

# DIOCESAN ALTAR BOY RETREAT 2017

Very Rev. Fr. David Cochran, Director  
40 Beaver Dam Rd. Stratford, CT 06614  
203-385-1020 / 203-339-1913

Dear Parents,  
Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Plans are being finalized for this year's Altar Boy Retreat - "Encounter 2017". This Diocesan-wide event will take place from Sunday evening, June 25<sup>th</sup> (Registration is from 6pm till 8 p.m.) until Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. The Retreat will once again take place at our Christ the Savior Seminary, Cathedral and Education Center in Johnstown and SS. Peter & Paul Church facilities in Windber. For our outing this year, we will be travelling to Pittsburgh for Dinner at St. Nicholas Church in Homestead and for a PITTSBURGH PIRATES GAME! This is the time and place for your faithful Altar Servers to join other Altar Boys from all over our Diocese.

The cost of this year's retreat is \$100.00. This includes everything for the three days and also includes a commemorative "Encounter 2017" T-Shirt. We are asking that parishes, if at all possible, underwrite the cost of the retreat for each altar boy attending. **All checks should be made payable to "DIOCESE ALTAR BOY RETREAT". Please do not make them out to the Seminary, the Cathedral, or to the Diocese.**

With this letter, we are asking your help to make this year's retreat an enjoyable experience for our altar boys. To properly prepare your son(s) for the retreat, we ask that you keep the following items in mind:

- Please be aware that registration begins at 6:00 pm. **Early registration cannot be guaranteed and staffing of the area is not guaranteed either. If you must arrive prior to 6pm, you will be responsible for yourself and your child until registration begins at 6pm. There will be no early "drop-offs" and no exceptions.** Parents or guardians are asked to go first to the Seminary and check in with Fr. Miles Zdinak to find the boys sleeping assignment, which will either be at the Seminary, the basement of Christ the Savior Seminary or the Cathedral Education Center. At that time the parent or guardian is asked to take the child and his belongings to his assigned place. Staff at each sleeping location will assist you and your son(s) getting settled with a cot. You are then asked to return the boy to the Seminary and then you are free to go.
- Pick up time is Wed June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Areas of the retreat must be cleaned and put back in proper order prior to dismissal. Please plan your arrival accordingly. Also, please plan to arrive promptly as many of the staff has a long drive to get back to their parishes.
- ITEMS TO BRING: Altar Boy Robes; Personal Toiletries; Casual Clothes; Swimsuit; Sneakers; Sweater or Sweatshirt; **Sleeping Bag or Sheets, Pillow & Blanket**, Insect Repellent, Baseball Glove, Extra Spending Money. A GOOD ATTITUDE!!
- ITEMS NOT TO BRING: Cell Phones and Pagers; Gaming Systems; Laser Pointers; Roller Blades, Sneaker Skates, Roller Skates; Alcoholic Beverages; Cigarettes or any Tobacco Products; Illegal Drugs; Knives; Guns; Fireworks; Shaving Cream; Clothing with suggestive or

obscene imagery or words; or any other item NOT deemed appropriate. A BAD ATTITUDE!!

- A special note for those older boys staying in the Seminary: The television in the Seminary lounge will be OFF-LIMITS during the retreat. This includes watching T.V. and/or playing video games on the T.V. The breaking of this rule will result in an immediate dismissal from the retreat.

Electronic registration as well as electronic payment are available this year ***and are strongly encouraged by using the following link:***

**ONLINE REGISTRATION:** <http://conta.cc/2qtYtEX>

Please note that we are asking that all payments be made by the registration deadline. Registrations that are not paid by that time cannot be guaranteed a T-shirt or even a spot at the retreat.

**If registering by mail or registering electronically but paying by check**, please send your check of \$100 per boy, **payable to Diocese Altar Boy Retreat**, with a note as to who the payment is for, to:

Fr. David Cochran  
40 Beaver Dam Rd.  
Stratford, CT 06614

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours in the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fr. David Cochran".

Father David Cochran  
Retreat Director  
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E-Mail: [pauldcochran@gmail.com](mailto:pauldcochran@gmail.com)