



WHO ARE WE?

ECHOES OF WORTH

OUR IDENTITY

Vision:

It is the vision that youth discover God's original plan for human identity, relationships, and sexuality through St John Paul II's Theology of the Body and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to echo it in their daily lives.

Mission:

Echoes of Worth (EoW) mission is to call the young to hear, experience, and live a weekend retreat focused on understanding the reality of God's love found in our identity and our purpose. As the body reveals God, our souls respond in worship and praise.

History:

While presenting a series on Theology of the Body, three youth ministers were dismayed by their youth's misunderstanding of human dignity. In response they planned a small lock-in at a parish hall to break open St. John Paul II's masterpiece. But within six months the Holy Spirit moved to make Echoes of Worth is a multi-diocesan retreat encounter that speaks to the Theology of the Body and it's relevance for our teens today.

PREVIOUS EOW RETREATS

2015



2016



2017



INFORMATION

Echoes of Worth is a project of Creative Catholic Works. A non-profit 501c3 organization. TAXPAYER I.D. # 47-0953215. Learn more at CreativeCatholicWorks.org. CCW operates within the Diocese of Oakland, San Jose & Archdiocese of San Francisco and its media is available to everyone.



WHAT ARE THEY SAYING ABOUT US?



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PREVIOUS EOW RETREATS

Teen

"It was my second year going to echoes of worth and **it was just as amazing as the first time i went**. I never thought I could experience the feelings I felt at echoes I **was able to experience this peace** and joy that consumed me. **I felt as if all my shame was taken away** and replaced with pride and happiness. . . so until next year echoes I can't wait to share my joy and tears with you again. #echoes2017 #eow_tob

- @sophrosyne_19



Youth Minister

Joel was amazing! He did a great job with getting the highschooler's engaged in what he was saying (even the ones who didn't want to be there). The retreat was awesome! My students learned a lot! **The TOB was explained in a way that was easy to understand and relate to**. I got great feedback from my small group about the retreat. They said that they learned a lot. Some of my highschoolers disagreed with what we were teaching (Gay marriage, contraception) but **I am glad that they were exposed to the TRUTH and beauty of TOB**. And I am glad that it got them thinking about why the Church says it's wrong. I had fun!

- Letty Gomez, St. Bernard, Tracy

Parent:

"A woman came to Mass yesterday (her friend's son was attending and the mother invited her) and came into my office to tell me how amazing the whole experience was for her. Mary's (Bielski's) session, the Mass, and seeing all the teens made her cry the entire time because she was so moved. She can't wait until next year when she can have her daughter attend!"

- Stephanie Dockendorf



MORE INFORMATION

www.echoesofworth.com

Andrew Brown,
Executive Director

Klarissa Chichoco,
Formation Director

Stephanie Dockendorf
Operations Director

Andrew@echoesofworth.com

Klarissa@echoesofworth.com

Stephanie@echoesofworth.com

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Seminarian:

Echoes of Worth is one of the great teen ministries of the Diocese of San Jose that really responds to the needs of our time. In a world that forgets the sacred meaning of human sexuality, human dignity and true love, **Echoes Of Worth reminds us of the essential truths of our being according to the designs and plan of God.** This is done through the wonderful ministry with a very refreshing and fun way by which the teachings of Pope St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body are broken down, simplified and are made applicable to our teens. **Echoes of Worth opened my eyes as a Seminarian to a way of serving the youth of San Jose that caters to their age.** I would **really recommend other Seminarians to be involved in this great ministry** and to make known to the teens the presence of the great treasures of our Church that responds to the their hunger for truth.

- Deacon Eric Piczon, Diocese of San Jose Seminarian



Jesuit Scholastic & Seminarian/Deacon during the 2016 & 2017 Retreats

Being a part of Echoes of Worth was a powerful affirmation of my own vocation. Because the Mass, Adoration, and prayer are so vital to the retreat itself, there is a natural need for seminarians: while the retreat is focused on Theology of the Body and relationships, it also demonstrates the complementarity between lay and consecrated/ordained, married and celibate. The retreat shows the teens--and reminds the adults--that the two vocations need each other, and when they work together, the Church is alive. The EoW retreat, in other words, is not only educational and formative, but is a beautiful witness to the full life of the Church, and I'm sure any seminarian who participates

will feel and experience that as I did. My specific gifts as a seminarian and as a religious were needed, put to use, and affirmed; they didn't need an extra set of hands, they needed me.

Presiding at Eucharistic Adoration was one of the most profound experiences of my life as a seminarian, and certainly as a deacon. It is enough of a privilege to carry the monstrance, but another entirely to witness firsthand the way each teen responded to His Presence. Souls were transformed, and **I could feel Christ present in a shockingly tangible way.** The grace that pours down on this retreat and on these teens is surprising; I've never helped out on a retreat like this one.

Any seminarian who is able to assist with Echoes of Worth should. Not only will you be needed and appreciated, but you will get a clear sense of the needs of teens in our world today, something vital for future ministry. You'll also be exposed to various techniques and methods of catechesis that work well in reaching them, tools you can use yourself in subsequent service.

- Fr. Jacob Boddicker, SJ



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PO Box 110642
CAMPBELL, CA 95011-0642