ST. SCHOLASTICA S.T.O.R.M. – Catholic Mission Trips Meeting
& Steubenville Joliet Conference Meeting
8:00 pm October 14, 2027

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Benefits of a Mission Trip: Youth Ministry Members Will…
- A. Build their understanding of Catholic Social Teaching & about what it means to be a Catholic Disciple.
- B. Experience personal spiritual growth.
- C. Build self-esteem.
- D. Achieve deeper understanding of faith in action.
- E. Learn about a new Culture.
- F. Be offered inspirational opportunities prepared by trained youth ministry specialists
- G. Develop sensitivity to the needs of others.
- H. Witness their faith to others.
- I. Learn about teamwork and group-building.
- J. Feel a stronger sense of community within the group.
- K. The program has the Charisms: Service Oriented, Formational, Sacramental, Relational, Christ-Centered, and Spirit-Led. Show overview from Website.

III. Requirements
- A. Must attend at least one retreat.
- B. Must be actively participating in STORM.
- C. Must be able to attend most preparations meetings. We do ask that teens request off work. We've tried to offer different days and months so that everyone can make most of the dates.
- D. One of the things our group is known for is how close we all are. The reason is that we know each other from the weekly meetings, retreats, and we spend time preparing together, learning more about Catholic Social Teaching, and about each other. This is something I think we do better than most groups and it is the reason we have these requirements.

IV. General Plan:
- A. Commissioning Service on June 13th at the 8 or 10 am Mass (This is tentative)
- B. We will meet before Mass to pack the vehicles.
- C. We will leave after Mass on Sunday morning, June 13th.
- D. It is a 9 hour drive. We may stop somewhere on the way. We will stop for dinner. We will stop at a hotel for the night.
- E. We are planning to go rafting near the Work Site on Monday morning.
- F. Arrive at Catholic Mission Trips in Cumberland, Kentucky between 4-5 pm Monday. Have dinner there before program starts.
- G. Read the Overview of Catholic Mission Trips – We will be the only group. General Program Schedule.
  Monday – Orientation, Tuesday – Mass in morning and 1st Day of service. Saturday – Finish up with morning program, breakfast, and clean up, then depart.
- H. The Workcamp ends on Saturday, June 19.
- I. We will drive home stopping for lunch and dinner. We may stop somewhere. We will probably be back late.

J. We will do a Rite of Welcoming Home from Service on Sunday, June 20 at 10 am Mass.

V. Details

A. We will be staying at a school in classrooms. You can bring an air mattress.

B. Review Team Roles – Our work teams will be teens and adults from our Youth Ministry Group. I will be assigning teams so you get to know new people within our group.

C. We will randomly assign spaces in the vehicles and they will change throughout the trip. This will help us all to get to know each other.

D. We will likely be the only group at the worksite.

E. Cell phones, Ipod's, mp3 players, etc. are not allowed by St. Scholastica or Catholic Mission Trips. We can have a shared Spotify playlist for use in the cars on the way up as a group as part of our "bonding" experience. Adults will have cell phones in an emergency and parents will have all of the phone numbers if you need to reach us. I am very serious about this rule and most of the teens love the experience of being disconnected.

F. We will have five participant meetings on Wednesday, January 13 - teens from 6-8 pm and parent(s) at 8pm. The rest will be 7-9 pm. Thursday, February 4 – teens, Monday, April 12 – teens, Tuesday, May 4 - teens, and Monday, May 24 - teens and parent(s).

G. These meetings are mandatory because they are part of the preparation process for the trip. Please request off work.

H. Part of the preparation process includes service in our own community. One of the service projects we will be doing is doing service projects to raise money for the trip. These are ongoing and you will be asked to help when needed. This year that money will go directly to you to reduce the cost of your trip.

I. We will also be doing other service opportunities as a group like the Our Lady of the Angels Mission in October, Chicago Street Ministry in December, and Feed My Starving Children in February.

J. The website is https://catholicmissiontrips.net/

VI. Cost and Fund Raising

A. The cost of the Workcamp is $475 per person. Add to this the cost of van rental, gas, meals along the way, and free day activities, and the actual cost of the trip is approximately $900.

B. $900 will be your starting point this year and we will be doing fundraisers to offset this cost. If you are at all of your Mass fundraisers, preparation meetings, and car washes, the cost will be $375. If you miss meetings, fundraisers, or can't help with some of them you could pay more. I only increased the fee by $25 this year, but Catholic Mission Trips is more expensive than Jerusalem Farm (but less than Catholic Heart).

C. We plan to have two Trivia Night Fundraisers this year you can further reduce the cost if parents and teens help with it. We can't do this fundraiser without parents because we need over 21 year olds to sell drinks and raffle tickets. We need some parents to solicit donations for raffle baskets and prizes, or to donate a basket. We also need some parents to gather a table to join us! We will also be using this fundraiser for World Youth Day and Steubenville, so if you are going to more than one, you help yourself if you help with this fundraiser. The first Trivia Night is coming up on November 7. We need teens and a parent to work the Masses leading up to the Trivia Night selling tickets from the Welcome Desk. This will count as some of your required Mass fundraisers. I am passing around a sheet. We do need a parent at every Mass. This also has sign up for the Trivia Night itself, and if you can help by donating a raffle basket.

