



Parish Leader Guide

High School Week

June 20-25

Milwaukee

St. Charles Borromeo

Middle School 01

June 28-July 1

Waukesha

Corpus Christi - St. William

Middle School 02

July 12-15

Burlington

St. Charles



Welcome to Love Begins Here!

Love Begins Here (LBH) is a Catholic mission experience where middle and high school teens encounter Christ through service, prayer, and community.

Inspired by the life and witness of St. Teresa of Calcutta, missionaries spend a week serving people in need right here in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee while growing in their relationship with Jesus and one another.

Throughout the week, missionaries experience daily Mass, the Rosary, Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, service, formation, and time together as a parish community.

2027 marks the seventh summer of Love Begins Here in Milwaukee. Since 2021, 960 missionaries have given nearly 14,000 hours of service across the Archdiocese.

Thank you for partnering with us to help your young people encounter Christ and become missionary disciples.

God Bless,

Andrew Schueller

Director, Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Kenny Jilek

LBH MKE Mission Coordinator

2027 at a Glance

	Grades	Location	Dates
High School	9-12	Milwaukee	June 20-25
Middle School 1	6-8	Waukesha	June 28-July 1
Middle School 2	6-8	Burlington	July 12-15
MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSIONS \$175 / Student 2 Workdays		HIGH SCHOOL MISSIONS \$225 / Student 4 Workdays	

Parish Leader Responsibilities

- Requesting and managing parish spots
- Recruiting student and adult missionaries.
- Communicating with families.
- Ensuring all missionaries complete required paperwork.
- Confirming Safe Environment and Safe Driver Compliance.
- Coordinating transportation.
- Attending Parish Leader Training.
- Serving as the primary parish contact throughout the process.



Mission Manifesto

Neighbors First.

We boldly take initiative to bring love to our neighbors, evangelizing with patience and joy. We are aware that when we close our eyes to our neighbor, it also blinds us to God. We encounter Him in those we serve. By putting God first in all we do, we live to serve others. Things of the world come last. We will find ourselves and come alive when we make a sincere gift of ourselves to our neighbors.

Small Things, Great Love.

We work on a small scale with a larger perspective. No task is too small in the eyes of the Lord when filled with great love. We will aim for perfection in our work because our work belongs to the Lord.

Missionary Disciples.

We are missionaries who work with passion, knowing we can bring God's love to our brothers and sisters who hunger. Love, in order to survive, must be nourished by sacrifices, especially the sacrifice of self. We refuse to settle for comfort and complacency, because we know each person is infinitely loved. We are the ones who enjoy life most, leaving security on the shore, on a mission to spread the joy of the Gospel.

Glossary of LBH Terms

You may see reference to the following terms in this guide or on the mission field. Here's more information on what each term means:

- **Teen Missionary:** A youth (grades 6-12) who is attending LBH.
- **Adult Missionary:** An adult leader/chaperone (21+) attending LBH. See more in the LBH Missionaries section.
- **Core Team Missionary:** A member of the LBH staff who helps implement and guide the mission throughout the week.
- **Parish Group:** A group coming to LBH from the same parish, along with their adult leaders. E.g. Louisa brings 6 teens from St. Elizabeth on a week of LBH. This is the "St. Elizabeth" parish group.
- **Parish Group Leader:** A paid parish staff member (Policy #6153.1) who serves as the main contact for the parish group. They handle registration, promotion, and coordination and serve as the "head" adult missionary for the group (if you are reading this, you are likely the parish leader!).
- **Host Parish/Home Base:** The parish where we live in community during a week of LBH. For example, Corpus Christi is the host parish for Middle School Week 1 – during that week, the church and school are "home base".
- **Car Group:** Each week, youth are mixed into a particular car group with students from other parish groups. This is the "small group" they are in for the week, and will do many activities together, mainly their mission work during the day and any traveling that needs to happen during the LBH. A car group will be a mix of youth of different ages, genders, and parish groups.
- **Mission Manifesto:** This is the WHY of Love Begins Here, a constant reflection point for our missionaries throughout the week. It explains why, how, and what we do. See the Mission Manifesto section for more.
- **Collatio:** Latin for "coming/bringing together." This is the time, each evening, where all the missionaries come together for large group processing, a spiritual talk by a Core Team Missionary, and prayer time. This time helps our missionaries connect the service they do during the day with their relationship with Christ and His Church.
- **Parish Time:** Most nights include time for parish groups to come together and debrief their day. Because youth will be in different car groups throughout the day, this is a chance for a parish group to check in and bond with each other.



LBH Missionaries

LBH Missionaries are joyful, servant-hearted, and desire to bring the love of Jesus Christ to their neighbors!

Middle School Missionaries

- Open to current 6th–8th grade students
- Cost is \$175/student.
- Middle School Weeks feature two workdays.

