**FAQ’s about Love Begins Here **

* What is the schedule like?
	+ The day in the life of an LBH Missionary goes as follows:
		- Wake up and eat breakfast
		- Mass will be around 7:30-8:30am depending on the host parish
		- Missionaries and their car groups will go out and serve from about 9:00ish until 3:30/4:00 p.m.
		- After we are done serving, each car group will meet at the local public pool for swim time and showering until about 5:00pm
		- We will return to the host parish for praying the rosary, dinner and relaxing time.
		- Each night we will gather as a full group and have Collatio (time to share about our days and where we encountered Jesus that day)
		- Some nights will have parish group time
		- And one night of the week will be Adoration and Confession for the missionaries
		- After we share, there will be time to hang out, relax, and play games before we head to bed for the night

* Are chaperones free?
	+ Chaperones are free. We understand that they are giving up their time from work and family. All that we ask is that the parishes reimburse them in some way for gas.
* Does our parish have to send an adult chaperone?
	+ If you have more than four students, we ask that the parish send a VIRTUS trained adult whether that be the youth minister, parent, or adult volunteer that can serve the entire time with the students.
* Can the students or adults leave throughout the week if they have commitments?
	+ Love Begins Here is a mission experience. Just like you wouldn’t be able to return home if you went to an out of state mission, Love begins Here wants to emphasize how important it is to detach from the normal chaotic daily activity. We ask that all students and chaperones sleep on site and stay for the entire experience.
* How do the groups get to the service sites?
	+ A chaperone drives them in their car or van, so each student is paired with one chaperone and 3-5 other students in their car group. The car groups are usually mixed groups with students from various parishes (but may be from one parish due to COVID regulations).
* What age groups can attend?
	+ Middle School Weeks are for those entering 7th, 8th, or 9th. In essence, middle school weeks are geared toward those who have experienced middle school for a year or more but have not entered high school.
	+ High School weeks are for those entering 10th, 11th, 12th, or freshman year in college. In essence, high school weeks are geared toward those who have experienced high school before and have yet to experience college.
* What sort of work do the students do?
	+ LBH emphasizes that students do small things with great love. Mother Teresa said that the world longs for love more than it longs for bread, so the emphasis is placed on the work, but also the time visiting with the people they serve. Students serve at a different service site each day, sometimes two in one day. Jobs include weeding, painting, visiting and playing games with residents in nursing homes, lifting items, cleaning, raking, yard work, landscaping, sorting clothes/food for local shelters, trimming, cleaning windows, and simple acts with great love for those in the community.
* Will students see the people they serve?
	+ We put a large emphasis on students meeting with the people they serve so that they can make the connection between the small actions and the people who benefit. We try our best to pair groups with different types of service such as individuals’ homes or community organizations so that they can experience different types of people and service.
* Where do we stay?
	+ Each site for Love Begins Here will have somewhere for us to stay on site at the host Catholic parish or school. We will stay in classrooms throughout the school or sometimes in the old rectory. Missionaries (students) are encouraged to bring an air mattress/mattress pad and blankets/pillows. All rooms will be separated by gender.
* What does night programming look like?
	+ Each year, Love Begins Here focuses on a theme. Short talks given by the Love Begins Here young adult core team each night are based on this theme. One night, there is adoration and confession with alternating praise and worship and silent time. Most nights include talks, parish discussion time, night free time, games, relaxation, and dessert.
* What is the cost?
	+ The middle school mission trips cost $100\* (prices increase to $125 after April 1)
	+ The high school mission trips cost $125\* (prices increase to $150 after April 1)
* What if one of my students can’t make the week I am promoting, but wants to go on a different week?
	+ They are more than welcome to do that. We call those missionaries “lost sheep”.
	+ We encourage those individual students reach out to the LBH Coordinator due to this special circumstance to see what the Coordinator advises. We want to encourage a communal mission experience that can be built up after the summer, so we do encourage individual missionaries to partner with a group already scheduled to attend. If that is not possible, we encourage these students to attend with at least a chaperone. We want to make sure we have enough transportation for everyone and unfortunately, our LBH staff is not extensive enough to transport students to and from work sites.
* Can I be a host site for next year?
	+ - If you are interested in being a host site for Summer 2023 (We have sites already secured for 2022), please email our Love Begins Here coordinator at lterrien@gbdioc.org Be sure to include your parish and if you are interested in a high school or middle school week.