



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of Catholic Schools

February 27, 2023

Dear Select High School Leaders,

On behalf of Archbishop Wenski, I am very pleased to invite and encourage you to participate in the Via Crucis pilgrimage for our high school and university students. This event will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2023 (the Saturday before Palm Sunday). The pilgrimage is sponsored by the Knights of Malta Youth Corp and Campus Ministry at the University of Miami/St Augustine Catholic Church. The Via Crucis is a walking pilgrimage and some of your students may have participated in prior years. This year we are extending the invitation to several of our high schools, parish high school religious education students, and university campus ministry programs located in the South Miami area.

The six-mile pilgrimage travels from St Augustine parish to the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity, stopping along the way for prayer and reflection for each of the 14 Stations of the Cross. Not only is the pilgrimage an excellent time of prayer and reflection for the students as they prepare for Holy Week, but it is an extraordinary witness for all who see the young people along the way.

To further encourage student participation, the Knights of Malta are prepared to document the participation of the students and offer service hours for their roles in the event. Such hours would apply to students whether they are participating as a pilgrim, volunteering to help set up and take down of each station, and/or donating or serving water and snacks to participants at each station.

You will shortly receive additional information from Sr. Elizabeth Worley, Chancellor/COO of the Archdiocese (who is serving as our contact with the schools and parishes) and Mrs. Jaclyn Caceres, Malta Youth Coordinator (who is serving as the lead organizer for the pilgrimage). Assuming you participate, we ask that you designate an official point-person from your school. This individual should be a member of your faculty/administration, such as your Director of Campus Ministry. This point-person will be provided with detailed information regarding participation, including consent forms, service credits, a pilgrimage map, etc.

In addition to the point-person, you will need to designate appropriate numbers of chaperones, some of whom should be faculty/staff, depending upon the size of your representation. All chaperones must be Virtus certified.

I know this will be a meaningful experience for your students. Once again, Sr. Elizabeth and Ms. Caceres will be in contact with you to discuss next steps.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Rigg, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Archdiocese of Miami