High School Missionaries

- Open to current 9th–12th grade students.
- Cost is \$225/student.
- High School Weeks feature four workdays.

Adult Missionaries

Each parish group is responsible for providing the adult leaders needed to safely accompany their students throughout LBH.

Your parish group needs:

- **A Parish Group Leader:** a paid parish staff member who serves as the main contact and is responsible for the parish group.
- **At least 1 adult missionary for every 8 students of the same gender.** Parishes bringing both male and female students must provide appropriately assigned male and female adult missionaries.
- **A seatbelt for every person** in your parish group.

Adult Missionary Requirements

- Adult Missionaries **must be present for the entirety of LBH.**
- All missionaries **over 18, including high school students,** must complete the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Training and requirements.
- Adult missionaries who are driving need to be **23+ years old and complete the Safe Driver Certification** on CMG Connect.
- Adult missionaries will also need to complete an **online LBH training course.**
- Adult missionaries who are required for Safe Environment compliance and leading a work group attend Love Begins Here at **no cost.** Additional adults are welcome to attend for **\$100 per adult.**

IMPORTANT GRADE NOTES

- Grades are based on the student's current grade during the 2026–2027 academic year.
- Rising 9th grade students are not allowed to attend the high school week.
- Students who are or will be 18 during the mission week **must** complete the Safe Environment training.



Adult missionaries who are serving as drivers should provide a safe, reliable, and clean vehicle for transportation throughout the week. During the high school week, they should also plan for approximately **\$25 for an ice cream outing** with their car group. Parishes are encouraged to reimburse these expenses.

Typical LBH Schedule

Workdays

07:00am - 07:45am	Wake-Up & Breakfast <i>Adult Missionary Meeting</i>
08:00am - 08:20am	All Missionary Meeting
08:30am - 09:10am	Mass
09:10am - 09:20am	Depart for Worksites
09:30am - Noon	Worksites
Noon - 12:30pm	Lunch Break (onsite)
12:30pm - 03:00pm	Worksites
03:15pm - 05:00pm	Pool Time & Showers
05:15pm - 05:30pm	Rosary
05:30pm - 06:30pm	Dinner
07:00pm - 08:45pm	Evening Program
08:45pm - 09:30pm	Parish Time
09:30pm - 10:00pm	Prepare for Bed
10:00pm	Lights Out

First Day

03:00pm - 04:00pm	Parish Groups Arrive, Check In, & Get Settled
04:15pm - 05:30pm	Welcome to LBH, Ice Breakers
05:30pm - 06:30pm	Dinner & Clean-Up
07:00pm - 08:30pm	Evening Program
08:30pm - 09:15pm	Parish Time
09:30pm - 10:00pm	Free time Prepare for Bed
10:00pm	Lights Out

Last Day

07:00am - 07:45am	Wake-Up & Breakfast Adult Missionary Meeting
08:00am - 08:20am	All Missionary Meeting
08:30am - 09:15am	Mass, followed by Group Photo
09:15am - 10:00am	Pack & Clean-Up Home Base
10:00am - 11:00am	Brunch
11:00am - Noon	Closing Program Weekly Video



Schedules vary slightly by mission week due to parish Mass times.
A detailed schedule will be provided to parish leaders closer to your mission week.

LBH Registration & Important Dates

1



SEPTEMBER 15–30, 2026 RESERVE YOUR PARISH SPOTS

- Parish requests open at **9:00 a.m.** on **September 15**.
- Submit the [Parish Request Form](#) with the number of spots your parish realistically expects to fill.
- **Important:** Do not promise spots to families until your parish receives its allocation.
- **Sept. 30:** Initial requests close.
- **Oct. 9:** Parish allocations communicated.
- **After Oct. 12:** Remaining spots become first-come, first served.

2



NOVEMBER 10, 2026–MARCH 12, 2027 REGISTER YOUR MISSIONARIES

- Families register individually through the Archdiocese's CampSite Platform.
- Your parish will be invoiced for registered missionaries. Families do not pay the Archdiocese directly.
- Parish leaders can track registrations through their Agent profile on CampSite.
- Once your parish spots are full, additional families may join your wait list.
Unfilled spots may be reallocated after March 12 based on demand.

3



APRIL 19, 2027 REGISTRATION CLOSES

- All teen and adult missionaries must be registered by **11:59 p.m.**
- After this date, registration is closed and your parish is responsible for registered spots.
- Invoices will be sent after the deadline and are due **June 1, 2027**.

4



MAY–JUNE 2027 COMPLETE FINAL REQUIREMENTS

- Complete all remaining Safe Environment, Safe Driver, Overnight Verification, and adult training requirements.
- Make Final Payment



**“Not all of us can
do great things,
but we can do
small things with
great love.”**

- St. Teresa of Calcutta

Important Policies



OVERNIGHT EXPERIENCE

Love Begins Here is an overnight mission experience. All missionaries are expected to stay on site overnight and participate for the entire week.

