Bishop Chatard High School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Here in Bishop Chatard Campus Ministry, we are so excited to walk with your students through their senior year! This year, in particular, we are excited to roll out a new *Senior Pilgrimage* in place of the previously existing Senior Discipleship Retreat.

A pilgrimage gives us as Christians the opportunity to travel to a specific place in order to encounter God in a way that's different from ordinary life. While our students are used to retreats which land in one place and stay there, our senior pilgrimage will give us the opportunity to travel to multiple sites and to discuss different ways that God wants to encounter us there! In a particular way, this new format will give students the opportunity to visit a college campus to connect with alumni and faith opportunities at the next academic level.

This week, we will be sending a pilgrimage preference form to your student. Not only will this form include potential pilgrimage dates, but also sites. Regardless of location, each pilgrimage will run from approximately 8am Sunday morning through 3:15pm on Monday. Students will be back in time for after school extracurricular activities. Please check in with your seniors and help them to be aware of any possible family conflicts as they select their pilgrimage preferences. Also note, because of limited space, we cannot promise that each student will receive his or her first preference.

Pilgrimage dates and locations are as follows:

- **September 13-14, 2026**: Students will travel to South Bend, visit the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, and the University of Notre Dame. Overnight accommodations at Lindenwood Retreat Center (Plymouth, IN)
- **October 4-5, 2026**: Students will visit the historic Catholic churches in the city of Lafayette before visiting St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center at Purdue University. Overnight accommodations at St. Joseph Retreat and Conference Center (Tipton, IN)
- **February 7-8, 2027**: Students will visit the historic Catholic churches in the city of Lafayette before visiting St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center at Purdue University. Overnight accommodations at St. Joseph Retreat and Conference Center (Tipton, IN)
- **March 7-8, 2027**: Students will travel to South Bend, visit the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, and the University of Notre Dame. Overnight accommodations at Lindenwood Retreat Center (Plymouth, IN)

More information, as well as permission forms, will follow as the year progresses, but as your students begin to make selections on their pilgrimage date and location, we wanted you to be part of the process! We are certainly excited about this new opportunity, and cannot wait to continue our collaboration with you in the faith formation of your students! Thank you for helping make these retreats a success!

Sincerely,

Brian Farrell

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Bishop Chatard High School
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