

### **Auction This**

Auction off the youth minister or priest shaving their beard or getting a short haircut. The winning bidder makes the first cut. Other ideas include a pie in the face, dunk booth at the parish festival, or serenading the bidder with a favorite song.

### **Beautiful Baby Contest**

Have each participant (including your priests and sisters) bring a picture of themselves around the age of 0-9 months. Place the picture on a jar with no name, just the picture. Invite people to drop money in the jar of the baby picture that is the cutest! At the end of the fundraiser, count the money from each jar and announce which baby picture brought in the most money! The participant of the winning picture has bragging rights for a year!

### **Ransom the Priest**

Before Mass starts, announce in a clever (but not scary) way that the priest has disappeared. Let the people know that a basket is being passed around to collect funds for his rescue. Once the baskets have been passed, then Mass begins. Be sure to count the money and let the congregation know how much was collected to help the youth ministry and thank them!

### **Dinner & Movie Night**

Sell a delicious, simple dinner, then show a movie with a table to purchase snacks. Ideas include: spaghetti and garlic bread, tacos, baked potato bar, and chili. Also provide a supervised play area for children who may be bored with the movie. Have a teen share a short testimony as to how youth ministry helps him/her in a relationship with Jesus or how they see Jesus at church and in youth group.

### **Cooking with the Pastor**

Have a raffle (possibly \$10 per ticket). Have two cans for people to place their tickets in. One can consist of Cooking with the Pastor. Announce that 2-3 people will be drawn to cook a dinner for 20 people with the pastor. The pastor will share a special family recipe with the winners and proceed to cook with the winners. The second can consist of Dinner for 10 (or an agreed upon number) provided by the Pastor and His Special Chefs. The winners of this raffle come and eat the delicious food created by the pastor and the winners of the first can.

### **Garage/Rummage Sale**

There is wonderful profit potential in this tried and true simple idea. Gather donations for one week. Ask the teens, their families, parishioners, and those in the neighborhood to donate. Announce this at Mass, in the bulletin, Facebook, and websites. Have everything dropped off at the selling location, which can be a parish facility or a private home. Hold the sale for one day only (Saturday at a private home, Sunday if at church). Put up lots of signs and place an ad in the local paper. At the end of the sale, take any remaining items to St. Vincent De Paul or a thrift store.

### **Money Wall**

Take 50 plain envelopes and label each with an amount of \$1 to \$50. Place these on a large white board or cardboard, with the dollar amount on front. Ask families and parishioners to take an envelope and place a donation inside that matches the amount on the front. Fill all 50 envelopes and you will raise \$1,275. Use 75 envelopes and raise \$2,850. One hundred envelopes will raise \$5,050! For larger envelope amounts, ask parish groups to work together and help support the teens.

## **Movie Night**

Host a movie night for the parish in the church hall or outside if you have a suitable space and a projector. Charge an entrance fee. Sell popcorn, candy, soda, and other treats. Encourage parishioners to bring blankets and chairs.

## **Parent Night Out**

Host a night of fun and games for young children so their parents can go out on a date. You can charge a flat rate or ask for donations. Do this during the busy holiday season to allow parents to go Christmas shopping or on Valentine's Day or New Year's so they can go out on a date.

## **Pet Parade.**

Host a pet parade and charge an entry fee. Give ribbons for Best Dressed, Biggest, Smallest, Cuddliest, Best Smile, Best Trick, etc. October 4<sup>th</sup> is the feast of St Francis and many parishes have a blessing of the animals. This is a great addition to the festivities.

## **Shareholders**

Invite parishioners to become shareholders in the youth ministry. Sell shares for \$25-\$50 per share and ask them to commit to praying for one or more teens. Each share also provides the shareholder with a ticket to the shareholders' banquet held after a major event – such as Steubenville San Diego or your retreat. Every table has 2 or more teens or an adult ministry volunteer and one teen. They act as the host at each table to share personal stories. Play a video or photo montage with music as part of your program. Thank the shareholders. All shareholders have the opportunity to build deeper connections with the youth.

## **Sub Sunday**

Have teens make individual submarine sandwiches for parishioners to purchase and take home for their lunch. This is great for football games on Sundays, especially Super Bowl Sunday. Collect orders ahead of time by having members fill out an order form selecting from the various meats, cheeses, and vegetables (lettuce, tomatoes, onion) the youth will offer. Be sure to make some extras for purchase for those who didn't order but would like to make a purchase. Add a card with a blessing for the eater!

## **Taste of the Parish**

Try a parish dinner featuring treasured recipes of your families. Ask parents and teens to bring their favorite food dishes. These can be family favorites and/or they can be dishes that reflect the heritage of the family. Ask parish groups to publicize and ask their members to donate food dishes. Make an ask at all of the Masses for donated items, both food and beverage and the necessary plates, cups, napkins, and utensils. The more you have donated, the higher your profit. On the big night, arrange the room to have all the Italian food in one area, Mexican food in another, Asian food in another, American food in another, and a huge dessert table. Be sure that all of your teens bring a main dish and a dessert. Everyone takes their dishes home with them, so clean up isn't too bad. Best of all, the entire parish gets to share a meal and meet and support the teens. Ask your teens to make the announcements at Mass about the dinner and share a couple of sentences about what Steubenville and youth ministry has meant to them. Words of Wisdom: sell tickets at least two weekends before the dinner and have in the announcement that if people are unable to attend, a monetary donation can still be given. At the ticket table, add donation jugs. Put big signs out with the details. Have fliers that have a tear off portion so that people can mail in ticket orders. For year two, ask your dinner donors if you can have their recipes so you can offer a cookbook for sale, too.

