

Pilgrimage to Rome, Italy July 26-August 9, 2025

Jubilee For Youth 2025

St. Scholastica & other parishes in our Diocese

You are invited to be a part of the Jubilee For Youth 2025 in Rome, Italy. The Jubilee takes place every 25 years, and pilgrims will be coming to Rome all year. But this week will be specifically geared toward youth and young adults as a Pilgrimage of faith. An awesome, unforgettable, inspiring, and faith-filled opportunity awaits you. Not only will it be faith-filled, it will be a lot of fun and allow you to meet and make friends with teens from around the world! The Jubilee For Youth is an incredible gift for the Catholic youth of the world.

While the Jubilee For Youth is not officially a World Youth Day (WYD), there are indications that it will be run with a similar schedule to WYD, including a Vigil, overnight, and Closing Mass in St. Peter's Square (or a park). We won't know details until we get closer to the event.

"The fact is, God loves us even more than we love ourselves. He believes in us even more than we believe in ourselves. He is always "cheering us on"; he is our biggest fan... He demands of us real courage: the courage to be more powerful than evil by loving everyone, even our enemies."

Pope Francis - 31st World Youth Day, Krakow, July 2016

"Pilgrims of Hope" - Theme for Jubilee 2025

What is the Jubilee For Youth? A time when the Holy Father calls his youth to himself for six days of prayer, meditation, and instruction. We will also be pilgrimaging to each of the four Holy Doors of Rome. With this are also much sightseeing, cultural experiences, the opportunity to interact with Catholic Youth from all over the world, and to learn about their faith and celebrate it. It is characterized by the happiness of youth being with the Pope and with each other. At Jubilee 2025, participants will learn how Italian Catholics live their faith and also experience life in their country. We may be traveling with other churches from our Diocese. Although this trip should be fun for the participants, please be aware that it is a Pilgrimage, not a vacation. The main focus of the trip is the spiritual aspect.

Dates of the Jubilee for Youth? The dates of the entire trip are July 26-August 9, 2025. The Jubilee Celebration itself takes place July 29 - August 4, 2025. We will visit Assisi before we go to Rome. After the Jubilee, we will do a Pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Bosnia for the end of the Mladifest Youth Festival. Medjugorje is the site of an ongoing Marian Apparition. Then we will finish in Dubrovnik, Croatia, with some time to relax.

Who can go? High school and college students for the school year 2024-2025 are eligible if they will be at least 15 years old by July 26, 2025. Young adults older than college age can join us as chaperones (or they can look into the young adult trip offered by the Diocese).

What is the adult to teen ratio? There will be at a minimum a 1 to 5 ratio of adults to teens. Adults must be 21 years or older.

What is the cost of WYD? \$5338 estimated cost per person, based on double or triple occupancy if we go with JMJ. It will be cheaper if we do it on our own. Probably around \$4200. The cost could go up or down slightly depending on airfares. We will be fundraising for this trip, but a lot of the fundraising will be individual. For WYD 2005, 2008, 2011, 2016, and the Italy Pilgrimage some teens used sponsorship by friends and family to pay for their trip and were very successful, and this will be one of the ways we will be fundraising this year. We can also, as a group, ask for funds from corporations and parishioners, and do a few group fundraisers. I think it is reasonable to assume you will be able to raise about \$1500-2000, but it will all depend on how much effort YOU put into the fundraising effort. Many of the fundraisers are also dependent on parent involvement. The first payment of \$500 must be turned in with the completed application to Jennifer Olson **by Wednesday, May 15, 2024**. You will need to pay the full first payment, but fundraised money may reduce your future payments. If you are an amazing fundraiser and you are able to fundraise the full amount (but please don't count on this happening), money you paid out of pocket will be returned to you. The payment schedule for the remainder of the money will be (this is a tentative schedule which could change based on the travel agency requirements September 15, 2024 - \$1600, November 15, 2024 - \$1600, and March 15, 2025 - Remainder. You also must make a commitment to participate in parish and large group formation meetings prior to the trip. We have a limited number of spaces available, and we want to start fundraising, so please turn your information in as soon as possible. Participants will be accepted based on the essay they write and if needed an interview process. If you are not chosen to go, you will get your deposit back. If you are chosen to go, there are cancellation fees that increase as time goes on. The minimum cancellation fee is \$500. After March 15, 2025 the cancellation fee could be up to the cost of the trip depending on penalties assessed by suppliers. Please contact Jennifer if you have further questions.

What is included in the cost? Hotels for 2 nights in Assisi, 6 nights in Rome, 3 nights in Medjugorje, and 2 nights in Dubrovnik. Air transportation to Rome (or Florence) and home from Croatia, transfer to and from the airports, ground transportation between cities, sightseeing in and around Assisi, Rome, Medjugorje, and Dubrovnik, breakfast and dinner each day.

What is not included in the cost? Personal costs (passport). Lunches. We sometimes add in some additional sightseeing. Other personal expenses.

Informational Meetings? After the decision is made in May as to who is going on the trip, we will have a first meeting to discuss fundraising responsibilities. We will want to begin fundraising right away so that you will not have to pay ALL of the money out of pocket beyond May.

Please call me if you have any additional questions at 630-885-6439 or e-mail me at youthministry@stscholasticaparish.org. If you need to mail completed form, please mail them to Jennifer Olson; 7800 Janes Avenue; Woodridge, IL 60517.

Pilgrimage Registration for Jubilee For Youth 2025 in Rome, Italy

If you decide that you are interested in participating in the trip, please complete this application and the essay and return it with your \$500 first payment to Jennifer Olson by Wednesday, May 15, 2024.

Checks should be made payable to St. Scholastica.

Participants will be accepted based on their essay (so think about what you write) and an interview process if necessary. We have a limited number of spaces available, so please turn your information in as soon as possible.

One paragraph essay (on back or attach): Why you are interested in going on this pilgrimage to Rome, Italy? What do you hope to get out of the trip?

Pilgrim's Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Male Female (Circle)

Current School & Year: _____

Parent's Name(s) (If applicable): _____

Parents Cell Phone #: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Parish: _____

Have you ever been on a pilgrimage before? If yes, when and where?

Do you have any allergies or medical conditions? Please list them.

Do you have a passport? (Must expire at least 6 months after August 9, 2025 - If not, you will need to get one)

Commitment

I understand the nature of this Pilgrimage experience to the Jubilee For Youth in Rome, Italy. I agree to cooperate with the Joliet Diocese Code of Behavior and to be financially responsible for the cost of the pilgrimage. As possible, I am also willing to participate in the formation meetings (both parish and larger group) to prepare for our trip that will occur prior to our departure in July 2025.

Signature of Pilgrim: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent: _____ Date: _____