

**Office for Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults
Catholic Diocese of Richmond**

**Diocesan March for Life Pilgrimage 2012
January 22 – 23, 2012**

Last Update December 15, 2011

This communication contains initial information concerning the March for Life Diocesan Pilgrimage for 2012. Please read all the information contained in this communication to ensure you have a full understanding of the event.

What is the Diocesan March for Life Pilgrimage?

The Office for Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults sponsors an annual Diocesan-wide delegation to the annual March for Life in Washington, DC. The March for Life marks the anniversary of the landmark decision of the Supreme Court in Roe versus Wade which makes abortion legal in the United States.

Who should attend the Diocesan March for Life Pilgrimage?

The delegation is primarily intended for middle and high school youth, campus ministry students, and young adults. Youth under the age of 11 will not be permitted to travel with the Diocesan delegation without expressed permission from the Director for the Office for Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults.

Because the Diocese has only been allotted 300 tickets this year, parishes and schools are required to stay as consistent as possible with the 1 adult per 8 youth ratio. Adults may be placed on a waitlist to ensure as many youth can attend as possible.

Where is the Diocesan March for Life Pilgrimage and what is the schedule?

Sunday, January 22, 2012

- Diocesan sponsored buses will depart early afternoon from Virginia Beach/Norfolk, Hampton Roads, Richmond, and Roanoke areas for Northern Virginia.
- All buses will be scheduled to arrive in Woodbridge, VA by 6:30 pm at the Hylton Memorial Chapel for the “Life is VERY Good” youth rally hosted by Catholic musicians Matt Maher and Audrey Assad.
- At the conclusion of the rally, all participants will travel via bus to a near-by hotel for lodging for the evening.

Monday, January 23, 2012

- Buses will depart the hotel at 6:00 am to travel to the DC Armory in Washington, DC.
- The diocesan delegation will participate in the March for Life youth rally and Mass which is scheduled from 7:30 am to 11:30 am.
- Immediately following the Mass, the delegation will walk to the Washington Monument and join the March from the Washington Monument to the Supreme Court.
- At the conclusion of the March for Life, the delegation will board their respective buses and return home. Buses are anticipated to leave Washington, DC around 5:00 pm.

What is different this year?

The allocation process for tickets for the March for Life youth rally and Mass is different this year. Each Bishop appointed one diocesan staff member to request tickets on behalf of the diocese. Through a lottery process, our Diocese was only allotted 300 tickets. Last year (2011), our Diocese had over 450 tickets.

Tickets to the Youth Rally and Mass are only available through the Office for Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults. Parish, school, and campus ministry groups not opting to join the Diocesan delegation can participate in the March but will be unable to participate in the Youth Rally and Mass without a ticket.

The venue is different. Because the size of the March for Life has grown, the Archdiocese of Washington has added a second location, the DC Armory. Our Diocese has been assigned to the DC Armory rather than the Verizon Center for the Mass this year. The program and Mass will be similar at the DC Armory, but the venue is different.

The cost is lowered. Because of a grant from Commonwealth Catholic Charities this year, the Diocese has been able to significantly lower the cost of the trip.

The Diocese is no longer providing lunch on the day of the March. In the past, the Diocese provided lunch for all pilgrims. This year, we are not able to provide lunch. Each individual parish / school group will be responsible for providing their own lunches.

What is the registration fee?

- The cost is \$35 for youth (under 18) and \$45 for adults.
- Fees include all transportation and lodging.
- There is no refund for any cancellations, regardless of the reason for cancellation.

What does the registration fee cover?

The registration fee covers:

- Admission to the "Life is VERY Good" Rally
- Tickets to the March for Life youth rally and Mass
- Lodging and a pizza snack on Sunday night, and breakfast Monday morning
- Individual participants are responsible for all other meals (including Monday lunch and dinner).

What is the transportation situation?

Included with your registration fee is bus transportation to and from the March for Life. All buses will depart on **Sunday, January 22, 2012** from a designated location within approximately a one hour drive from your parish. The buses will leave on Sunday afternoon (at a time to be determined) and leave from Washington, DC at approximately 4:00 pm on **Monday, January 23, 2012** to return home.

Once all participant counts have been received by the Diocese, then each parish group will be assigned to a particular bus and bus route. This is when the specific pick-up locations and times will be defined. Each bus will have an assigned bus captain who will be responsible for coordinating bus rules, bus snacks, and meal stops, etc. with the parish leaders on their assigned bus. This information will be available by **Friday, January 13, 2012**.

What is the lodging situation?

Each room at the hotel contains 2 queen-size beds. Rooms will be assigned 2 adults OR 4 youth of the same gender. The Office for Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults will combine parishes with odd numbers to maximize the room allocations.

Since these are standard hotels, linens and towels are provided for all participants. It is encouraged for your participants to bring additional sleeping bags if they would prefer to sleep on the floor.

What are the requirements for adult chaperones?

For this event, 1 adult is required for every 8 youth who are participating in the pilgrimage. Each adult chaperone must be in compliance with the Diocesan Safe Environment Policies, which includes completing the following:

- Screening One Volunteer Form (every 5 years)
- VIRTUS training (once)

How do I register and what are the registration deadlines?

The registration process includes these steps:

1. **Register for Participant Space via the Online Registration System.** The online registration system will open on **Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at 11:00 am**. Space is limited, so be sure to save your spaces as soon as possible! You are not required to give any names at this time, only number of participants. The link for the online registration system can be found at www.richmonddiocese.org/ym. Registration will close on **Tuesday, January 10, 2012** at 3:00 pm.
2. **Send Participant Listing to Office for Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults (by 1/12/12):** Each parish leader need to send a participant listing to the Office for Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults via email (evangelization@richmonddiocese.org) that contains the following information:
 - a. Name of participants
 - b. Gender of participants
 - c. Type of participants (adult or youth)
 - d. Rooming list (based on 4 youth per room and 2 adults per room)
3. **Send full payment postmarked by Tuesday, January 17, 2012 to the Office for Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults.** Be sure to include your parish/school name along with a list of participant the payment is for.

PLEASE NOTE: The Diocese will not be collecting medical forms or liability forms. It is the responsibility of each parish to complete these forms and bring them with them. These forms will be available at www.richmonddiocese.org/ym.

Where do I go for questions or additional support?

For all questions or support, contact the Office for Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults directly via email at evangelization@richmonddiocese.org OR 804-622-5159.