

## Rite 13 Introduction

Rite 13 is a 2-year program designed to build self-esteem in the context of the Christian community. Lay leaders, clergy, and the congregation work together to establish a framework for friendships which bridge gender stereotypes.

### **GOALS of RITE 13:**

- To celebrate God's gift of *manhood and womanhood*.
- To affirm the power of *creative energy* and to explore the thoughts and disciplines which allow individuals to effect change in the world.
- To teach, by word and example, the principles of freedom, responsibility, and cross-gender friendships.

### **How do we meet these goals?**

- Careful Listening
- Community Building
- Serious study of...
  - Spirituality
  - Self
  - Society
  - Sexuality

...in a Lighthearted Way.

The name "RITE 13" comes from a liturgical rite of passage we celebrate with young people around their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. This rite is loosely based on the Jewish bar/bat mitzvah tradition and is a way for the entire congregation to celebrate the unique gifts and abilities of its young teens. The two years of Rite 13 focus on recognizing the gifts God has given us, celebrating our creative potential, and learning to interact as a community of faith.

### **Components:**

Claiming our Name

Prayer

Images of God

    "I AM" made in his image

My gifts and abilities

Decision Making

Compassion & Acts of Mercy

Sexual Stereotyping

Faith & Trust

Each one of our lessons will fit into a part of the Baptismal Covenant. Our hope is that once the youth leave the Rite 13 program, they will know the covenant, not only as words, but in their hearts as they go forward on their spiritual journeys.