
2012 CONFIRMATION SPECTACULAR

January 28, 2012

Dear Confirmation Leader,

Our 6th Annual Confirmation Spectacular is just around the corner. We are so excited about providing this opportunity for young people to gather in the Diocese of Evansville. The purpose of this day is to bring young people together who will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation in the next year or so. We have carefully considered the suggestions from last year's evaluations and we believe the event will be even more beneficial to your youth. Confirmation Spectacular is a great experience for Confirmation candidates. The participants will uncover the power of the Sacraments, explore the treasures of the Mass, and grow in their understanding of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which they will receive in Confirmation.

As the registration process begins, there are a few things that we would like you to consider (lessons we have learned from past years):

1. Young people who are willing participants are most open to all that the day offers. We want you to invite and highly encourage participation, but, please do not force young people to participate. Forced participation takes away from the experience of the day, for everyone.

It is also important for the young people to understand the focus of the day. This is a day of formation. There are parts of the day which are more entertaining than others (we do want them to have fun). There are parts of the day, however in which we expect a level of seriousness and reverence. Please help your participants know the difference and help them stay attentive and focused throughout the day.

2. In order to determine the facility and food needs for the day, we need to have your group registration forms returned to Sherri Hartley (address below) no later than **January 13th**. Parishes can add, subtract or change the number of participants after the above date; however, we cannot take any more group registrations. **PLEASE NOTE: Any additions or late registrations will require the payment of a \$5 late fee per late registration. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN FOR UNFULFILLED REGISTRATIONS, and NO EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE TO THIS POLICY.**
3. **On the day of the event, registration is from 12:30 – 1:00 Eastern Time** in the St. Joseph Parish Center. We need groups to arrive during these times for registration. Arriving too early or too late can disrupt the flow of the day. We also need **ONE group leader to register the whole group**. If the participants from your parish are responsible for their own transportation to St. Joe's, please make arrangements for a meeting place and time (the group leader must be at St. Joe before the arrival of their participants).
4. This is a day in which we hope that the candidate grows in knowledge, faith and love of God. It is not intended to be a day of building relationships with their sponsor. Sponsors who participate are given assignments to help with the flow of the day and may not be attending the same workshops as their candidate.

Important Details:

Date: Saturday, January 28, 2012

Place: This event takes place at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana.
The entire event will take place in the Parish Center which is located directly across the plaza from the church.

Time: The event is from 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (EST) with registration from 12:30 – 1:00.

Cost: The cost of this event has been reduced to **\$10.00 per student** and the **adult chaperone fee has been eliminated** for 2011/12. This fee covers snacks, speakers, and a facility donation. Please make **checks payable to “Catholic Diocese of Evansville” – please add “Confirmation Spectacular to the memo line.**

Attendance Capacity: Due to space limitations, the **number of participants will be capped at 400** (this number includes adult chaperones). We attempt to limit each breakout session to 30 youth, and space in classrooms and the auditorium is limited. Should the capacity be reached prior to the registration deadline, parishes will be notified, and those registrations exceeding the capacity will be wait listed. Due to this, it is imperative that registrations not be over-estimated.

Dress: The dress for the day is casual. We do expect attire to be modest and appropriate for a church related function.

Special Needs: Please let Sherri Hartley know if there are any special dietary or physical needs for any participant.

Please Bring: It is expected at registration that group leaders turn in an up-to-date list of participants, medical release forms for each participant, and a contact phone number for the group leader. Please ask your participants to leave their **cell phones and other electronic devices at home or on the bus.**

Chaperones: Each parish needs to bring **one (1) adult chaperone for every ten (10) student participants.** Chaperones will be given assignments upon their arrival. Also, to prevent problems from past years, **chaperones are expected to attend breakout sessions** with their group to address behavioral issues (e.g., youth talking during the session).

No later than January 13th, please return the completed registration form and group payment to Sherri Hartley, Confirmation Spectacular, 214 W. 13th Street; Jasper, IN 47546.

Questions: Contact Steve Dabrowski, Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, or Donna Gish, Acting Director of the Office of Catechesis, (812) 424-5536.

You may also access registration forms and information via the Internet:

<http://www.evansville-diocese.org/youth/ConfSpec.html>