This past October a new team of youth group leaders was chosen, Vyvian Nguyen, Kieu-Nhi Le and I were lucky enough to have this job bestowed upon us. Being leader of Muoi Dat is both a responsibility and a privilege. Having the responsibility of being a leader of a youth group is not always easy; there are plans to be made, meetings to be arranged, ideas to be thought, and problems to be solved but that is only part of it. Being the leader of such an amazing youth group comes with more than just a few perks, each and every time we get together is a good time. I have friends that I plan on sticking with for the rest of my life and I have memories that just can not be forgotten. This position, just like any other comes with ups and downs but I would not trade it in for anything in the world.

As a Catholic youth group we do a lot of things with our church and our community. We try to learn about and grow closer to God every day. An example is this past November we had a sleepover fall retreat that was just an amazing experience. Muoi Dat and another youth group from Bronx, NY met up at the Don Bosco Retreat Center in Stony Point, NY for a weekend with God. Once we got there, we were split into small groups and started off on our journey. Cha Tung was the priest that led the retreat and he taught us so much. He helped open our eyes about the things surrounding us and who we are inside, he told us to always "let our light shine." The retreat brought us closer together as a youth group, as well as make new friends. We all learned so much and will continue to hold all of it in our hearts to help lead us into our futures.

Muoi Dat also contributes a lot in the church's annual activities like the picnic, tet Trung Thu, Christmas, Tet, Easter, Mother's day and Hanh Huong. We usually help the kids at these events by planning games and giving out prizes for all of the children that attend and we always try our best to make it a fun time for them (Muoi Dat members have a lot of fun playing with the kids too). Our youth group is also responsible for helping with serving dinner during Christmas and Easter. We may not be able to cook but we still do whatever we can to set up and to serve. We also have a Christmas party every year for all the youth group members to attend, its a relaxing bonding time for us when we don't have to work or worry, just hang out and have fun. Then after the Christmas and the New Year, we prepare for Tet. Almost all Muoi Dat members actively participate in Tet by being a dancer. It is a great experience being in a dance with your friends; there is a lot of stress but there are so many more laughs then when it is all over, we all just want to start over again. All of the events that we participate in we do with eager hearts and a strong willingness to help; being apart of the St. JamesCchurch is extremely important to us and we feel inclined to do all that we can. Work is work, but when we are all striving for a common goal, there is a resounding laughter and warm aura that surrounds us. I could not be any more thankful to be apart of something so wonderful.