Retreat Team (2026-2027)



Back (L-R): John McCormick (Woodstock, ON), Jacob Chartrand (Embrun, ON), William Baker (Russell, ON)
Front (L-R): Megan Fingland (Minnesota, USA), Danielle Jones (Mischouche, PE), Kiara McKee (Ottawa, On), Bettina Vandenberg (Lucan, ON)

Your parish or school's contact person, or NET's Scheduling Administrator, should have communicated to you which missionaries you will be hosting. Unless otherwise communicated, the NET Team aims to arrive between **5-6pm on their first night**. On this first night, the team will communicate more details of their schedule for the coming days.

The NET Team will not contact you ahead of their arrival unless they will be arriving outside the prearranged time. If you, however, have questions for the team, please text or call the Team Leaders at (343) 548-3315, (613) 290 4548 or email retreatteam1@netcanada.ca , and they will get back to you as soon as possible.

Allergies, Dietary Restrictions and Conditions:

- John: Allergic to cat and dog hair (medium)
- Megan: Peanuts (high)
- Jacob: Gluten intolerance (mild)

FAQ's and Policies

WHY HOST HOMES?

When a NET Team comes to a parish or school, we ask them to work with members of their community to provide food and lodging for the missionaries. A minimum of two NET Missionaries of the same gender are housed together. This is a very important and valuable aspect of the ministry which allows more of the community to get involved. Host homes provide a place for missionaries to eat, pray and rest their heads each night, and many missionaries cite an experience at a host home as one of their favorite memories from their service with NET. Many of these families have shared that this experience has been extremely valuable and memorable to their family.

WHO ARE NET MISSIONARIES?

NET Missionaries are faithful men and women between the ages of 18-30 who have chosen to devote a year of their lives to serving and ministering to Catholic youth across Canada. Hosting members of a NET Team provides a Christian witness in your home, and when at home the missionaries will be happy to join in meals, games, and other activities. You can rest assured that these low-maintenance, relatable and good role models will be a joy for your families to host!

Our missionaries go through an extensive screening and training process before being sent into ministry. This includes a thorough application process involving reference checks and interviews, collection of clean Police and Vulnerable Sector Checks, and 5 weeks of extensive ministry training, including VIRTUS' Safe Environment Training. If you have any questions about this process, please contact our Scheduling Administrator at **schedule@netcanada.ca**.

QUOTE FROM HOST FAMILY

It is always a privilege to host God's ambassadors. We enjoyed their faith stories, their laughter and their love. They were so grateful for everything.

- Marg and Ken, Regina SK

TRANSPORT

The team provides their own transportation, though if the host family is happy to drop off and pick up the missionaries at the parish or school, this can sometimes be helpful! Missionaries may leave the homes as early as 6:30 a.m. or arrive as late as 11:00 p.m. depending on retreat times and traffic. Arrival times for their first night will be between 5-6pm (unless otherwise indicated by the team). Once arrived, the missionaries you are hosting will be able to give you an idea of their schedule for the dates they are with you.

MEALS

Our missionaries sometimes have some allergies and dietary restrictions (dairy-free, gluten-free, etc.) or environmental allergies (cats, dogs, etc.). With the exception of these limited food allergies, the team will be happy to eat whatever food is made available for them!

ACCOMMODATIONS AND AMENITIES

Families can host any combination, between two missionaries up to the entire team (we just don't ever send one missionary into a host home). Families can let their retreat contact person know how many they can host, and if they have a preference for hosting men or women. In most cases, one family will host two women or three men, but sometimes they have space for the whole team! Families do not need to worry about having enough beds for the missionaries they host. In the end, the NET Missionaries need a roof over their heads and shower access, and the missionaries are flexible – they all have their own sleeping bag, pillow, towel, and toiletries; therefore, floors, couches, or air mattresses work just fine, if need be! If you are housing a number of the missionaries, we just ask that the men and women have separate rooms for sleeping, even if that means some are on a couch or floor!

THINGS TO COMMUNICATE UPON ARRIVAL

Let your NET Missionaries know of your schedule during their stay, and they will do the same (e.g. arrival times in evenings, mealtimes, etc). Please do not disrupt your life while hosting - if you have sports, appointments, and children to drop off, please continue with your life! If you have any particular house rules or ways of doing things, feel free to pass anything relevant on (e.g. Rinse plates before placing in the dishwasher). Other helpful things to communicate may include the location of light switches, operation of washer and dryer, instructions for locking up the house, location of linens and food, etc.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROTOCOL IN HOST HOMES

Our missionaries are thoroughly screened and trained for their important work with young people and are approved to do ministry in each diocese that they enter. The missionaries are trained to remain above reproach in all of their interactions, both with young people and adults. We want to be very clear in stating that NET has full confidence in the character of each of our missionaries, year after year, and believe that you will find hosting to be a joyful, positive experience, as hundreds of families across the country each year do. Our missionaries are servant hearted and thoroughly enjoy getting to meet so many wonderful, generous families across Canada.

Some important things worth noting are:

- Our missionaries will not share a bedroom with any member of a host family.
- Missionaries are not caregivers or babysitters, and cannot be asked to do so while serving on NET.
- NET missionaries will endeavor to remain in public places in your home throughout their stay, interacting with your family in living rooms, kitchens, etc. We tell our missionaries to avoid entering bedrooms at all, especially if a parent is not present.
- Sending our missionaries into Host Homes in pairs, rather than on their own, is a matter of safety and prudence for both the missionaries and also for the families.
- If you are hosting both men and women from a NET Team, we just ask that there be separate private places for sleeping provided (even couches or floors will work).

NET Canada treats any accusations of inappropriate conduct seriously. If you have a concern or complaint, please contact our Program Director, Marc Moreau, at marc@netcanada.ca