

What is the Youth Preaching Workshop?

The Youth Preaching Workshop is a unique weekend experience where high school-aged students will meet new people and engage in a lot of fun activities, all while deepening their relationship with God and reimagining what it means to be a “preacher.” At these workshops, participants are introduced to the charism and foundation of the Order of the Preachers, also known as the Dominican Order, and are encouraged to fulfill their own baptismal call to “Preach the Word of God, in all things you do.” They learn the different ways they can accomplish that goal, beyond just pulpit preaching; participants learn that they can preach through dance, music, drama, art, storytelling, and community service- just to name a few. Most of all they learn that preaching can be fun and is something we do all the time! The weekend ends with a Commissioning Liturgy, where participants are called forth to go out and become “Youth Preachers.”

Is the Youth Preaching Workshop a retreat?

Well, yes and no. While we do take the time to step away from the world to reconnect with God through prayer, we also take time to discover tools to go out, serve, and help others connect to God’s love through our lives. It seems like a retreat but it is a **workshop** in every sense of the word. The Youth Preaching Workshops ensure that the preaching continues beyond the weekend by providing takeaways from the weekend as well as online resources and support available only to alumni of the program.

The Youth Preaching Workshop is unlike most “weekend retreats” (remember- it is a *workshop*!) so it may be difficult communicating to students and parents what exactly to expect. At first glance, the word “preacher” may be intimidating. But reassure them that while the main focus is on becoming a “preacher,” they will surely have lots of fun meeting new people and engaging in a lot of different activities during this overnight experience!

Will the participants be asked to join the Dominican Order?

Nope! The Youth Preaching Workshop is just an introduction to the Dominican Order and its charism. When we commission the participants as “Youth Preachers” during the Liturgy on Sunday, we are simply commemorating the time and effort they dedicated this weekend to learn about the Dominican Order, the charism, and the many ways to preach with their lives. The Sunday Liturgy is also a time to welcome the Youth Preachers into the Dominican family! As alumni of the program, they become members of the Dominican Youth Movement USA; and while we hope and encourage our members to continue using the knowledge and tools learned, to stay connected to the Dominican family, and to make preaching a living dynamic in their daily lives, there is no expectation to make religious vows (unless they would like to!). The Dominican Youth Movement USA is a partnership of people, both lay and religious, committed to passing on and integrating the Dominican charism into our lives.

Continuing Dominic's Dream

In his time, St. Dominic had a dream of creating a group of women and men dedicated to the Gospel, who would go throughout the world and preach the "Good News" of God's love. In our time, we too have a dream! Our dream is for our young people to catch the same fire for the Gospel by exposing them to new and creative ways to preach- ways which empower them to participate in preaching the "Good News."

The History of the Youth Preaching Workshop

The Youth Preaching Workshops began in 2001 as a project of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville on Long Island, NY and has served 1,200 students, ages 13-18, in 60+ workshops. Many of the student participants came from Dominican-affiliated high schools but also came from high schools and parishes where a Dominican vowed-religious was an active member of the community. In 2015, the DYMUSA brought together five different programs engaging young people of high school age through their young adult years - unifying their support and promoting their collective social impact and created a network for our young people to further develop their own call to preach and "Catch the Fire."

About the Dominican Youth Movement USA

The Youth Preaching Workshop is currently a program of the Dominican Youth Movement USA, a nonprofit organization which also oversees four other programs – the Dominican High Schools Preaching Conference, the National College "Preaching in Action" Conference, Dominican Young Adults USA, and the Dominican Houses of Hospitality. Our individual Dominican youth programs were originally founded nearly 20 years ago through a collaboration of Sister Gina Fleming, OP, and Sister Patricia Brady, OP, and have served over 4,000 high school students, college students, and young adults. It is the mission of the Dominican Youth Movement USA to connect today's youth and young adults to the Dominican tradition of preaching and the participant's own call to preach. Through our programs and workshops that offer a time, place, and context for establishing impactful relations, we build faith and strengthen our young people's commitment to God, community, family, preaching, social justice, and the Dominican Order. The Dominican Youth Movement USA reinforces and expands the Dominican Charism to Christian youth and young adults; creating future leaders of the Church who will preach the Good News as they share, explore, and integrate their faith with family, community and the world.

