

Come Fly with Me.



May the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with each of you as we start a new 2025. Happy New Year! It is my prayer that we at ERCM enter this new year to serve the Lord and

his people, the precious youth of our community, with wisdom and love as we continue to serve our mission.

As I look into 2025, I am excited to be a part of this Youth Ministry. We have had opportunities last year to get to know each other, to learn about Faith, how faith works in our lives as well as the promises of faith. We had fun and exciting games, learning about the saints like Saint Therese of Lisieux, Saint Mother Teresa and Our Lady of Guadalupe, just to name a few. There is so much in store for us this upcoming year. Our Under the Wing Program has taken flight as well as Feathers of Faith. Keep those mentor and prayer requests coming. Our team is here to support you and pray for you.

I look forward to spending more time sharing the Word of God with you and in the many youth nights and full day retreats that we have planned in 2025. Serviam!

~Fr. Samy, Spiritual Director~

An Ethiopian Odyssey (Part 1)

Greetings in Christ to all who are sharing in and witnessing a small part of my journey of faith.

Who would have thought that I would one day share my story with you? Even if I had once imagined such a moment, it seemed far beyond my reach. But nobody except God knows the entire story. Some of you may already know me, and others will come to know me. Here at Eagle Rising Catholic Youth Ministry, we are brothers and sisters in Christ, united in faith and love. If God had not come into my life, I would not be the person I am today.

I was born in Ethiopia, in the Oromia



region, and I am profoundly grateful for the gift of our Catholic faith. It was through the dedicated missionaries of the Catholic Church that I first began my journey of love with Jesus. Isn't it

incredible how God works? When He wants to save us from harm or guide us to a better path, He often sends someone into our lives to lead us. That is what happened to me.

As the firstborn child in my family, I carried a significant amount of responsibility on my shoulders. I was expected to care for my younger siblings, all while navigating the challenges brought on by my father.

My father did not believe in the importance of education for girls, and he strongly opposed my desire to go to school. When I successfully passed from grade three to grade four, I was filled with joy and excitement. However, my father's words shattered my enthusiasm. He said to me, "Now you know how to write your name and some math's—that's enough for you. You should work on the farm, and when you're grown, you'll get married." Those words were devastating for me as a young child. My heart and mind were consumed with an intense desire to learn and grow, just like my friends and neighbors. Can you imagine being told that your dreams and aspirations are a waste of time?

To hear more read part II of an Ethiopian Odyssey in the February newsletter.

~Ayantu Abera, Eagle Ambassador~



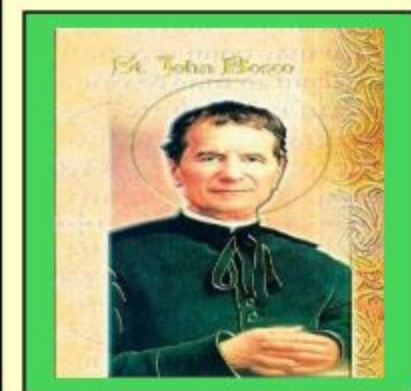
OUR PRAYER

Lord, guide us to be of service to you and others. Inspire us to care for all your creation, especially the youth. Fill us with truth, hope and love in all that we do. Unite us to faithfully journey together with you, as we work to build Your Kingdom within our community.

~Serviam~

A Fruitful 2025

I am excited to start the new year with this Youth Ministry as a focus. Being able to touch even just one person's life was our goal when we started last year and from your participation, we know the numbers are growing. Thank you! I am looking forward to sharing more events with all of you this year. These newsletters have been our way to share information and events with you and next month we will start a series of incorrupt Saints. Happy and blessed 2025. ~Andrea, Chairperson~



Saint of the Month

Our very own Patron Saint, Saint John Bosco is celebrated this month. His feast

day is on January 31st. Our website has some information about Saint John Bosco and here is a little about him

When John was just nine, in a dream, John found himself fighting a large crowd of rowdy boys who were cursing and carrying on badly. He tried to stop them, but they refused to listen to him. Suddenly, a Man appeared, who motioned to John and said, "Not with punches will you help these boys, but with goodness and kindness!" "Who are you?" gasped the astonished boy. Then a Woman appeared. Putting her arms around him, she said, "Watch what I do, John." John looked. The boys changed into a pack of snarling wild animals whose growls sent terror to his heart. Then the woman put out her hand. The beasts changed again to a frolicking flock of lambs. But what does it all mean? I'm just a farm boy. What can I do?" He burst into tears.

The Lady's answer came to him, ever to resound in his heart, to be repeated audibly several times in his life, "This is the field of your work. Be humble, steadfast, and strong!" "John now knew his vocation. But the priesthood meant studies, and there was no money on the Bosco farm. Even school was almost impossible. Due to the goodness of a farmer who taught him, John learned to read and write and do sums at the age of eight and started his way to Priesthood.



While he was in Turin, he couldn't help but notice that the industrial revolution had had a very bad effect on families. A lot of suffered from the disruption of their family life. So, he vowed to devote his life to the disadvantaged and street children of Italy. He developed methods of teaching that did not use the harsh punishment of the time. He called this his Preventive System. Bosco believed that education was a "matter of the heart" and said that children should not only be loved, but also know that they are loved. He also pointed out three components of the Preventive System: reason, religion and kindness.

He eventually founded Society of St. Francis de Sales, also called the Salesian Brothers who taught boys. With Mary Mazarello, he founded an order of Sisters called Daughters of Mary Help of Christians who taught girls. There was also group of lay men and women called the Salesian Cooperators who taught and assisted but did not take vows. John Bosco revolutionized education in Italy.

Did you know that Saint John Bosco is also incorrupt? Learn more about that in our 2025 series.

(source: <https://donboscowest.org/donbosco>)

Check out eaglerisingnyc.org to learn more!



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Youth Corner

This month, the youth of Eagle Rising Catholic Ministry had the wonderful opportunity to give back and support our community in a meaningful way. We partnered with the Sisters of Life to assist in packing donation bags and wrapping gifts for women, mothers, and their children in need. Learn more about the Sisters of Life and their amazing selfless mission at <https://sistersoflife.org>



INFOCUS:

- Starting the New Year with Service and Gratitude
- Youth Community Service: Supporting Mothers in Need
- Youth night January 10, 2025
- Embracing a Spirit of Compassion

As we enter 2025, we reflect on the blessings of the past year and look forward with hope and purpose. This month, our ministry began the year by extending love and support to our community.

Let us continue to embrace this spirit of service throughout the year, finding new ways to uplift those in need and grow as a community rooted in faith, love, and kindness

Eagle Rising Catholic Youth Ministry