

# PILGRIMAGE FOR LIFE 2012



When: Leave **About Noon** on Friday, January 20, 2012  
Return Tuesday, January 24, 2012 to Wisconsin  
Details of pickup points will be available upon receipt of your registration form.

Who: Anyone 13 years old to Adult.  
(Please know that we do a great deal of walking and ride a charter bus overnight to and from D.C.)

Where: This is an opportunity to be a witness in Washington, D.C. to the dignity of life for the unborn, elderly, and those who society regards as useless.

Cost: \$280.00 per person  
**OR**  
\$245 for chaperones - A chaperone is someone 23 years and older, and responsible for minors

Add \$25 if you do not have a red Dioceses of Wisconsin Pro-life sweatshirt.  
(The cost includes 5 day trip by motor coach, 2 nights at Hotel, some meals & more!)

\*Priests and Religious go for free!

Please make checks payable to: Diocese of La Crosse.

INTERESTED? Please call:

Chris Rogers at 608-791-2659 or email at [crogers@dioceseoflacrosse.com](mailto:crogers@dioceseoflacrosse.com) or  
Diane Thatcher at 608-791-2652 or email at [dthatcher@dioceseoflacrosse.com](mailto:dthatcher@dioceseoflacrosse.com)

Also, check out our website for forms - [www.dioceseoflacrosse.com/yya/Pilgrimage4Life/index.htm](http://www.dioceseoflacrosse.com/yya/Pilgrimage4Life/index.htm)

Chaplains, Pastors, Deacons, and Youth Ministers and Deanery representatives!  
If you wish to gather a group from your parish and join us, please contact us to work out pickup points off the Interstates.





September 2011

Dear Pilgrim:

Your participation in this year's Pilgrimage for Life is vital! We are so very grateful that you have chosen to pray, travel, and walk this journey for an end to the culture of death. Are you ready for this amazing opportunity?

A pilgrimage is not just a trip, it is a journey. Pilgrimages have been happening since the Old Testament! Those making the journey have always walked to celebrate their Faith in places that indicate a memory of our Lord or in sites representing important moments in the history of the Church. The document *The Shrine and The Pilgrimage from the United States Catholic Conference* has much to say about why we go on a pilgrimage and why to a shrine:

“The term shrine signifies a church or other sacred place to which the faithful make pilgrimages for a particular pious reason with the approval of the local ordinary...Shrines are like milestones that guide the journey of the children of God on earth. The Shrine reminds us that the Church is born out of the initiative of God; it recalls God's initiative and makes us understand that such initiative with gratitude. It is a memorial of our origin in the Lord and a sign of the divine presence, and points to where we are going – Heaven! Visits to shrines fill us with hope, are an invitation to joy, and a call to conversion and renewal.

“We are strangers before you, pilgrims only as were all our ancestors.” King David pronounced these words before the Lord in the Old Testament. Pilgrimages, a sign of the condition of the disciples of Christ in this world, have always held an important place in the life of Christians.”

From Adam to Abraham to Moses and the prophets to Christ, all were on pilgrimage. Therefore, we join with the ranks of them all and make this journey for a specific purpose.

**So what is our purpose? TO DEFEND ALL HUMAN LIFE FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH!** I encourage you to make this pilgrimage not just a fun experience where you will get to SEE A LOT, but a time for YOU to grow in YOUR FAITH and in a greater zeal to pray for the millions of babies whose lives have been taken by abortion. PRAY also, for the conversion of all those who support, administer, and advocate abortion and contraception in all its forms. We also keep in prayer the handicapped, those born with abnormalities, and the aged who are not always protected and given the right to life.

#### **Updates for This Year!**

- We will be attending a Pro-Life Rally and Mass with Archbishop ListECKI and pilgrims from all five Wisconsin dioceses. Thus the reason we will be departing earlier on Friday, January 20, 2012.
- Once again, Sunday night we will have Pro-Life speakers speak exclusively to our group at our hotel. I am pleased to announce that we have tentative confirmations from U.S. Representative Sean DUFFY and Melissa OHDEN, an abortion survivor, to be our speakers.

