crisis intervention, if a teen shares something with me where the teen or someone else may be in danger of being hurt, then I will let the teen know of my obligation to tell the Youth Minister and go straight to the Youth Minister. If I am not sure, then I will tell the Youth Minister.
* As a model of the obedience we are called to as ministers of the Church, I will abide by all policies and procedures set forth by the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

# **Commitment to Life Teen**

From 3:30 PM – 9 PM on Sunday evenings, my focus will be entirely on Leading Teens Closer to Christ. I will make every effort to grow in relationship with teens during this time. I understand that this is not the time to catch up with old friends, past teens or even other Core.

# **Mass**

* I will dress appropriately for mass.
* I will sit with teens and not with other Core members at Mass and will help them to feel included.
* I will fully participate in the Mass and invite teens to do the same.
* I will prayerfully consider serving at Life Teen Mass as an Usher, a Lector, or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.
* I will encourage teens to prayerfully consider serving at Life Teen Mass as an Usher, a Lector, or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

# **Life Nights**

The function of Life Nights is to provide a safe environment for teens to explore their faith, grow in community, and fall more deeply in love with Christ. As Core, it is vital that we give these nights the time and energy that the teens deserve.

* I will attend every Life Night that I can.
* I will read the Outline for the night before the Life Night begins
* If I have been chosen to give a Proclaim, then I will do all that is necessary to prepare for it—including meeting with the Youth Minister.
* If I have been chosen to for Environment for a Life Night, I will communicate with Core so that we can brainstorm how to craft something realistic and meaningful for the teens.
* I will involve myself actively in the planning of Life Nights during Core Meetings.
* I will help teens understand that they are expected to come on time and stay through the closing prayer of Life Nights.
* After the Life Night, I will mingle with teens and introduce myself to those I don’t know. I will seek out teens who look disconnected or alone.

# **Retreats**

* I will attend and participate in the planning of Retreats.
* If chosen as a Session Leader, I will help to organize who will be doing which activities for the session.
* If chosen to give a Proclaim for a session, I will coordinate with the respective Session Leader so that I can prepare a talk that preserves the integrity of the Session
* If chosen to lead a small group, I will treat teens as peers and not as someone who is somehow “lesser” than me.

## **Lifestyle because of My Commitment**

As Core Members of St. Catherine of Siena Life Teen, we are called to live a Christ-like life. In order to uphold the integrity of what this statement represents, there are several sacrifices that I will have to make to my everyday lifestyle. They are outlined below and they stem from our love for God and our desire to serve teens:

* I will follow all policies of the Archdiocese of Atlanta for working with young people.
* I will take into consideration all pictures and postings to social media networks that teenagers have access to such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to make sure that they are above reproach with language and images reflecting Christian love towards everyone.
* I will not engage in any illegal activities.
* I will not drink if I am under 21. If I am over 21, I will either use alcohol modestly & appropriately or will choose not to drink at all. I will not drink at any Life Teen functions.
* I will not date other adult Core members during the first six months of my service in order to place complete emphasis on building relationships with teens. I understand that dating Core is acceptable only when it is a Christ-centered relationship that constantly seeks to lead each other closer to Christ. Every Core relationship is to model Christ’s relationship with the Church and dating is no exception to this.
* I will strive to morally live the vocation that I am currently in (single, married, or religious).
* I will not smoke at any Life Teen functions and will never smoke with teens.
* In light of my position as a role model for teens and as a person who is seeking the fullness of God’s love, I will be careful of the influences I put into my mind and body including the movies and TV that I watch, the music that I listen to, the language that I use and the way that I talk to and about others (gossip, sarcasm, etc.).

In response to my baptismal call, I commit to serving the teens of St. Catherine of Siena as a Core Member for this academic year. If my commitment changes before August 31st, I will meet with the Youth Minister to discuss my position.

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Signature Date

“I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

Mary, our loving mother, Patroness of Life Teen and Queen of Peace, pray for us.