## **Chili Cook-off**

Challenge parishioners to see who can make the tastiest chili! Advertise well in advance and talk it up with everyone at the parish. Those participating in the contest must provide all of their ingredients. Charge an entrance fee to everyone else. Once people pay, they receive an official voting card and can then go around to each booth. Determine this in advance, but the winner can receive a prize or just get bragging rights. Offering a prize entices more to participate in the contest but takes away potential profit.

## **Granola**

Gather your teens, parents, or other volunteers as your Granola Team. Have Granola Team members gather supplies, bake granola, label, and bag it for sale. All of this can be done a week or more in advance. Sell after Mass, at the parish bazaar, neighborhood festivals, and more. Check the internet for recipe ideas and be sure to make a sample batch of a small quantity first to check for taste and to gain valuable baking experience.

### **Granola Recipe – Standard size, make this first**

3 cups rolled oats (not instant)  
3 tablespoons packed light brown sugar  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/3 cup honey  
1/4 cup vegetable oil  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 cup coarsely chopped raw or toasted nuts or seeds – optional. Be sure label states “Contains Nuts”

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Heat the oven to 300°F and arrange a rack in the middle.
2. Place the oats, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt in a large bowl and stir to combine; set aside.
3. Place the honey, oil, and vanilla in a small bowl and stir to combine. Pour over the oat mixture and mix until the oats are thoroughly coated.
4. Spread the mixture in a thin, even layer on a rimmed baking sheet. Bake for 15 minutes, then stir and continue baking until the granola is very light golden brown, about 5 to 15 minutes more.

Place the baking sheet on a wire rack and cool the granola to room temperature, stirring occasionally, about 20 minutes. (Note: It will harden as it cools.) Place in food grade bags, using measuring cups or scales to have consistent amounts for your customers. Be sure your label includes all ingredients so that people with medical and allergy concerns will be informed.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sale Quantities – after you have made the Standard Recipe for experience**

36 cups rolled oats (not instant)  
2¼ cups packed light brown sugar  
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
4 cups honey  
3 cups vegetable oil  
4 tablespoons vanilla extract  
6 cups coarsely chopped raw or toasted nuts or seeds – optional. Be sure label states “Contains Nuts”

Use 4 large bowls for easier mixing. Be sure same quantity of each ingredient is in each bowl.

### **Vacation Bible School**

If your parish does not run a VBS program, have the youth help get it started and help run it. Part of the proceeds will go towards youth ministry. Parents will love sending their kids to VBS for the week, kids will enjoy learning about the faith in an exciting, fun, and interactive way, and teens will grow from teaching and leading the younger children. You can even offer service hours to teens who participate.

### **Bingo Night**

Host a bingo night for the entire parish. You can make a good profit on this event because you will not need very many supplies. You can print off bingo cards or order them at a decent price online. Ask around to see if any parish group already has a bingo cage. Advertise well in advance and charge a fee to play. Offer prizes to the winners of each round. This even is fun for all ages!

### **Family Dance**

Host a family dance for the parish! Charge an entrance fee or take donations upon entering. Pick a fun theme (sock hop, 80s, hippy, black and white) and decorate the hall accordingly. Go all out and make it fun and special for the families. Sell food, drinks, and treats. Have exciting contests with prizes. Offer prizes to the best dressed family. For an affordable photo booth, you can set up your own in a corner and use a polaroid to take photos. You can order cheap props from Oriental Trading Co.

### **Holiday Specialty Sales**

#### **Father's Day Basket Raffle**

Teens, families, and local businesses donate items for the basket. Ideas include: tickets for movies, sport events, golfing, gift certificates to local restaurants, tools, sporting goods/items, hats, electronics, toiletries, or anything a man might like. Sell raffle tickets at Mass and to parish groups for one weekend only.

#### **Mother's Day Flowers**

Work with a local florist or check with your parish or other youth ministers to see if there is a parishioner who can help you. You want to get the flowers at wholesale and in large bouquets. Sell them after Mass on Mother's Day. You can increase sales by taking pre-orders. A large bouquet should wholesale for around \$5 and you should be able to sell it for \$10 to \$15.

#### **Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale**

Most people buy a Christmas tree every year so why not get them to buy it from you and put some extra money into the youth group fund? For this event, you must do pre-orders! You will have to do a little research to find the best place to order wholesale trees. Advertise well in advance about the sale. Make announcements at Mass, put information in the bulletin, and post signs around the church. Have teens ask their neighbors, family members, and friends if they will support the youth group by purchasing a tree. You can even offer a free item or partially paid retreat for the person that sells the most trees. Clearly advertise the last day to buy a tree. After that date, order your trees. You can order a few extra but you don't want to be stuck with leftover trees. Have a fun lot with Christmas music and hot chocolate on the day of pick-up. Have a delivery and set-up service for an additional fee.

#### **Valentine's Day Candy Sale**

Create your own baskets of Valentine's Day goodies to sell to parishioners. You can also pick a company with a fundraising program and work with them. For example, See's Candies will give you up to 50% of the profit from a candy sale.