



ST. MARY'S VISITATION PARISH
Elm Grove

1260 Church Street ♦ Elm Grove, WI 53122 ♦ www.stmaryeg.org
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January 5th, 2012

Dear Parent(s) of 11th Grade Confirmation Candidates:

I am writing to inform you and your son/daughter about the upcoming mandatory St. Mary's Visitation Confirmation Retreat, which will take place on **February 18 and 19, 2012** at:

Camp Whitcomb/Mason- James Lodge
W287 N6877 Center Oak Rd.
Hartland, WI 53029

Camp Phone: 262-538-0442 or Brian's Cell: 414-617-3451

I hope and pray that the retreat weekend will be spiritually rewarding for all involved. I need your assistance and support in the following areas to help ensure a successful retreat. Please read through the entire letter and make sure that your teen is aware of this information as well.

PARENT RETREAT MEETING: We will have an optional parent informational meeting (parents only please) on Sunday, January 15th from 10:15-10:45am (between the 9am and 11am Masses) in the SMV Atrium.

LOVE LETTERS: At a very special time during the retreat, **we will present your teen with a letter from a person dear to them, YOU!** This is an excellent and unique opportunity for you to express your feelings, share your faith, and show your love for them, an opportunity that doesn't present itself often enough. For that reason, we ask that the letter convey a positive, loving message. The benefits you derive from writing this letter are felt just as powerfully as by those to whom they are written. No one can ever be told too often how much they are loved and appreciated!! These letters of affirmation, support, and encouragement are literally "*love letters*" from home, and it is imperative that each of our retreat participants receives at least one letter.

The "**love letter**" is meant to be a surprise for the retreatants, so please keep it a secret. **It is essential that we receive all letters sealed in an envelope addressed to your son/daughter, Marked with a "P" in the upper right hand corner to identify it as a "parent" letter.** We ask that you deliver these letters to the SMV Parish Office by no later than February 5th. If you want to mail the letter to me, then you **MUST** place it in **ANOTHER ENVELOPE** c/o Brian Magliocco at the address above.

At the Sponsor meeting back in November, we informed the sponsors that they should write a letter to their candidate as well. Some of the sponsors were not be able to attend the session and therefore I am asking that you inform them so that **ALL** candidates receive a letter from their sponsor. They should come in a sealed envelope with their candidates name on the front. **Sponsors should mark an "S" in the upper right corner.** Again, please ***do not tell your son/daughter*** that they will be receiving the letters as we want it to be a surprise.

PLEASE RETURN ALL LETTERS BY FEBRUARY 5th!

FEE: The cost for the weekend is **\$100**. The registration fee is due **NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 5th**. Please make checks payable to St. Mary's Visitation Parish with "Confirmation retreat 12" in the memo line. Send with the permission slip to St. Mary's Confirmation Retreat, Attn: Chris Kinzy, 1260 Church Street, Elm Grove, WI 53122

FORMS: The **permission slip and participant agreement** included in this mailing are also to be **returned by FEBRUARY 5th**. Please drop it off or mail it to St. Mary's Visitation Parish with the check.

Please turn letter over to the back to read the rest of the letter!

AGREEMENT/CODE OF CONDUCT: Also included with the letter is a **Participant Agreement/Code of Conduct Form**. This agreement lists the behaviors, dress code, and expectations for the retreat. **Make sure you and your teen understand what is expected** of them and the consequences of their behavior. *If your teen should violate this agreement you will be called to pick them up.* **BOTH YOU and your TEEN are to sign this form! This should be returned with other paperwork by February 5th.**

CELL PHONE USAGE: We ask that all teen cell phones be left at home! If you should need to reach your child during the retreat, you can call my cell phone at 414-617-3451 or the camp office.

TIMES: ALL participants will leave as a group Saturday and return as a group on Sunday. Teens should gather in the SMV Church Atrium on **Saturday, February 18th, by no later than 7:45am**. NOTE: Breakfast will not be provided at the retreat center so please make sure your teen eats before coming to SMV. On **Sunday, February 19th**, we will arrive back to the SMV church parking lot by approximately **1:00p.m.**

PARTICIPANT LETTER: *Enclosed you will find a letter for your teen. Please pass this on to them and have them read it.*

CONFLICTS WITH RETREAT TIME: In the case of a conflict that is absolutely unchangeable in your teen's schedule for this weekend, your teen will need to attend another retreat. I need to be notified of this as soon as possible and I will have a suitable make-up retreat for them to attend. **Participants will not be allowed to leave early or come late during the weekend.** You must call Brian by February 5th for pre-approval to miss our retreat.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT - ADULT HELP IS NEEDED!!!!

We are in need of adults for **baggage checks, chaperoning the bus, supervising during the retreat**, and for the “**Night Watch**” during our time of sleeping. The success of the retreat depends on YOU! Check out the details below...

BAGGAGE CHECKS: Please consider volunteering to check-in the students on Saturday morning at 7:40am and check their baggage. Our policy is to check all the luggage of every teen participant before going on any youth ministry overnight. The success of the retreat is too important to have a few teens ruin it within inappropriate behavior. We are in need of men and women to check gender specific baggage for about 30-45 minutes on February 18th in the SMV Atrium.

NIGHT WATCH: Our insurance company and archdiocesan policy (4116.4) states, “*Activities, particularly those involving overnight activities or extended stays are to be supervised on a 24 hour, round the clock basis. Adult supervisors should be available to monitor the group even after lights out.*” Since it would not be feasible for myself or the adults who are working the retreat as group leaders to be awake for 24 hours straight, we need adults to come to the retreat at approx. 11:00pm and stay until 5:00am for the Night Watch. Since our group is so large we would prefer to have 4 chaperones (2 males and 2 females) for the night but a minimum of 2 chaperones. If you can help in this area please call me ASAP!

RETREAT CHAPERONES: We need an approximately 4-5 adults to help chaperone the building during the retreat. The retreat team will be busy directing the retreat and therefore it will be difficult to do any basic chaperoning. It is a fairly large building so we need a few adults to help monitor during break times and also to keep them on task during the retreat itself.

Finally, and most importantly, ***we ask you to pray for the success of this retreat.*** God's work depends upon the prayers and support of His people. If you have any questions before the retreat please email or call me. May God bless you this New Year!

In His Holy Name,

Brian Magliocco
Director of Youth Ministry
St. Mary's Visitation Parish