We understand that families may feel anxious about their teen sleeping overnight and we can make accommodations on a case by case basis. If your teen needs to sleep at home, please contact us well in advance to discuss possible accommodations.



ATTENDANCE

Please treat LBH like an out-of-state mission trip. Late arrivals or early departures and mid-week pickups for other activities are generally not permitted. Our experience shows that teens who arrive late or leave early struggle to connect with the community.



CELL PHONES

Student missionaries should leave their cell phones at home. Cell phones prevent students from fully entering into the LBH experience AND they pose a privacy risk in the sleeping quarters.

Adult Missionaries should bring a phone for communication and safety. Adult Missionaries are asked to limit their usage to LBH purposes, and not to use them during evening programming.



CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Cancellations may be made without penalty until **11:59 p.m. on April 19, 2027** by the family or parish leader emailing us at **LBH@archmil.org**.

After April 19, your parish is responsible for all registrations on file and spots become non-transferable to another individual or parish.

Love Begins Here will refund for families that need to drop after April 19 due to medical reasons or death in the family.



All policies are in place to create a safe, faith-filled, and meaningful mission experience for every missionary. Adult missionaries agree to follow and enforce all LBH policies during the mission week.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why Love Begins Here?

In her 1979 Nobel Prize acceptance speech, St. Teresa of Calcutta encouraged us to “find the poor here, right in your own home first. **And begin love there.**”

Love Begins Here embraces this call from St. Teresa and focuses on serving people in need right here in our own Archdiocese. We believe God has willed for us to be in this time and this place for a reason – to be His hands and feet to those directly around us. LBH seeks to facilitate an encounter between our youth and those in need in our own homes, parishes, and neighborhoods.

Can I still sign up if my parish is not sending a group?

Yes! A limited number of “Free Agent” spots are available for teens whose parish is not coming to LBH. Free Agent registration opens in November through the CampSite platform.

Where do we stay?

Missionaries stay at a host parish where we eat, sleep, and pray in community. Sleeping accommodations are typically in school classrooms, separated by gender. Missionaries are strongly encouraged to bring an air mattress or mattress pad to sleep on.

What sort of service will we do?

LBH emphasizes doing small things with great love. Mother Teresa said that the world longs for love more than it longs for bread, so while we work hard, the focus is much more on building relationships with those we serve. Missionaries serve at different service sites throughout the week. Our work can include weeding, painting, visiting and playing games with nursing home residents, 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.

Can teens or adults leave during the week for other commitments or sleep at home?

Love Begins Here is a mission experience. Just like we wouldn’t be able to return home if we went on an out-of-state mission trip, Love Begins Here wants to emphasize how important it is to detach from our normal and chaotic daily activities. We ask that all teen and adult missionaries sleep on site and stay for the entire experience.

At the same time, we are always willing to talk about needs that our teen missionaries have. If staying at home might be a need for your missionary, please contact our staff to discuss.

Can parish groups mix?

Yes. Students are intentionally placed into mixed car groups with missionaries from different parishes. As this is a local mission, all adult participants complete the same safe environment training and are certified through the archdiocese, not just their local parish.

Parish Leader **Check-List**

Task	Due Date
☐ Review Registration & Payment Policies	Sept. 15, 2026
☐ Register Parish for LBH 2027	Sept. 30, 2026
☐ Access/Edit/Print LBH Flyer	Dec. 01, 2026
☐ Recruit Student Missionaries	Feb. 1, 2027
☐ Recruit Adult Missionaries (1 Adult for every 8 youth of same gender)	Feb. 1, 2027
☐ Finalize Transportation to LBH	Apr. 15, 2027
☐ Attend Parish Leader Training	Apr. 15, 2027
☐ All Missionaries Registered with LBH	Apr. 19, 2027
☐ Verify Safe Environment Certification of all 18+ Missionaries (Student & Adults)	May 1, 2027
☐ Verify all drivers have completed the Safe Driver Certification on CMG Connect and submit driver checks to Catholic Mutual.	May 1, 2027
☐ Submit Overnight Verification Form (Email to Safe Environment Office, CC Youth & Young Adult Ministries Office)	June 1, 2027
☐ Adult Missionaries complete online LBH training	June 1, 2027
☐ Final Payment Sent to Archdiocese	June 1, 2027

Appendix

Resources to Share with Your Families.

