

2010 Junior High Youth Rally

J-Walking: Journey With Jesus

Welcome to Parish Leaders

Dear Faith Formation/Youth Ministry Leader:

Our Junior High Youth Rally will be held **Sunday, March 21, at Regina High School in Iowa City**. This will be our fourth year of an event that provides a wonderful "Big Church" experience for early adolescents. We're hoping for well over 400 participants this year, and we hope you'll join us!

We'll be blessed with a great keynote speaker, Anne Marie Cribbin, a storyteller and speaker who speaks with humor and heart. Anne Marie was a hit in the Comedy Club at the recent National Catholic Youth Conference, and we're sure you and your youth will love her. For more information, steer your young people to www.davenportyouth.org. This note will help you prepare to bring a group from your parish.

How do we promote the rally?

Talk it up! Personal contact is key. There are promotional materials attached to this e-mail and online soon at <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/faithform/ffyouthministrypg1.htm#DiocesanJrHighYouthRally>

These include:

- A flier that you can post in bulletin boards or run in your parish bulletin. It includes the permission/medical form. You can print these front/back and give these to youth or parents.
- A brochure that can be given to youth and families.

You'll find blank space for you to insert specific parish information. You can type directly onto the "word doc" version of the all-in-one or the "publisher doc" version of the brochure (if you have publisher) attached, or manually alter the online pdf versions. You'll want to answer these four questions:

1) Who's the rally for?

Some parishes define junior high (or middle school) as grades 7-8, while others include grades 6-8. It's your call as to whether to include 6th graders that day. All are welcome!

2) What does it cost?

We are charging \$20 (before 4 p.m. March 5; then \$25 through 4 p.m. March 12). *We* don't mention costs in our flier or brochure since *you* may charge more than that to your participants, depending on whether you're paying for transportation, including other meals (we provide lunch), picking up chaperone costs, etc. T-shirts are \$10 (\$12 for XXL and XXXL shirts).

3) What are the deadlines?

Please set your deadlines in advance of ours so you can get us what we need. Our deadline to register at \$20 cost is 4 p.m. **March 5**. You can still register until March 12, but the cost increases to \$25. Send registration form to butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org. Nametag spreadsheet (please e-mail) is due **March 12**, and payment (via mail) is due **March 16**. We can't accept walk-in registrations and won't collect money at the rally. More about these forms is on the next page.

4) From when to when?

We want you to arrive at 9:30 a.m. or soon after to get your group settled in. The MCs take the stage at 10. You'll be out the door by 4 p.m. when Mass ends. You'll want to add travel time to/from your parish.

What is expected of parish group leaders?

First, thanks for taking on this worthy task! Your youth won't experience this event if somebody (you) doesn't

organize things. Be sure to enlist helpers. You'll be surprised to know how many parents want to help make this event possible for their children. Here are four tasks that need your attention:

1) Get the word out!

Engage many folks to publicize and organize... parents, parish secretary, DRE, catechists, pastor, etc.

2) GROUP Registration forms

Attached to this e-mail and at www.davenportdiocese.org you'll find two forms you'll need for registration:

- The group registration form: This is an editable form that does the math for you! Just punch in your numbers and it tells you what to pay. Once you've filled it out, SAVE it on your computer, then attach it to an e-mail to butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org We should have this by March 5. You can register your group (or additional participants) between March 6-12 at the \$25 cost.
- The nametag form: This is an easy spreadsheet. Type in the names of each participant, SAVE your file, then attach it to an e-mail to butterworthb@davenportdiocese.org This is due March 12.

3) INDIVIDUAL paperwork

Attached to this e-mail and at www.davenportdiocese.org, you'll find these individual forms:

- The permission/medical form on Page 2 of the all-in-one. You'll need two copies of this. You keep one, and each participant (youth and adult) keeps one on his/her person in case of emergency.
- The brochure, which you may choose to use to spread the word and gauge individual interest.
Remember if you use the brochure to use the medical/permission form on Page 2 of the all-in-one.

You can collect these anytime before you arrive March 21. Do not bring extra copies for the diocese.

4) Engage other adults

Ratio:

Each parish group must have at least 1 adult for every 10 youth, although a 1-to-6 ratio is more ideal. *Youth are not allowed to attend this event without adult supervision from their parish.*

Safe environment guidelines:

While it's ideal to use regular parish youth volunteers who are compliant with diocesan Safe Environment guidelines, it is permissible to use parents who wish to help out as a "one-shot deal." If they won't be in regular contact (four or more times a year) with parish youth, it is not required that they do "Protecting God's Children" training or have a criminal background check done. However, normal safe environment procedures apply to these and all supervising adults. These include:

- Any physical contact must be public, appropriate and non-sexual
- Avoid being alone with minor in any room, or in any vehicle
- For further guidance, see pp. 8-9 of the diocesan "Policies Relating to Sexuality and Personal Behavior."

Adult drivers

- Those driving youth to/from the rally must be 21 or older, fully licensed and properly insured.

Updates on details and logistics, such as the day's schedule, a list of breakouts and activities, code of conduct, maps, etc., will be posted at www.davenportdiocese.org (youth ministry page) and sent via e-mail to the designated leaders of all parish groups. Steer your young people to www.davenportyouth.org for more info about the rally. If you have questions, please contact me at (641) 842-5148 or finan@davenportdiocese.org. Thanks for all you'll do to guide youth to this experience!

Lastly, we'll also have more info soon on a "Youth Ministry Toolbox" that you can win at rally. It's being put together by the DYMC's Live Your Faith Everyday (LYFE) Committee, so watch your e-mail for details.

In Christ's peace,

Pat Finan, Coordinator of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry, Diocese of Davenport