

## **ST. PATRICK'S ADOPT-A-CADET PROGRAM**

St. Patrick's Adopt-A-Cadet Program asks you to open your heart and your home to a local Catholic VMI "Rat." By participating, you are enriching the ministry of our parish and providing a "home away from home" for Catholic young adults in Lexington. The program offers an opportunity to mentor a young person, resulting in a heartening experience for both. If you are willing to take part this year, or would like more information about the program, please complete the form and **place it in the Offertory Collection Basket or return it to the Parish House as soon as possible.** Thank you for your consideration! *Mary Stuart Harlow* ([msharlow502@gmail.com](mailto:msharlow502@gmail.com), 540-460-7353), *Leslie Straughan* ([office@stpatrickslexington.com](mailto:office@stpatrickslexington.com)) or *Ramona Hazera* ([rbhazera@gmail.com](mailto:rbhazera@gmail.com), 703-864-3785).

\_\_\_ Yes, I am willing to adopt one or more Cadets (list how many you would like to adopt - two is better!) (Number \_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_ I am interested in the Adopt-A-Cadet Program but need more information. Please contact me.

\_\_\_ Special preferences such as male or female cadet, branch of the service, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for supporting this very important ministry. One of us will be in touch with you shortly to provide additional information on the program and provide you the name and contact information for the cadet/s you are adopting.

### **Family Guidelines**

\*You are making a commitment to "adopt" the Rat until at least Christmas break, which starts mid-December and ends mid-January the following year. Cadets are also away for one week at Thanksgiving. After Christmas break, you and your Cadet/s decide on the level of commitment/relationship that will continue.

\*If families have a particular Cadet in mind, please make your preference known.

\*Cadets often have many other commitments and also feel a bit awkward about contacting the family; it is recommended that families take the initiative in contacting the Cadets, at least for the first few meetings. Cadets are often overwhelmed with the rigors of VMI life and if they do

not respond immediately, contact them again. It is not that they are impolite but rather they are inundated.

\*The program strives for a “Catholic home away from home” atmosphere when they need it. There are times (exams, sports, FTX, clubs, etc.) when they cannot meet. For students living long distances from Lexington, some may spend time with the family (2 or 3 day furloughs, breaks).

\*The program is not designed to be a student financial supplement and families are not obligated to pay for activities that are done together. However, be aware that students are sometimes low on funds.

\*Remember not to over-burden the students with activities. They are so busy during the week that a day’s refuge is most welcome. But they are often reluctant to say “no” to a family that asks them to do something. Encourage the Cadet to be open and tell you when they may have other commitments (studying, advisor meetings, etc.) and cannot meet or participate in a family outing.

\*If your schedule tends to be busy, consider engaging another family to work with you so that you can share the Cadets as needed. Two Cadets is generally easier for all because they tend to feel more comfortable and families don’t need to be concerned about “entertaining” them.

#### Suggested Activities:

Dinner at the family home. Short trip to mall so they can buy things they may need. Trip to a movie theater or play. Care package to student during mid-terms, exams. A birthday card, cake or cupcakes. Meeting other students for mass and going out afterwards for brunch. Football games on TV (and allow them to fall asleep ..zzzzzz). Picnic on the Blue Ridge, Goshen, Glen Maury. Third Thursday of each month – an hour of Adoration.

Let your imagination be your guide! And contact other host families for ideas and support!

Rev. 7/8/2019