

Graduation Gifts

We do this at one of our may youth nights. The Middle Schoolers love to make these for the graduating Seniors. Be sure to have enough supervision. I have found some youth sneaking the candy bars!

What you will need:

Mug or Small vase – one for each graduating Senior

3-4 Candy bars per Senior (Full Size looks better, but snack size works, too)

2-3 Other candy like Airheads, Starburst, Gum, or other rectangle type per Senior

5-6 Lollipop sticks per Senior (find these in the candy making supplies at the store)

Clear Shipping Tape

Card Holder per Senior ([I purchased from Amazon](#))

½ Sheet of Cardstock per Senior

Markers

Curling Ribbon

Tissue Paper

Pool Noodles (about 1 per 7 Seniors)

Scissors

Prepare:

Find out how many Seniors in your parish will be graduating this year.

Purchase the above supplies needed per senior

Create some samples of Congratulation cards for the students to get ideas from

Cut ½ sheets of cardstock

Cut the pool noodle into 5-6 inch sections. You will want them to fit into the mug or vase, but not poke up above it.

Cut the curling ribbon in 1 foot lengths

Make one of the bouquets ahead of the youth night so you can show the students how to make one.

If you do not already have a Senior mass to honor your graduating Seniors, now would be a good time to ask your pastor to do so. You can give them their bouquet after mass.

Graduation Gifts Agenda

Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for all our parishioners who graduate from high school this year. You have blessed them during their years in school with wisdom, friendships, and skills. You continue to challenge them to make this world a better place because of their education. Please watch over them and continue to bless them in their next stage of their lives. Amen.

Announcements: Let your youth group know of any upcoming events, youth nights, or other activities they should be aware of

SAY: Today, we are going to make graduation gifts for our parishioners graduating High School this year. We will be making them a candy bouquet with a nice card.

Divide the Youth Group into 2 smaller groups to work. I let them choose their groups as much as possible. Sometimes they need to be moved around for a better fit. I have 2 of my dependable students, or volunteers inspect the bouquets to make sure they look nice and read over the cards for appropriateness. They should keep count of the finished bouquets so you know how many are completed. I also play some youth friendly music while they work.

Candy Bouquet: Loosely wrap the tissue paper around the pool noodle and stick down into the vase or mug. The edges should be sticking up out of the vase or mug. Tape the candy to a lollipop stick and poke the other end of the stick into the pool noodle. Do this with all of the candy. [It should resemble this](#). Add the card stick and tie curling ribbon around the stick. Using a scissors, curl the ribbon by raking the blade along the ribbon [like this](#).

Card Making - This group will need ½ sheets of cardstock folded in half (so they have a ¼ sheet card), markers, and the samples.

Inspectors/Counters - This can be responsible youth or adults. You only need 1-2 for this. They should make sure the bouquets look nice, check the cards for appropriateness and attach them, and keep count of the finished bouquets.

Senior Status Game: Have the students sit in a circle. The oldest player will be the Senior and the player to his/her right will be the Junior. The player to the right of the Junior will start counting off with a "1" and each player going around the circle will count up from there until it gets to the player to the left of the Senior. The player to the left of the Senior is the "Brick". The brick cannot play until he/she moves to a number seat. Everyone will need to remember their numbers. The Senior will start by clapping both hands on their lap 2x, saying "Senior, Senior", then clap their hands together 2x and saying any number or Junior 2x. The rest of the group will clap their lap and hands in unison with the Senior. The person's who's number the Senior called out will then, without missing a beat, say their number 2x and call out another number or Senior or Junior 2x. This continues until someone misses a beat. The person who messes up stands up and everyone from their right all the way to the Brick moves one seat to the left to fill in the gap. The person who messes up then becomes the "brick". The seats keep their numbers and names, so when players move seats, their number/name changes and they will have to remember their new one for the next round. If the Senior messes up, they move to the Brick spot, and everyone moves one spot to the left. The goal is to make it to Senior status and stay there as long as possible. It's harder than you think! Play until parent pick up.