



DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG – SECRETARIAT FOR CATHOLIC LIFE AND EVANGELIZATION

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Dear Friends in Ministry,

We warmly invite you and the young people with whom you serve to the **NEW** Diocesan World Youth Day Celebration on Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017.

As a result of our Parish Youth Ministry Survey, we have made significant changes in terms of the venue and the format. As you can see on the attached poster, **World Youth Day on Palm Sunday will take place at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill and will include Praise and Worship Music, an opportunity for confession, the Blessing of the Palms and first Gospel Reading (outside if possible), Holy Mass with Bishop Gainer, a time of fellowship with an opportunity to purchase food provided by multiple food trucks, a time of prayer, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.**

The gathering is open to all teenagers in grades 9-12 and their chaperones or parents. Pope Francis selected the theme: "*The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His Name.*" (Luke 1:49). Please encourage youth to attend, as this promises to be an exciting and spirit filled way to begin Holy Week with our bishop and hundreds of young people from throughout the diocese.

While we are not charging a registration fee, for planning purposes, groups are asked to pre-register by completing the enclosed Group Registration Form or the online registration by Friday, March 31, 2017. Please indicate if any priests will be concelebrating and whether or not your group will be bringing a banner. Also, please remind your group to bring a little money for the offering and for any food that they wish to purchase from the food trucks.

Enclosed please find several items that are meant to help you promote this gathering locally:

- The Group Leader Information Sheet (other side of this letter)
- The Group Registration Form
- The Palm Sunday Posters (Please place this in a prominent place in your parish/school)

For additional promotional material please visit www.hbgdiocese.org/young_church and follow the links for World Youth Day on Palm Sunday or contact our office. Please let us know if there is anything that our office can do in support of your ministry.

It is our sincere hope that you and the young people from your parish or Catholic high school join us for this grace filled way to celebrate Palm Sunday!

Sincerely,

Robert J. Williams



cc: Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, D.D., J.C.L.
Mr. Dominic Lombardi
Very Reverend Edward J. Quinlan
Mr. Jim Gontis

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