

NZ Passionist Youth Retreat 2011

Below are some shared reflections about the camp, and the CAMP SONG.

Having to join the youth retreat again this year was fun!
Not only did I meet my friends again from last year, I've also got to know new friends as well.

The time we had there was great! We got to enjoy the yummy food cooked by Joan and Norma.

We played awesome games with Paul and the other fellow 'retreat kids', and did a little dramatization using a story narrated by Fr. Brian, of what it's like to have a family and the obstacles they experience as time goes by.

Every session, we talked within our mini group about what we see God as, about our faith in him and the glorious things He has done for us. We had our wise elders who helped us answer the questions we have asked ourselves from time to time, and also gave us advice to the problems big or small we are facing so far.

Overall, the time we had at the retreat was precious and worthwhile. We savored each time having fun with each other and strengthened our faith with God together.

I can't wait to join the next youth retreat so I could see their faces again, meet new people and immerse myself to my catholic faith.

I hope more teens like me would come next time and experience the fun us 'retreat kids' have experienced.

- Kaithlen

I really enjoyed the retreat.

Meeting new people and seeing Camp Rangī Woods was awesome.

I wish it were more than once a year that would be great.

The food was great, and so were the prepared prayers.

Over all, it was really cool. ;)

- Te Rangioinga

The camp this year was another great experience.

My parents have been involved with retreats for about 9 years, this means I have also been coming helping out -usually in the kitchen; This was the first year I was old enough to join in with sessions. And it was great!

The people you meet, the games you play (I went a little nervous as a participant and came back as a ninja ;D) the music you share, the experiences you have and the memories to keep forever.

Fr. Brian opened our eyes to many things including the lack of the Earths resources if we continue to consume them at this rate and how all-living things are connected. Fr Brian also got the 'wise elders' (leaders) to sit up the front and answer anonymous questions which made me think a lot.

Everyday we would spend time writing in our diaries which were given to us at the beginning of the retreat. No-one saw/read these apart from us; this also made me think about lots of things, my faith and life in general.

Spending time with people my age that have the same faith and values as I do - and some extending mine more- was a great experience. I would encourage you (reading this) if you are of age to come along and give it a go and join in. It will be the best week of your school holidays you've had in along time. If you are not of age I really encourage you to invite anyone who is.

- Vanessa

Camp Song (2011) Written and Sung by Nick and Chris To the tune of 'Lola'

I went to this Passionist youth retreat – where you learn cool stuff and eat great food with Norma...a -a -and Joana

One cold night when the grass was white – they cooked some burgers and we ate all night with

Norma...a -a- and Joana

*I'd like to thank G.O.D. for all the good food which he made for us -
along with
Norma...a- a- and Joana*

*Let's not forget that wonderful man with his holy baldy and his fail of a
tan
Paula...p- p- p Paula*

*How could we forget those ladies 3 – who opened our eyes and made us
see
Emma...Emma Carmen and Alice.*

*Last but not least – the man himself who brought us altogether in
sickness and health
Brian...Father- er -er Brian*

AMEN!