How to Participate in a Youth Preaching Workshop

Interested communities have two ways in which they can participate in a Youth Preaching Workshop.

1. Attend a Youth Preaching Workshop through our already established programs
2. Host a Youth Preaching Workshop through our "Youth Preaching Workshop To-Go" program

Attending a Youth Preaching Workshop

DYMUSA continues to offer a weekend workshop on Long Island, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville. The workshop is held at the Retreat Center at St. John's Diocesan High School in West Islip and at their Motherhouse in Amityville. The workshop begins Friday evening at the Retreat Center and ends with Liturgy with the Sisters as well as the participants' families at the Motherhouse.

Workshop Schedule

Included below are some activities included in the Youth Preaching Workshop.

Welcome & Ice Breakers

A simple introduction to the workshop and ways for the students to get to know each other – it is always good to know who you're praying and working with!

Opening Prayer

Our Opening Prayer includes a unique feature – a water blessing ceremony to recall our Baptism and the call to Preach.

Presentation: St. Dominic, the Order of Preachers, and the Four Pillars

A brief presentation on St. Dominic and the Dominican Order including highlighting Dominican saints like St. Catherine of Siena. The Four Pillars – the foundation of Dominican life – will be introduced and will be prominent throughout our workshop.

Morning and Evening Prayers

In addition to an Opening Prayer, Morning and Evening Prayers are included in the overnight workshop.

Presentation: Preaching through Drama

Students will be asked to dramatize a Gospel reading.

Presentation: Preaching through Art

Students will engage in prayer through visual art.

Presentation: Preaching through Dance

Students learn about sacred and liturgical dance while also preparing gestures for the Commissioning Liturgy.

Presentation: The Signs of the Times and Service

A presentation on how we as preachers need to be aware of the issues our world faces today and how we can preach through service. After this short presentation, a ministry of the Dominican Sisters will give a presentation on the work they do.

Ice Cream Social with the Dominican Sisters

A fun event to sit and have ice cream with the Dominican Sisters!

What's Next?

A work session where the participants along with DYMUSA and their group leaders and mentors will brainstorm ways to bring preaching into their own lives and to their home community.

Commissioning Liturgy

A closing Mass celebrated with the Sisters at Amityville as a way to welcome them as "Youth Preachers" and members of the Dominican family.

How to Join Us for Our Next Youth Preaching Workshop

Interested in joining us for our next Youth Preaching Workshop? Great! Here are things you need to know, what to expect, and more!

Designate a Group Leader and Organizing a Group

- Designate a Group Leader to manage participation and to act as the liaison between your organization and DYMUSA.
- The Group Leader should speak with the organization's pastor/principal/Campus Ministry/etc. to see if this is something your group can benefit from.
- Speak with students to see who is interested. **A group can register up to 10 students and must attend with at least one adult mentor, ideally the Group Leader.**

- *Things to Keep in Mind When Designating a Group Leader and Organizing a Group:*
 - You don't need a large group to participate! Choose participants that are willing to attend, whether it is one or ten students! Students who have previously attended are invited to return as Student Mentors.
 - Make sure there is at least one adult to chaperone your group. Also, having an adult experience the Workshop can be valuable, especially as the groups begin to consider implementing these tools and knowledge back in their home communities.
 - Make sure everyone is available to attend the **ENTIRE** weekend. It is a jam-packed weekend and each section is unique. Full participation is required for a full experience!
 - Every group is responsible for transportation to St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School on Friday evening and from the Amityville Dominican's Motherhouse on Sunday afternoon. You can go to the Workshop as a group or have parents/guardians drop off and pick up their children. Whatever you choose, please be clear with your arrangements with everyone.

