

~ What An AWESOME Youth Summer Service Adventure! ~

A while back I wrote a cover page in the Forum describing a High School Youth Summer Service Adventure that thirteen of our high school youth and three adults from St. Francis were going on from Sunday, July 21st-28th. Our theme was: "We're Helping To Build One Nation Under God."

The point is simply this – we had an **AWESOME TIME!** Thus, my hope is that we'll get to do all over again next year. So, if you haven't checked out our youth group yet – do you see now what you're missing?

We're Helping To Build



One Nation Under God



Well, it was all we could've hoped for and MORE! WOW – where to start? Should I start by telling you that we went to the world-famous "Cross in the Woods" for a beautiful Mass and made a pilgrimage of prayer up to the HUGE Crucifix on our knees? Or should I begin by telling you we were the opening story on an NBC affiliate news broadcast (Traverse City Channel 7&4), or that the whole Benzie

We couldn't have done it without your prayers and support. Again, THANK YOU for helping make this all possible! Your prayers didn't go unanswered. As far as all involved are concerned – they were answered to the FULL!

*Sincerely,
Marty Rhein
Director of Youth Ministry Young Adults, and Singles*

*P.S. ...we also had "Frank's Place" around a campfire, spent a whole day enjoying the sights, sounds, and treats of Mackinac Island and... You see? **There is so much to experience in our youth group activities – Please join us soon!***

community was abuzz with excitement about "this wonderfully generous youth group from Ann Arbor?" Oh, but then there was that incredible evening spent climbing a 450 foot sand dune and watching the sun set at Sleeping Bear Dunes! And there was the night we went to Traverse City for dinner, to ride go-carts, and then eat incredible home-made shakes at "Don's Drive-in!" Oh yeah and then there was... Ugh, I could go on and on!

As I said in the Forum article, the goal of our Service Adventure was three-fold. First, to give our teens an opportunity **TO SERVE** the elderly, disabled, and those who cannot afford needed repairs. Second, **TO SPIRITUALLY ENRICH** the lives of the participants and provide them opportunities to experience God's love in a deeper manner. Thirdly, **TO TAKE IN AND ENJOY** our state's beautiful outdoors. Well, we did that and more!

We were **truly blessed** with a lot of beautiful weather, great moments of prayer, fun evening activities, and our work projects were completed in a safe and productive way for some very friendly and generous people.



Group Participants: (Front row L to R) Kevin Fay, Sean Sullivan, Sarah Pott, Chelsea Foster; (2nd row) Stephen Stepaniak, Alysson Lincoln, Andrew Varani, Tara Thomas, Ruth Jensen; (3rd row) Pat Falahee, Jessica Hungerford, Matt Bonarek, Julia Borders; (4th Row) Dorothy, Kevin Schnell, Mike Bonarek, [Not pictured: Marty Rhein]