

What I Did on My Summer Vacation...



More than 30 youth took part in St. Leo's first ever summer program which met four hours a day two to three days a week from mid-June until the start of school. It was the official kick-off of youth ministry under the direction of Judie Kuhlman our new youth minister aided by parishioner Dontay Peppers and a team of adult and teen volunteers and speakers from the community.

Each day had its own theme and was a blend of prayer, games, relationship building, crafts, food, fun, and fellowship. There were field trips to Kings Island, the Zoo, a field day at Winton Woods, and a Reds game and walks to the local park for free lunch and water fun. Speakers tackled such themes as dealing with people who are different, first aid, trust, what it means to be a child of God, and health and hygiene.

Each day's theme was woven through activities, games, and prayer. For example, a friend of Judie's who had just returned from a trek in Alaska talked about the need to prepare, and be consistent with strength-training and exercise. They practiced these skills at the nearby park and later applied them to one's walk with God. At the end of the day each youth received a prayer journal. Lay Pastoral Ministry intern Beth Hegedus led a day about the Kingdom of God and developed a booklet for youth to take home.

The day ended with making home-made ice cream and celebrating our unity in God's kingdom.

On another day youth made good deed bracelets and book marks to give out at church on the weekends, reinforcing their roles as members of the parish. Another day they made rosaries and talked about that method of prayer.

When asked about their experiences in the summer program, responses were often similar:

- I made a lot of new friends
- I learned how to pray
- I had a lot of fun
- I liked the games where we got to know each other
- I like that we did new things every time
- We did cool fun stuff
- I met people who are loving and great
- I learned a lot from the speakers about Jesus and God

This first youth ministry program just wrapped up but many of the youth are talking about and looking forward to what they will be doing next summer.



Our First Refugee College Graduate . . .



Congratulations to Alexandre Maremba, son of Renovat and Anastasie who graduated August 4 from UC's College Conservatory of Music. He completed his degree in media in three years and has been awarded a two year scholarship to the Savannah College of Art and Design to complete his master's degree.