

Retreat Program: *Greater: An Online Confirmation Retreat* <https://greaterretreat.com/honolulu>

Why is it called *Greater*?

We are all called to something *greater*. God loves us where we are at, but He doesn't want us to stay where we are. We are called to grow in relationship with Jesus, with each other, with our community. This retreat encourages your young people to evaluate where they are currently in their lives and challenges them to strive for something more, for something *greater*.

Goal: Provide an online retreat experience for confirmandi that will take them from a lukewarm faith to being on fire for Him.

Content:

- *Greater Love* – A presentation of the Gospel centered around who Jesus is and what He desires for their life.
- *Greater Power* – A look at who the Holy Spirit is, and how He moves both in the life of the Church and in their life.
- *Greater Living* – A practical guide to living as a disciple of Jesus with examples pulled from the lives of Saints.
- *Greater Mission* – An explanation of their missionary role after Confirmation and how to use their unique gifts to fulfill that call.

See attachment, **Greater: Scope and Sequence**, for more detail.

Presenters: a variety of teachers/youth ministers from across the nation. Each session also has a host (like a retreat moderator) so there is a consistent process allowing young people to have somewhat of a true retreat experience.

Format:

- **4-week roadmap:** The 4-week version gives young people the best experience. It allows them time to reflect and process, opportunities for parent/sponsor and student conversation and prayer and develop a daily prayer habit. It is perfect for students who want to 'go at their own pace'.
 - Content is spread out over four weeks
 - Three 20-Minute Video Sessions per Week
 - Weekly Prayer Experiences
 - Daily Prompts for Reflection
 - Quick "Session Check Ins" After Each Video
 - Weekly Small Group Sessions
- **2-day roadmap** is expected to be made available later this month. Designed for parishes who want to take all of their teens through a simultaneous experience: including group prayer, virtual games, and frequent small group discussion sessions.
 - Completed in Two 7-Hour Days
 - Twelve 20-Minute Video Sessions
 - Group Prayer Experiences
 - Virtual Group Games
 - Quick "Session Check Ins" After Each Video
 - Four Small Group Sessions

Requirements: Participants will need to have internet and computer access. Can be used on a desktop, laptop, or smartphone.

Parish Youth Ministry leaders: Through the OYYAM, you will receive the following:

- Parish Leader Roadmap (for the 2-week and 4-week retreat)
- Adult Guides
- Games
- Weekly report to track a student's progress

FAQ's:

How does the 4-week roadmap look like?

Each week contains three (3) 15-20 minute video based lessons. After watching each video, there is a session check-in (like a quiz) – 4 questions designed to test if they were paying attention to the video – not to test theological knowledge. They have to get 3 out of 4 questions correct in order to move on. At the end of the three lessons, there is a prayer experience (different each week, about 10 minutes long). Each session is about 90 minutes long, BUT it doesn't have to be done all at one time. Spread it out through the week. There are also daily prompts – images with quotes/scripture – that allow for reflection.

Other notes:

- Videos cannot be fast-forwarded. They have to watch it in order to move on.
- Ideally, the three lessons would be completed in one sitting, however, it could be stretched out over the course of the week. The lessons have to be completed in order and the next week's lesson doesn't 'unlock' until 6 days after the first week begins.
- Prayer experiences – a great opportunity for the entire family to gather to pray.
- Upon completion of the program, students will be able to print a certificate of completion.
- An Adult Guide which summarizes the week's lesson is provided for parents and/or sponsors.

See **Parish Leader Roadmap (four week)** for more detail.

How does the two day roadmap look like?

See **Parish Leader Roadmap (two day)** for more detail.

Is this program appropriate for middle school youth?

One challenge for middle school youth I see would be them sitting through a 20-minute video, otherwise the content is applicable for this age group. In an ideal world, a parent/adult would sit with the student each week.

What is the cost? \$15 per student includes full access for 45 days (starts from the day the student first signs in).

How do I sign my parish up? You will be able to have participants sign up via a website specifically for our diocese (<https://greaterretreat.com/honolulu>). They must use this website to sign up. Please note that youth need to provide their parents email when they sign up, for legal purposes. When students

register, they will have access to both the two-day and the four-week formats. You need to advise your students in advance on which one they should sign up for.

What do I share with parents about this retreat?

In addition to the goal and content of the retreat, during the retreat itself, you will not only want to check-in with your teens (see 'Small Groups' in Parish Leader Roadmap), you'll also want to engage your families in conversation about what they are learning about this experience. Encourage the families and sponsors to watch the videos and engage with the content. (They don't need to, but it would be great if they did!)

What are the Small Group Sessions in the 4-week format?

Parish leaders are encouraged to meet weekly with those students who are 'on retreat'. They are provided with group discussion questions and games as well.

How do I pay? Your parish will receive an invoice for the number of registered participants. If your parish decides to have parents pay (like you may for 'normal' retreats), the OYYAM asks that your parish submit just ONE check from the parish to pay the invoice.