Enclosed is a registration form and tentative itinerary for the Pilgrimage. Please return your registration form to us and **full payment by December 12, 2012.** **The total cost is \$280.00. If you do not have a sweatshirt from previous years, please increase the price by \$25.00. Also, please indicate this on the form.** We wish to help out those chaperones who are giving of their time away from work a break, so the cost for chaperones is \$245.00 (**A chaperone is someone 23 years and older, and responsible for minors**). Please add \$25 if you do not have a red Dioceses of Wisconsin Pro-life sweatshirt.

**Please sign up with a parish or group nearest your location. All youth must be accompanied by adults and all adults must complete the Safe Environment information posted on our website:**

[www.dioceseoflacrosse.com/safe-environment/index.htm](http://www.dioceseoflacrosse.com/safe-environment/index.htm).

If you need financial assistance, please contact us ASAP!!! We have attached a “Fun-Raiser Ideas” sheet that may assist you in obtaining support for the pilgrimage. **You must** try some of these means before applying for scholarship from the Diocese. Many individuals pay very little because of Fundraisers so we encourage your group to let others know why you are going in January! Thank you for joining us on this journey and may God bless you for the sacrifices and prayers you will make for all those who cannot defend themselves.

Peace,

Chris Rogers  
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry  
Diocese of La Crosse

## Tentative Schedule

### Friday, January 20, 2012

***Bring lots of snacks and water!!!***

Load bus at destinations

(\*Note\* This time will be determined by the amount of time it will take to travel from your origination point to arrive at the Diocese of Milwaukee by 4:00 pm.

4:30 pm Holy Mass, Dinner, and Youth Rally in Milwaukee (***Fast an HOUR B4 Mass!***)

8:00 pm Load bus and head for DC! Songs / Rosary / Movie

12:00 am Bathroom Stop then Lights out! Time for sleep!

### Saturday, January 21, 2012

8:00 am Bathroom stop

10:30 am Brunch/Lunch in Breezewood, PA

1:30 pm Mass at St. Rita Catholic Church

2:30 pm Pray at Planned Parenthood

3:30 pm Check in to Hotel

**Our Hotel is: Sheraton National Hotel**

**900 South Orme Street**

**Arlington, VA 22204 / 703-521-1900**

6:00 pm Dinner and Speaker in the Hotel Conference Room

10:30pm Everyone in your assigned room and lights out please!

### Sunday, January 22, 2012

7:00 am Breakfast

7:30 am Load Bus to the Basilica for Holy Mass

9:00 am Holy Mass

10:30 am Travel to the National Mall where touring groups will gather to tour the various Museums.

- Lunch and dinner will be on your own as tour groups.
- Depending on how much travelling around the city you do via metro, it may be wise to have each person in your group buy an all-day pass to speed up your travel time and be more cost effective.
- Most museums hours of operation are 10:00 am – 5:30 pm

8:00 pm Be back in the hotel to hear Pro-Life Speakers.

9:30 pm Free Time

10:30 pm Everyone in your assigned room and lights out please at 11:00 pm!

### Monday, January 23, 2012

5:15 am Load bags onto bus and eat breakfast

5:45 am Depart Hotel for Youth Rally and Mass for Life at the DC Armory

11:30 am Depart DC Armory. Our buses will drop us off at the Air & Space Museum where we can eat lunch.

1:00 pm Walk to Ellipse for March for Life

2:00-4:00pm March For Life to Capital

4:00 pm Dinner on your own as touring groups.

6:30 pm Load buses at the old Post Office and begin our overnight bus ride home. **\*Please note\* everyone should have eaten dinner and are ready to leave by 6:30 pm. There are places to eat in the Old Post Office.**

### Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Upon arrival at your point of origin there will be a Thanksgiving Holy Mass.

*Thank you for being witnesses to Life!*

Some times and events may be subject to change.

Updated: 10-7-11