



DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

McRaith Catholic Center

11/3/2025

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

We are pleased to announce the next YOUTH 2000 Retreat will take place March 13-15, 2026 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 in this envelope you will find information about YOUTH 2000:

- Brochure, Registration Form and Group Registration Form. On the back of the brochure you will find a letter of welcome from Bishop Medley.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

YOUTH MUST REGISTER THROUGH A PARISH, SCHOOL GROUP, OR FAMILY GROUP. Each youth must turn in a completed and signed YOUTH 2000 registration form to the their adult leader who will be attending YOUTH 2000 with them (Do not send Individual Registrations Form to the Office of Youth Ministry). 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) by March 2, 2026 to: YOUTH 2000, Office of Youth Ministry, 600 Locust St., Owensboro, KY 42301. **Please make your GROUP 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. 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.

CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Please make sure all chaperones are in compliance with Diocesan Safe Environment policy before registering them as a chaperone. You must have 2 chaperones for the first 7 youth. If you are staying overnight and you have both male and female youth, you need to have male and female chaperones. Please refer to Diocese of Owensboro Safe Environment Policy at <https://owensborodiocese.org/safe-environment-policies/>, these chaperones are responsible for being with their youth throughout YOUTH 2000. All drivers be 21 years of age and older. In addition, chaperones may be asked to help throughout the event.

NOTE: All adult chaperones outside of the Owensboro Diocese(21 and older) must be in compliance with their own diocesan Safe Environment Policies and must supply a letter or email sent to robin.tomes@pastoral.org from their Diocese stating that they have completed the process through their Diocese.

SIGN-IN:

Sign in begins at 5:30PM on Friday. Please plan your arrival time accordingly. **Only the adult coordinator may register their group and pickup credentials.** Please instruct your youth to go to the main conference area in the gym during registration to avoid overcrowding.

If you have any questions, please email Robin Tomes at robin.tomes@pastoral.org or call Robin at 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 (\$65) for all chaperones. Financial assistance available for those in need. We hope you will join us.

Peace in Christ,

Lisa Bivins
Youth 2000 Coordinator
Marian Shrine Committee



Charlie Hardesty, Director
Office of Youth Ministry
Diocese of Owensboro