

Juvenile Justice Sabbath
May 22-24, 2009
A Dozen Things You Could Do

1. Learn more about SB 399, The Fair Sentencing for Youth Act, and do whatever you can to ensure that this bill passes. For more information go to: www.fairsentencingforyouth.org
2. Support local programs that offer character-building opportunities to young people and divert their energy to positive activities—athletics, Scouting, Faith based-sponsored after-school and evening social programs, tutoring and literacy programs.
3. Volunteer your time to such programs.
4. Encourage schools, churches and neighborhood centers to teach conflict resolution, especially to children, as a way to reduce tension and violence.
5. Support and/or volunteer with programs that minister to victims. If they don't exist, form a group to respond to the material, emotional and spiritual needs of victims.
6. Promote victim ministry programs in your parish.
7. Support and/or volunteer for detention ministry.
8. Reach out to families of the incarcerated, especially the children.
9. Support providing spiritual, material and emotional assistance to those re-entering society, both adult and youth.
10. Establish and/or support neighborhood groups to create cooperative relationships between neighbors, faith communities and law enforcement to create a safe and secure community.
11. Support programs that engage youth and build self-esteem. Become a Big Brother or Sister, join Project Read or PAL, mentor a child at risk, support school and community programs that engage children between 3 pm and 8 pm.
12. Work to repeal laws that treat children as if they were adults and to reform our criminal justice system to one that seeks restoration as well as punishment.

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