

## **New Beginnings**

New Beginnings is a weekend retreat for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth focusing on the two greatest commandments: loving God with all of our heart, mind, and strength, and loving our neighbors as ourselves. The event is a unique experience designed specifically to respond to the needs and concerns of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. It is led by a team of youth and adults from around the diocese.

The program begins on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. when participants arrive and continues until Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. There is a series of talks given by youth and adults, skits, songs and small group discussions and activities. These presentations focus on such subjects as self, friends, parents, siblings, school, God's love, prayer, the Church and "Who is Jesus?" In addition, there is time for fun, creating, and sharing. Participants not only learn and grow but also have a wonderful time. Clergy are present to assist with spiritual direction.

This year's retreat will take place September 25-27, 2016. Registration is online at the diocesan website: <http://www.diocesewla.org>. Cost is \$85/participant. **Participants must register by September 11 to receive a t-shirt. Registration closes September 18.**

For additional information, contact Joy Owensby ([jowensby@diocesewla.org](mailto:jowensby@diocesewla.org)) or Mtr. Mitzi George ([mitzi@saintbarnabas.us](mailto:mitzi@saintbarnabas.us)).

***All youth events are underwritten by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana. Thank you to our congregations who support diocesan ministries through their annual pledge!***