D. Another option for individual fundraising is to get sponsors. I will provide an example letter to

you. All sponsors make checks payable to St. Scholastica and the sponsorship is tax deductible. Several teens fundraised all of their cost this way!

E. Payment of $100 is due with the application by November 15. This is non-refundable if you are chosen to go. $100 due in January and $175 Due in March. Cancellations before February 15 have a $100 cancellation fee. After February 15 it is $200. After March 30 there is no refund.

F. We will speak at all the Masses in March about the Mission Trip and solicit donations at the exits as people leave.

G. Mother's Day "Spiritual Bouquet" Sales April and May & Father's Day "Spiritual Bouquet" Sales in June. (12 Masses for Mothers and 12 Masses for Fathers - one a month for a year)

H. Everyone must sign up to work 6 to 8 Masses (the parent counts toward this as well, so it could be only 4-5 Masses). If you are only signing up for one Mass on a Sunday, it must be either 8 am or 12 pm. If you miss Mass, it will increase your payment by $25.

I. Attendance at each of the 4 participant meetings (January, February, April and May) (if you miss it is $25).

J. A car wash in May and August. Ticket sales the weekend before. If you miss a car wash, you will increase your fee by $50.

K. Service projects for donations – raking leaves, shoveling snow, mowing the lawn, packing up etc. Everyone will be expected to help as needed. The money will reduce your fee. If you miss one of the above and have extra fees, you can offset that by working extra service fundraisers. Our goal is for everyone to only pay $350 (or less).

L. Stuffing the bulletin when we have a restaurant fundraiser can earn you money to decrease your fee (or you can use it for the service fundraiser if you haven't done it yet). I need someone to help with stuffing THIS WEEKEND! You get $50 toward your trip.

M. We hope to be able to pay all additional expenses out of the fundraising money (i.e. food, free day activity)

N. If money is an issue, please talk to me. We can get you a sponsor. We do not want money to be the reason someone can not attend a Mission Trip (or Steubenville or any other retreat / spiritual trip).

Steubenville Conference

A. Benefits of a Steubenville Conference: Youth Ministry Members Will...

- Hear amazing Catholic Speakers that will inspire them in their faith. We don't know the speakers at our conference yet, but they are always amazing!
- Experience powerful prayer experiences that allow an encounter experience with God.
- Celebrate the Mass with amazing priests and our Bishop
- See the larger church in the teens from throughout the Diocese and the United States.
- Share their faith in small sharing groups from our parish.
- Be encouraged to witness their faith to others.
- Feel a stronger sense of community within the group.

B. Requirements

- We will have one or two preparation meetings as we get closer to the Conference.
- Help with the Trivia Night Fundraiser in November and February and Car Washes this summer.

C. General Plan:

- Commissioning Service on June 20 at 10 am Mass (This is tentative)
- We hope to go to the Steubenville Joliet, June 25-27 at Benedictine University in Lisle.

- We will leave around 1:00 pm on Friday, June 25th. We will take a bus.
- We need to arrive in the afternoon between 2-4 pm.
- We will be staying at Benet Academy in classrooms. Boys are on one floor and girls on another. We will bring breakfast stuff for the mornings. There are showers available.
- There is normally around 2000 people at a conference.
- Dinner is included on Friday. Lunch and Dinner on Saturday. They work with allergies.
- There is usually an optional travelers Mass after we check in.
- Program starts after dinner. There are speakers and prayer the first night.
- Saturday includes speakers related to the theme. This year the theme is UnSeen. There are also boys and girls workshops. There is some free time to hang out together.
- Saturday night is the Adoration Prayer Service. It is a powerful experience for the kids and many feel the presence of God. Reconciliation is available throughout the weekend.
- Sunday is the final speakers and the closing Mass. It ends by around noon.
- We will plan for a pot luck with parents when we arrive home on Sunday so teens can share their experience.
- We should be home around 1:30 pm.
- We wear shirts each day. We wear a STORM Shirt one day, the Mission Trip/Steubenville Shirt one day, and a Steubenville Shirt on the last day.
- The website is steubenvilleconferences.com. Partnership for Youth is running the Joliet Steubenville: partnershipforyouth.org/steubenville-joliet/

D. Cost and Fund Raising

- The cost of the Conference is around $300 per person which includes the Benet Academy stay and meals. Add to this the cost of bus pizza and shirts, and the actual cost of the trip is approximately $350.
- We only charge $150 for first time participants and regularly attending STORM Members. That will include the shirts and pizza snacks this year.
- We ask you to help with the Trivia Nights and Car Washes and possibly other fundraisers as needed to offset the costs of this trip!
- A deposit of $50 is due with the permission (or an application) by Sunday, November 15. This is non-refundable. I have to pay for spots in November and have to know how many we have coming. Please try to turn your form in by November 15 if you want to go!
- Final Payment of $100 is due February 21.

VII. Sign Up for Trivia Night Masses and Help at Event

VIII. Show videos & Witnesses from Teens and adults that have attended in the past.

IX. Questions & Prayer

In Person

Andrew P
Brandon R Parents
Josh H
Kereen
Ivy
Ashley M
Zoe
Maya
Amelia
Sydney
Lily
Diego

Zoom