



DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

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MOST REVEREND WILLIAM E. KOENIG
BISHOP OF WILMINGTON

January 10, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to you to encourage you to prayerfully discern choosing Damascus Summer Camp for your middle and high school children. Damascus Summer Camp is a week-long residential camp for middle school and high school youth located in Central Ohio, and next summer in Emmitsburg, MD. Damascus Summer Camp engages young people into the sacramental life, mission and work of the Catholic Church. Damascus was founded in 2001 and this year will welcome nearly 10,000 campers from all over the country to their 3 camp locations.

In this time of turmoil in our country and in our Church, youth more than ever need to be immersed in the Gospel. Damascus Summer Camp offers an environment filled with the joy and hope of the Gospel of Jesus. The camp activities, the program, and everything in between are oriented towards bringing the youth to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. A day at Damascus is packed full of adventure, providing opportunities for campers to step outside of their comfort zones, overcome fears and challenges with the help of their peers and counselors, and to experience the joy that comes with life in Jesus. The lessons learned in this environment will increase confidence and boldness in your child. This is truly a welcome and joy-filled camp experience!

However, what truly separates Damascus Summer Camp from other camps, and the reason I send you this letter, is the extent to which, through the course of one week, the rich tradition of the Catholic Church is explored through activities, programming, morning prayer, sacred art, daily mass, daily mysteries of the rosary, adoration, and the sacrament of Reconciliation. Damascus's intentional focus on the faith formation of their campers allows the campers to experience the vibrancy of our Catholic faith in a truly life-changing way.

At the end of the week, campers are encouraged to LIVE THE ADVENTURE, and they are given the tools to take what they have learned at camp back into their schools, parishes, youth groups, and families.

The opportunity that Damascus Summer Camp offers in nurturing the spiritual and social life of its campers make it, I believe, an opportunity that is more than worthy of consideration in your summer plans. Campers return to their parish and school intent to take on leadership and to build Catholic identity. Imagine the strength that could come from your son or daughter and his or her group of closest friends experiencing a faith adventure like this together.

The cost of camp is \$645 for a week of food, lodging, and high adventure. Because I see the value in Damascus Summer Camp and know that it will help to build that Catholic Identity of the youth in our families, schools and parishes, we will offer a generous scholarship of \$145 to all families in need of financial support. When registering, use the promo code WILMINGTON26 to apply for this discount. Furthermore, since we understand that money may be tight for some families, if you are in need of additional financial assistance, please contact Dan Pin at dpin@cdow.org. There is also an option to pay for camp in monthly installments if that is helpful for you, once registration is complete.

For more information about camp and information on registration, please go to <https://cdowcym.org/register-for-damascus-camp-now/>. If you are going to register, please do so soon, as space is limited.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Koenig, D.D.
Bishop of Wilmington