

# ***Important Notes for the Youth Ministry Coordinator...***

## **To prepare your group for the Journey Retreat weekend:**

- ✓ **The Journey Retreat is a time of gathering and accompanying high school youth of the diocese to a more intimate relationship with Jesus.** We ask that you experience the retreat alongside your young people, and not on the sidelines, please. We recognize all adults as those who minister to and with youth (youth ministers), not merely chaperones. Through your witness, these young people come to grow in their faith! We journey together!
- ✓ **Please prepare your young people for the experience of a retreat, especially if this is their first experience.** Sharing about what they will experience and what to expect is most helpful (talks, Mass, adoration, small group sharing, etc.). Please let me know if you have any questions.
- ✓ **Please remind the young people and adults from your group that the standards of behavior and cooperation are set in accordance to what we value, teach and believe.** This extends throughout all segments of the weekend. It is important to go through the Code of Behavior with them prior to the retreat.
- ✓ **All adults accompanying youth on the retreat are responsible for them at all times.** Parishes come as groups and remain responsible for their groups throughout the whole of the retreat. Please be helpful in keeping to curfew so that all floors are quiet at the time of *Lights Out*.
- ✓ **All adults will be assigned to participate in a small group,** most in a small group with young people (one adult per small group of youth), some in an all-adult small group, depending on the number of participants. Youth will serve as small group facilitators in the small groups with other youth. The role of adults in small groups is to participate and provide support to the youth facilitator, if and when needed. The small group experience should allow all members of the group equal opportunities to share.
- ✓ **Journey is a weekend retreat for high school youth. We ask that no more than one adult accompany up to 7 youth of the same gender, please. Also, all adult participants and drivers must be at least 21 years of age.**
- ✓ Please communicate to parents of your pick up/drop off locations and times, as well as your group leader's contact information, in case of emergency. **Parents and families are welcomed to join us for the closing liturgy on Sunday at 11 am, if they so wish to celebrate with us.**
- ✓ **We would ask that all Smartphones either be kept at home or within the classrooms during the retreat.** We'd ask for as little distraction from the retreat experience as possible.
- ✓ **Do encourage all youth and adults to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the weekend retreat. Reviewing the sacrament and the *Act of Contrition* prior to the retreat is helpful.**
- ✓ **The group/parish leader will register the entire parish group (as well as any other youth for whom you will take responsibility over the weekend) through Eventbrite.**