WYD 2019 Information for Parishes:

# Theme

**“I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word”** (Lk 1:38)

#  Who Can Attend World Youth Day?

The Diocese of Steubenville’s delegation to WYD 2019 will consist of over 40 Pilgrims including Bishop Monforton, priests, religious, seminarians, Diocesan WYD Staff, Young Adult Pilgrims, Youth Pilgrims, and Chaperones. Please read more about the various categories of Pilgrims below.

A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey that parallels our journey toward our heavenly home. It is a time to leave our homes, families, and comforts to visit a sacred place. WYD 2019 will be a time of reflection and sacrifice.

Because of the physical demands of a World Youth Day pilgrimage, it is necessary that all Pilgrims be in good health. World Youth Day is a very intense pilgrimage experience and can be both physically and emotionally exhausting. Because of these conditions, it is not recommended that those with significant health problems participate. However, if someone with a disability or a special need feels called to participate in WYD, the prospective Pilgrim should contact the Diocesan WYD Coordinator in order to discuss his/her particular situation.

# Seminarians

Having seminarians travel with the group is a wonderful aspect of the pilgrimage. Because seminarians cannot work during the summer or raise funds during the school year, we ask parishes to prayerfully consider whether they can assist in funding a seminarian. Fundraising ideas are available from the Diocesan WYD Staff. All donations can be sent to the Office of Christian Formation and schools. Checks can be made out to the “Diocese of Steubenville” with “WYD Seminarian” in the memo line.

# Young Adult Pilgrims

Those Pilgrims who are 18-30 years old as of January 19, 2019, AND who will have graduated high school in or before 2018 will be considered Young Adult Pilgrims. Young Adult Pilgrims CANNOT be 31 years old or older as of January 19, 2019, and still participate unless attending as a Chaperone for Youth Pilgrims. Young Adult Pilgrims will be assigned to groups of 8-12 and have 1 Check-In person per group.

# Youth Pilgrims

Those pilgrims who are 17-18 years old as of January 19, 2019, AND who will graduate high school in 2019 or will still be enrolled in high school in the 2019-2020 school year will be considered Youth Pilgrims.  Youth Pilgrims must be 17 years of age by January 19, 2019 in order to participate.  Youth Pilgrims will assigned to groups of 10-16 and have 2 Chaperones per group.

# Chaperones for Youth Pilgrims

Chaperones for Youth Pilgrims are required. Chaperones must be at least 25 years old or older as of January 19, 2019, and have completed the Diocesan Safe Environment Training. Parishes participating in WYD will be responsible for recruiting their own Chaperones. This will allow for a better relationship between the Youth Pilgrims and Chaperones. A recommended ratio is 2 Chaperones for a group of 10-16 Youth Pilgrims. Youth Pilgrim groups made up of both males and females must have both a male and female Chaperone.

Parishes with more Youth Pilgrims than available Chaperones may contact the Diocesan WYD Staff for assistance in finding Chaperones from other parishes.

# Choosing Chaperones for Youth Pilgrims

The Diocese of Steubenville and the parishes involved with WYD depend on Chaperones to serve as a network of support for Youth Pilgrims. It is important that Chaperones be outstanding models of virtue and joy who look forward to serving the Youth Pilgrims during this special time. Additionally, Chaperones should be constantly assessing the Youth Pilgrims in their group to be aware of any special needs. They should feel comfortable talking and sharing with the Youth, and willing to pray with the pilgrims in their group. Chaperones are responsible for their Youth Pilgrims at all times, especially when traveling as a large group.

Chaperones must be leaders who will abide by the Conduct Covenant and cooperate with Diocesan WYD Staff in a spirit of good will. Chaperones will embrace the suffering and sacrifices offered by such a pilgrimage with joy and humility, encouraging Youth Pilgrims to do the same; using every experience of hardship (bad food, lack of food, lack of toilets, bad weather, missed connections, huge crowds, long lines, long flights, rude people or other experiences that may occur) as an opportunity to share in the suffering of Christ.

Furthermore, all WYD Chaperones must be in compliance with the Diocesan Safe Environment Policies, and will be asked to confirm the date and parish of record in which his/her Safe Environment Training occurred.