



Jodi, center, pictured with her Home MLC (Marianist LIFE Community)



Jodi, center, with her two daughters (both former "LIFers")

### **Marianist LIFE Interview with Jodi Mott** **St. Susanna's Parish – August, 2009**

LIFE: What is the name & location of your Parish?

JODI: St. Susanna Parish in Mason, Ohio (about 20 miles north of Cincinnati).

LIFE: What is your role at the Parish?

JODI: I am a part-time Youth Minister with my main focus being our high school youth group.

LIFE: How long has St. Susanna's been involved with Marianist LIFE?

JODI: After having worked at Queen of Apostles parish in Dayton, Karen Gottschall brought the LIFE program to St. Susanna when she began working here about 15 years ago!

LIFE: What does the Youth Ministry program look like at your parish?

JODI: Our Youth Ministry program at St. Susanna parish consists of two main groups: Faith Alive, which is our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade program, and LIFE, which is our high school program. Our LIFE group meets weekly mid-September through early May. We typically have about 65-75 students at each meeting.

- LIFE: How does Marianist LIFE play a role in your Youth Ministry program? How are the LIFErs incorporated into your Youth Ministry program?
- JODI: Marianist LIFE plays an extremely important role in our Youth Ministry program. Since we are not a Marianist parish, we try hard to communicate the Marianist charism to our students, especially that of community. And our year-end student surveys show that we do a pretty good job. The LIFE program has been invaluable to our student leaders because they have a chance to experience community building in a way they perhaps never thought possible. Our LIFErs are the student leaders of our home LIFE group, and all of our meetings are planned and led by these students with the help of adult moderators.
- LIFE: How have you seen the LIFE program impact your students?
- JODI: The LIFE program has impacted our students by giving them the experience of sharing themselves and their faith with other students from across the country (and from across the Atlantic!) in a community setting. After LIFE Week, our students can't wait to come back to St. Susanna to share all they have learned and to help our home LIFE group grow in faith and community.
- LIFE: How have you seen the LIFE program impact your own children?
- JODI: My own children have both attended the LIFE Central program and both loved it. My oldest, who just graduated from high school, was drawn to deep involvement in our St. Susanna LIFE group as a student leader and, at least partly as a result, is planning a career in Catholic high school Campus Ministry. My second daughter is preparing to be a student leader of our St. Sue LIFE group as well.
- LIFE: How do you think your group will utilize the scholarship money?
- JODI: Our LIFE group will most likely use the scholarship money to help lessen the cost of attending LIFE Central 2010 for one or more students.

LIFE: If you could say something to the Marianist Province, who support and subsidize Marianist LIFE, what would you say?

JODI: I would like to take this opportunity to send a huge 'thank you' to the Marianist Province for their support and dedication to the LIFE program. It's only been 2 ½ years since I became involved with the LIFE program here at St. Susanna but I have already seen the impact it has on our students. I have also been extremely impressed by the commitment of all the adults who prepare and put on the LIFE program for us. The Holy Spirit is truly at work in and among them!

LIFE: What three words would you use to describe Marianist LIFE?

JODI: Three words.....Assuming hyphens are okay, I would have to say 'welcoming', 'disciple-growing', and of course, 'Family'!