

Junior High Youth Rally—Year of Mercy Pilgrimage Walk

Junior High Youth Rally is one of our diocesan observances of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. As such, we are closing our day with a pilgrimage to St. Mary's Church in downtown Iowa City. This Church is one of our diocesan pilgrimage sites, and we will conclude our day with Mass there with Bishop Amos. Participants will walk the 1.6 miles from Regina to St. Mary's and there will be three stops along the way for reflection and activity. Upon arrival at St. Mary's participants will walk through the church's Doors of Mercy. Pilgrims and penitents pass through a Holy Door as a gesture of leaving the past behind and crossing the threshold from sin to grace, from slavery to freedom, and from darkness to light.

To be ready for this experience, please take note of the following:

1. Wear good walking shoes and dress appropriately.—The walk is estimated to take 45 minutes to 1 hour.
2. Provisions are being made for transportation for those who cannot walk the route.
3. Transportation back to Regina for either everyone or, at minimum, drivers who transported participants for the day, is being arranged.
4. Plans are also being made in case of inclement weather. No matter the weather, we will conclude the day at St. Mary's Church.
5. All vehicles driven to Regina will remain at Regina as there is no adequate parking at St. Mary's nor on the streets of downtown Iowa City.