



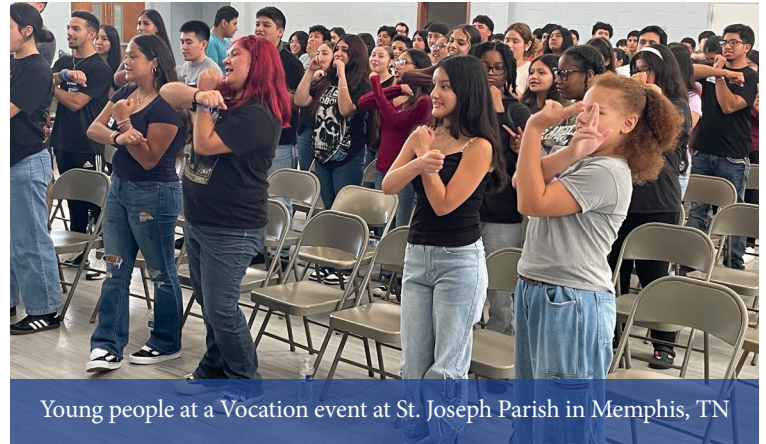
TRANSFORMING HEARTS Embracing our Vocation

Sr. Monica Darrichon, SSpS

Early in the morning on July 25, Sister Aprilia and I departed from the convent for Memphis, TN, as our final destination. We were accompanied by Seminarian Ryan Agbim. Over the past two months, we have been meeting with the SVD priests from the St. Louis, MO district: Fathers Brandon Hiep, Binh Nguyen, Juan Antonio Romo, Stephan Brown, and Thinh Ngo. Our purpose was to plan a gathering for young people from the four SVD parishes within the district. We were invited to this event and participated in a program specifically designed for them.

The goal of the gathering was to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the SVD and to encourage young people to embrace their vocations. The event took place at St. Joseph Parish in Memphis, TN, and approximately 100 young people attended. They represented diverse backgrounds, including Hispanic, Vietnamese, and African American communities.

Together with Fr. Adam MacDonald, those of us in charge of the gathering developed topics for discussion. In addition to these topics, the schedule included games, prayer, praise, and worship. The Bishop of Memphis, David Talley, was present during the sending ceremony and delivered a message of hope to all participants. Everyone left the meeting feeling happy with what they had received over the two days and committed to listening to the Lord's call to collaborate in making the world a happier place for everyone.



Young people at a Vocation event at St. Joseph Parish in Memphis, TN



Sr. Monica Darrichon speaking with young people about vocation.