Registration & Payment

- Once the group is set, register the entire group all at once with the form we will provide. Changes can be made up to one week before the workshop.
- The cost of the entire weekend (which includes meals and lodging) is **\$20 per person**. Payment can be mailed or given to the Director on the first day of the Workshop. Checks can be made out to:

Dominican Youth Movement USA
555 Albany Avenue
Amityville, NY 11701

Parent/Guardian Consent Form and Liability Waiver

- Each student must have a Parent/Guardian Consent Form and Liability Waiver signed by a Parent/Guardian. The form is located in the back of this packet. Please fill in the top section "Event Details" with the dates of the workshop you are planning to attend and the name(s) of the Group Leader(s).
- E-mail a copy of the signed forms to ypw@dymusa.org or bring copies with you on the first day of the Workshop. Make sure you have the originals with you during the Workshop!

What to Bring

- Clothes, including:
 - Pajamas
 - Shower shoes (flip flops)
 - Comfortable clothes and shoes for Saturday (a lot of moving will take place that day!)
 - Mass appropriate clothes for Sunday
- Toiletries
- Any essential medication and health insurance information

- **PLEASE bring water from home for our water ceremony during the Opening Prayer! Each person is encouraged to bring a few ounces of water from home to represent where they come from. This is an integral part of our workshop.**

Directions to St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School
1170 Montauk Hwy, West Islip, NY 11795

From Nassau County, Queens, Brooklyn, or Suffolk (Taking the Long Island Expressway):

Take the LIE from either direction to Exit 53 South, Sagtikos State Parkway South. Take Sagtikos Parkway South. The road will split. Stay in the right lane which turns into Southern State Parkway West. Follow directions coming from Southern State Parkway below.

From Nassau County, Queens, Brooklyn, or Suffolk (Taking Northern State Parkway):

Take Northern State Parkway from either direction to Exit 44, Sagtikos State Parkway South. Take Sagtikos Parkway South. The road will split. Stay in the right lane which turns into Southern State Parkway West. Follow directions coming from Southern State Parkway below.

From LIE, Northern State Parkway, Nassau County, Queens, Brooklyn, or Suffolk (Taking Southern State Parkway):

Take Southern State Parkway from either direction to Exit 40, Robert Moses Causeway South. Move into right lane and continue to Exit RM2W, NY-27A W Montauk Highway toward Babylon. After you exit the first light is Montauk Highway continue to the third traffic light and make a left turn. The school will be on your left side. Please enter from the entrance facing Montauk Highway.

Directions to Amityville Dominican's Motherhouse
555 Albany Avenue, Amityville, NY 11701

From Nassau County, Queens, Brooklyn (Taking Northern State Parkway East or LIE East):

Take Northern State Parkway East to Exit 36A South or LIE East to Exit 44 South, Seaford Oyster Bay Expressway (Rt. 135). Exit at 4E, Southern State Parkway East.

From Nassau County, Queens, Brooklyn (Taking Southern State Parkway East):

Take Southern State Parkway East to Exit 33 East, Rt. 109. Make an immediate right at the light onto New Highway. Cross over railroad tracks and make a right at the first light onto Albany Avenue. At the first stop sign you will see the Motherhouse on your left. Make the first left after the stop sign into the main entrance.

From Suffolk County (Taking Southern Start Parkway West):

Take Southern State Parkway West to Exit 34, New Highway (next exit after Wellwood Avenue). At end of exit ramp make a left onto New Highway and cross over Rt. 109. Cross over railroad tracks and make a right at the first light onto Albany Avenue. At the first stop sign you will see the Motherhouse on your left. Make the first left after the stop sign into the main entrance.

Questions

For any questions regarding the Youth Preaching Workshop and/or Dominican Youth Movement USA, please feel free to contact the Workshop Coordinator at ypw@dymusa.org.