**What is World Youth Day?**

Starting in 1985 in Rome by Pope John Paul II, the Holy Father has invited youth and young adults to gather periodically with him across the world in an epic event known as World Youth Day. Though the title indicates a “day,” it is really a week long life changing experience of the diversity and richness of the Catholic Church. This past summer, Pope Francis invited youth and young adults from across the world to the 14th World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. Once again the Diocese of Richmond will be forming a pilgrimage, along with millions of other Catholics from around the world, to the place where soon to be Saint Pope John Paul II spent much of his life. The official website for WYD Krakow has been released ([http://www.krakow2016.com/en](http://www.krakow2016.com/en))

**Who can attend?**

The pilgrimage is for both youth and young adults. For the purpose of this pilgrimage, we are defining youth and young adults somewhat differently than in the past:

**Youth…**
- generally between 16-18 years old
- at least 16-years-old by time of departure (July 22)
- currently enrolled in high school or is in home school
- graduated from high school in the spring/summer of 2016

**Young Adult…**
- generally between 18-29 years old
- graduated from high school on or before the spring/summer of 2015

**What about chaperones for youth?**

We will be traveling as a diocesan delegation throughout this pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Krakow. For every parish sending youth, the pastor (if attending) or his designee will be the main point of contact for each parish. All parishes sending youth must have at least one chaperone (at least 21 years old) for every eight youth on the pilgrimage. Parishes can work together on this as long as the 1:8 ratio of chaperone to youth is in place. No chaperone is required for young adult pilgrims.

**How do I register and when is the deadline?**

Visit [www.richmonddiocese.org/evangelization/wyd.htm](http://www.richmonddiocese.org/evangelization/wyd.htm) to download and print your application and other pertinent information. An initial deposit of $250 and signed contract is required to secure a spot on the pilgrimage. Space is limited and can be closed off without prior notification, after slots are filled we cannot guarantee there will be availability to join the pilgrimage. All pilgrims must have obtained or at least begun the application process for a passport.

All pilgrims are eligible for a discount off the total cost of the pilgrimage as follows:

- Initial deposit and signed contracted postmarked by August 29, 2014 $500 discount
- Initial deposit and signed contracted postmarked between August 30 and December 31, 2014 $250 discount
- Initial deposit and signed contracted postmarked after December 31, 2014 No discount
What about travel in Poland and safety concerns?

Safety is obviously a concern whenever one travels abroad. The Office for Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults is partnering with organizations that have years of experience in international travel.

July is the summer season in Krakow and the temperatures tend to be a little cooler than Virginia averaging in the Mid to lower 70’s. Temperatures can range from mid fifties at night to almost 80 during the day. Krakow is one of the predominant tourist locations in Poland and therefore has many support facilities. The official language of Poland is Polish, although you will find English, German and French spoken to some degree in popular tourist areas. The currency in Poland is the Zloty. Current exchange rates can be found here: [http://data.worldbank.org/country/poland](http://data.worldbank.org/country/poland)

Our diocesan delegation is focused on the safety of all the pilgrims involved with the group. We want everyone to have a grace-filled pilgrimage and return home safely. Because of the valid concerns regarding a pilgrimage to any foreign country, we will be focused on group activities and traveling as a group as much as possible.

Make sure you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot: [http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel)

How do I get my Passport and Visa (if required)?

All US Citizens must have a valid Passport for travel abroad. Passport must be valid over six months following the date of your return to the United States. The cost for obtaining a passport is roughly $135 and takes approximately 4-6 weeks to issue. The State Department has more information on how to apply for or renew a passport ([http://travel.state.gov/passport](http://travel.state.gov/passport)). You can also apply for your passport at your local Post Office.

Poland does not require US citizens to have a Visa. Policies change if you are in the country for more than 90 days which will not affect us. ([http://cgwashington.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us](http://cgwashington.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us)).

What will be the total cost of the pilgrimage?

The cost can change depending on several factors. The package includes air travel, ground transportation, lodging, most meals, and World Youth Day event registration. The cost is not finalized, but a conservative goal to have for fundraising efforts is $4000. For budgeting purposes, pilgrims can plan on raising or saving $200 per month. By the end of the May 2016 the trip should be mostly, if not fully, funded.

Pilgrims are encouraged to bring spending money in addition to the cost of the pilgrimage. Parishes and individuals can organize fundraising efforts to cover most or all of the cost. The Office for Evangelization will help with fundraising ideas and support. There is also financial assistance available to those who need it.

How do I pay?

Pilgrims can pay either by check or credit card in one lump sum or in installments. More information on payments is located within the contract agreement which can downloaded (along with the credit card authorization form) at our website: [www.richmonddiocese.org/evangelization/wyd.htm](http://www.richmonddiocese.org/evangelization/wyd.htm)
**What does the itinerary look like?**

Final details on the itinerary are not yet finalized. As plans are finalized, a firmer itinerary will be issued, but generally one can plan to be on pilgrimage from July 22 – Aug 3, 2016.

The delegation will spend the first part of the pilgrimage in Warsaw and surrounding areas. We will be visiting the birthplace of John Paul II, the area where Saint Maximilian Kolbe lived, and Auschwitz. The core WYD events are scheduled for July 26-31 and will be in Krakow. Following the closing WYD Mass we will be traveling to Prague to conclude our World Youth Day activities with a retreat.

**Where will I be staying?**

While in Krakow, Poland, during the WYD activities, the diocesan delegation will be staying at the hotel, Pod Bialym Orlem which is located on the edge of Krakow’s historic Old City and well within walking distance of St Mary’s Basilica. Our itinerary is still being finalized at this point so information on accommodations before and after the WYD events is still being secured.

**Questions?**

For all questions please contact Deacon Grimm Palm in the Office for Evangelization of Youth and Young Adults at ppalm@richmonddiocese.org or 804-622-5152.