



DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

McRaith Catholic Center

11/6/2017

Dear Pastors, Principals, Campus Ministers, Directors of Religious Education, Youth Ministers, Youth Ministry Contacts, Chaperones and Young Adults:

We are pleased to announce this year's YOUTH 2000 Retreat is planned for our Diocese on **March 9-11, 2018 at Brescia University**.

Pope John Paul II continually called upon the youth of the Church to be instruments and leaders of a new effort to bring the Gospel to the world. In Rome at the XV World Youth Day, he challenged the young people to "set the Eucharist at the center of your personal life and community life: love the Eucharist, adore the Eucharist, and celebrate it...Live the Eucharist by testifying to God's love for every person."

Pope Francis continues this challenge, "Jesus speaks in silence in the mystery of the Eucharist and each time reminds us that following him means to come out of ourselves and not make our life our possession, but a gift to him and to others." (Homily on May 30, 2013) Youth 2000 continues to respond to these challenges through Eucharistic centered retreats. Youth 2000 helps young people strengthen their love for the Holy Eucharist and to bear witness to the role Jesus has in their lives. Young people are given the opportunity during the retreat to grow in their understanding of the Catholic Faith and to deepen their commitment to the service of the Church and others.

In this way, YOUTH 2000 also responds to the U.S. Bishops' directives as stated in "Renewing the Vision," to draw young people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and to encourage young people to become active in their parishes and in the programs in their diocese.

The YOUTH 2000 Retreat is a weekend experience that includes talks, music, the celebration of the Mass, fellowship, and panel discussions. There has been an overwhelmingly positive response from young people and adults who have attended a YOUTH 2000 Retreat.

Enclosed you will find information about YOUTH 2000:

- Brochure and Registration Form. On the back you will find a letter of welcome from Bishop Medley. The schedule and parish/group registration form are included in the brochure

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

We have had over 1200 youth and adults to attend YOUTH 2000 in the past. These numbers would be overwhelming for the space at Brescia University. Therefore, registrations will be limited to the first 900 applications and money received. **YOUTH MUST REGISTER THROUGH A PARISH, SCHOOL OR OTHER GROUP.** Each youth must turn in a completed and signed YOUTH 2000 registration form to the adult who will be attending YOUTH 2000 with them. The adult coordinator from each parish, school or other group should collect the registration forms and fees. Mail the registration forms, parish/group registration forms, ***ONE*** check (per group/parish) to: YOUTH 2000, Office of Youth Ministry, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301. **Please make your CHECK PAYABLE TO: MARIAN SHRINE COMMITTEE.**

Substitutions will be **accepted** at the door as well as **new registrations** as long as we have not exceeded our limit of 900 for fire and safety reasons. However, it will be the responsibility of the Adult Coordinator to see to it that the substitute or new registrant has all their forms completed and signed by both the participant and parent/guardian. If they are not complete, they will not be allowed to attend and must return home unless we are able to obtain verbal permission over the phone. **No registrations will be accepted in the Office of Youth Ministry the week of Youth 2000, March 5-9th.**

ADULT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Each group must have one adult at Brescia University for every 7 or less youth (under the age of 18) attending. These adults are responsible for being with their youth throughout YOUTH 2000. We ask that all drivers be 21 years of age and older. In addition, adults may be asked to help throughout the event. Please invite all adults attending to prayerfully consider being a monitor for the Saturday panel discussions.

NOTE: All adult chaperones (21 and older) must be in compliance with their own diocesan Safe Environment Policies. **See Safe Environment Requirements page in brochure.**

SIGN-IN:

Sign in begins at 5:30 PM. Please plan your arrival time accordingly. **ONLY THE ADULT COORDINATOR MAY REGISTER THEIR GROUP.** Please instruct your youth to go to the main conference area during registration to avoid overcrowding. The Adult Coordinator should keep a copy of their registration form to be used at sign in.

If you have any questions, please call 270-683-1545. We would greatly appreciate your support in making this retreat a deep and lasting experience for the young people of our Diocese, ages 13-30. You may want to consider paying the registration fee (\$60) for all chaperones and any youth that might have a financial need. We hope you will join us.

Peace in Christ,

Charlie Hardesty, Director
Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Diocese of Owensboro

Elaine Robertson, Director
Office of Faith Formation
Diocese of Owensboro

Lisa Bivins
Marian Shrine Committee
Diocese of Owensboro