

## PILGRIMAGE FOR LIFE CHAPERONE POLICIES

### **ROLES AND REQUIREMENTS OF GROUP LEADERS & CHAPERONES**

- **All chaperones must have completed the Diocesan Safe Environment training. (Contact your pastor for materials.)**
- **Chaperones must be at least 23 years of age. Assistant Chaperones may be 19–22 years of age, and out of high school, if there is another chaperone of their gender in their group who is 23 years of age or older. All chaperones must have the recommendation of their pastor.**
- **Chaperones must be faithful ambassadors to and of the Catholic Church.**
  - If you are asked a question and do not know the answer, often the best response to a question is “I don’t know.” We do not want to present the youth with any false information.
  - Do not discuss any of your personal misgivings about the Church or members of the clergy with the youth.
  - Chaperones must model fidelity to the Church.
- **CHAPERONES MUST PROVIDE A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE TO THE YOUTH.**
  - Chaperones are expected to be amongst the youth in their group during activities, meals, and prayer. Talk with the young people and get to know them. Be available to them and their spiritual, emotional, & physical needs. Avoid the “Prison Guard Mentality.” Don’t stand around the “sidelines” looking in on them. Join in!
  - Provide the young people with a Christian example and role model. Chaperones are expected to reverently worship at Mass, and conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the Gospel teachings at all times.
- **Chaperones need to be motivated & flexible.**
  - Things will move at a marathon pace, and changes in the schedule are possible.
- **Chaperones are expected to enforce policies & rules with all young people, not just those in their group.**
- **Chaperones must be aware of any SPECIAL NEEDS** of the youth in his/her group.
  - This includes health problems, family problems, & anything else that may help to minister more effectively.
  - Review the section of your pilgrim’s permission forms that relate to special needs (Medical History & Medical Treatment sections). Know what to do in the event of a medical situation.

### **SPIRITUAL FORMATION OF CHAPERONES:**

- ◆ The first responsibility of the chaperone is to direct the young people to Jesus by their words, actions, and responses. Therefore it is important that chaperones have their own working relationship with God and an understanding of the sacraments. (You aren’t expected to be perfect – just be on the journey.)
- ◆ Adults are in need of Spiritual Renewal, Catechesis, and Spiritual Formation. Take advantage of opportunities offered in your area to grow in faith. Talk with your pastor or Director/Coordinator of Religious Education concerning your Spiritual Renewal & Formation, and continued Catechesis.
- ◆ Prayer! Pray everyday and ask God to use you as He wishes during this event. Be open to how God wants you to be a witness to the youth.
- ◆ Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once prior to going. Receiving the grace of this sacrament will help you be open to God’s plan for you.
- ◆ Have an accountability partner to help you prepare for this event.