Editable flyers, bulletin ads, and individual PDF versions of the next two pages are available on the **LBH Parish Resources page**: intranet.archmil.org/LBH/Parish-Resources



Registration Instructions



INFORMATION NEEDED BEFORE STARTING REGISTRATION

We highly recommend completing your registration on a desktop or laptop computer rather than a tablet or phone. To save time, find the following items or information before starting the online registration form:

- **Insurance Card** with company info, member and group numbers, etc.
- **Prescription Medicine Information** including names and dosages
- Phone numbers for **Two Emergency Contacts** (Non-parents)

Adult Missionaries will also need:

- **Driver's License**
- **Vehicle Registration Information**
- **Vehicle Insurance Information**, especially liability limits

1

NEW FAMILIES

Once on the CampSite platform, you need to complete a **New Family Enrollment**

- Choose your Parish based on where your family is registered and regularly attends.
- Create missionary profiles for any teens **AND** adults in your family that are registering for LBH. We would appreciate you uploading photos into each family member's profile! (Creating a family account is not enough to enroll an adult for LBH).

RETURNING FAMILIES

Login with your email address and password that you used last time you completed an LBH registration. **Please do not create a new account if you cannot remember your password.** Use the system prompt to reset it or reach out to LBH staff.

- Once logged in, start by going to the **"My Account" tab** to make sure all family members you intend to register have profiles. Check that your information is correct and update photos and any other missing or new information.

2

After creating or ensuring your family account includes **ALL** missionaries you intend on registering, you will be able to begin enrolling individual missionaries in your family for their week(s).

- To do so, use the **"Enrollment" tab**.
- If your parish week is full, still sign up to be added to a waiting list.
 - As space allows, teens on the Waiting list could be released at any point, most often in March.

3

To complete registration, you need to check out each missionary **ONE** at a time.

If you have questions regarding registration, please contact **your Parish Leader**. They have been trained to help you troubleshoot! If they are not available, email us at LBH@archmil.org.



Packing List

BEFORE YOU PACK

Footwear

Closed-toed shoes, such as tennis shoes are required at worksites. Sandals and other summer footwear may be worn during evening activities.

Clothing

Please dress modestly and appropriately throughout the week. This means:

- No revealing clothing, including bare midriffs, spaghetti straps, very short shorts.
- Shorts must have at least a 3-inch inseam.
- Leggings/tight pants should be worn with shorts or a skirt.
- Avoid clothing with inappropriate or non-Christian messages.

Shower & Swimwear

Swimwear is needed for the pool to cool off after a hot day of work, evening water activities, and showering; as participants may not have access to private shower stalls.

- **Ladies:** please bring one-piece swimwear, tankinis that cover the entire midriff, or a dark-colored T-shirt to wear over a two-piece swimsuit.
- **Gentlemen:** no tight-fitting suits or speedos.

Mass Clothes

You will have time to change between morning Mass and heading to the worksites. Missionaries are welcome to bring simple appropriate clothing for Mass.

- **Ladies:** Knee-length skirt or slacks (not jeans or sweatpants). If you are uncertain about skirt length, consider bringing leggings to wear underneath.
- **Gentlemen:** A pair of long slacks (not jeans) and a polo shirt.

Sleeping

We are blessed to be hosted by parishes, often sleeping on classroom floors. An air mattress or sleeping pad is strongly recommended to get a good night's sleep.

Cell Phones

Student missionaries should leave their phones at home.

This helps protect privacy in sleeping quarters and allows missionaries to be fully present to the LBH experience.

Adult missionaries will have phones for communication and safety throughout the week. Families can stay connected through our LBH Instagram updates: [@lbhmke](#)

The Essentials

- Inflatable Mattress
- Sleeping bag **OR** Sheets and a blanket
- Pillow
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant)
- Towel
- T-Shirts & Shorts for Worksites
- One long sleeve shirt and one pair of pants for worksite
- Underwear
- Socks
- Pajamas
- Outfit for Mass
- Sweatshirt
- Swimsuit
- Closed-toed (tennis) shoes
- Rosary
- Money for LBH merchandise
- Work gloves & safety glasses
- Mask or face covering
(For dust or poor air-quality conditions)
- Sunscreen
- Cap
- Medications
- Water bottle

Optional Items

- Box fan
- Pen & Journal
- Shower Sandals
- Stuffed Animal

DO NOT BRING

- Alcohol
- Tobacco Products
- Illegal Drugs
- Weapons & knives
- Pornographic Materials
- **Cell Phones**
- Portable video games & music players
- Hair dryers & curling irons

**“And so here I am talking to you -
I want you to find the poor right here,
right in your own home first.**

AND BEGIN LOVE THERE.

**Be that good news to your own people.
And find out about your next-door
neighbor - do you know who they are?”**

- St. Teresa of Calcutta, Nobel Laureate Lecture, 1979



ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE
Office of Youth &
Young Adult Ministries

2027 LOVE BEGINS HERE: MILWAUKEE