

*Diocese of Wilmington*  
*Catholic Youth, Young Adult, and*  
*Family Ministry*

*Pilgrimage*  
*Planning Guide*

## Pilgrimage Planning Guide

### What is the Diocesan Pilgrimage?

William Cardinal Keeler, retired Archbishop of Baltimore, conceived the idea of carrying a cross through the streets of Harrisburg, PA on the Saturday before Palm Sunday when he served as Bishop of Harrisburg. Bishop W. Francis Malooly, who served as Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore under Cardinal Keeler, participated in the diocesan pilgrimage in Baltimore for years. After he became the Bishop of Wilmington, Bishop Emeritus Malooly invited the young people of the Diocese of Wilmington to begin their own tradition of pilgrimage. Bishop Koenig has now led each Pilgrimage since his ordination in 2021.

The pilgrimage is an opportunity for young people, their families, and young adults in the diocese to commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and his pilgrimage to Calvary on Good Friday. During the pilgrimage, young people from parishes and schools take turns carrying the Pilgrimage Cross with Bishop Koenig.

The Pilgrimage Cross is a replica of the World Youth Day Cross and was constructed by members of the Youth Leadership Team. It was first carried during the opening liturgy of the "One Spirit, One Church" conference on March 1, 2009, and blessed by Bishop Malooly for its use in the community. The cross has also been touched to first-class relics of St. John Paul II and Blessed Carlo Acutis, making the cross itself a third-class relic.

The inaugural Pilgrimage took place on March 27, 2010, with over 400 youths and adult leaders participating. The number of participants has continued to grow ever since.

### About the Pilgrimage

Participants will gather at the St. E's Center of **St. Elizabeth** for registration, opening prayer, and a concert. The pilgrimage will begin with a procession out of the St. E's Center and the cross will be carried to **St. Francis Hospital** where a Litany of the Sick will be prayed for the patients and the Bishop will offer a blessing for the sick and staff. We will then travel to **St. Anthony of Padua** where participants will enjoy lunch (that they will pack and bring with them the day of the event) and will be offered a chance to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our pilgrimage continues to **Padua Academy** to participate in the Stations of the Cross. The cross will then be carried to **St. Paul**, where the participants will visit the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. From St. Paul, we will begin the Palm Sunday liturgy with the Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem back at **St. Elizabeth** for Mass with Bishop Koenig. The day ends after Mass (around 5:15 pm).

## **Who Should Attend?**

Bishop Koenig invites all young people, young adults, and families to attend.

Our definition of young people extends from the time of reception of First Communion into young adulthood. If young people are old enough to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, we are called to engage them in the life, mission, and ministry of the parish.

Please consider inviting high school confirmation candidates, campus ministry teams, religion classes, scouts, youth group members, athletes, youth involved in justice and service, participants in cultural youth and young adult ministries, young adult faith-sharing groups, and college students.

## **About Registration**

The registration is found at [www.cdowcym.org/pilgrimage](http://www.cdowcym.org/pilgrimage). All the links and resources you need to register are on that page.

All participants (adults and young people) must be registered online by the Sunday before the Pilgrimage. Registrations on the day of the event will not be accepted. All participants are required to wear a name tag; therefore, a list of names is necessary when completing the online registration. If you plan to attend as a family or individual (i.e., young adults), the same process is followed.

All those under 18 (or still in high school) registering as part of a group or attending as a family, must have a completed Form B (Parental Permission and General Liability Waiver), which can be found on the Pilgrimage webpage. Group leaders are responsible for collecting and keeping these documents. They will not be turned in to CYM. Please make sure you duplicate these documents and have each young person carry a copy of their own Form B with them during the Pilgrimage. Adults are also encouraged to fill out Form B and carry it with them in case of an emergency.

All adults serving as chaperones must be cleared for service according to the FSGC policies.

## **About the Cost**

The cost of the Pilgrimage is \$15 per person, including all adults. The maximum cost for a family is \$45 for immediate related family members. Money collected helps offset CYM costs for permits, sound equipment, police, security, professional musicians, and any items each participant will receive. A Scholarship Request form is available on the Pilgrimage webpage.

## **About Food**

Food is **not** provided as part of the event. Participants must pack their own lunch, water bottles, and snacks, so please prepare your groups accordingly.

### **What Should Pilgrims Bring?**

Every person participating in the Pilgrimage should wear comfortable walking shoes (the entire route is about 3 miles long), as well as layered clothing. Pilgrims should bring a rosary, a good, positive attitude, and a lunch. Dress appropriately because we walk rain or shine, regardless of the weather. Think about bringing sunscreen, a rain poncho, gloves, a hat, and sunglasses, depending on the forecast.

In addition, pilgrims should bring non-perishable food as part of our service component to support Catholic Charities' Stock the Pantry.

Do not bring headphones or any device that prevents you from interacting with others along the route. Cell phones are acceptable for limited use or in cases of emergencies. Please refrain from texting while walking. Please remember that CYM is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

### **What Should Parents Know?**

Families may register if your parish or child's school is not sponsoring a group. Young people under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. If there are younger children in the family, they are welcome to attend with the parents, but just like anywhere in public, they are the parents' responsibility.

Anyone who attends must be able to complete the 3+ mile walk.

Parents of participants who are attending as part of a parish or school group should know that CYM will do everything in its power to keep young people safe. There is police presence at the event directing traffic and all adults serving as chaperones should have been cleared through the diocese for service with young people. This clearance involves the successful completion of a criminal background check, the review and signing of an adult volunteer covenant, and safe environment training by parish personnel. If you have any questions about the event or the adult leaders from your parish or school, please contact either CYM (302-658-3800) or your local parish/school contact.

In case of an emergency, parents are encouraged to request a contact number from the parish/school lead chaperone prior to the event.

### **About Parking**

Parking is not permitted at St. Elizabeth parish (where the pilgrimage begins and ends). CYM has arranged with the City of Wilmington for parking at Canby Park.

**Arriving by Bus**

Drop-off is at the St. E's Center, and pick-up is on Clayton Street in front of St. Elizabeth's church at 5:30 pm (following the closing Mass). During the day buses can be parked along Oak Street near Canby Park, just downhill from St. Elizabeth.

**Can my School or Parish bring a Banner or Sign?**

Signs and banners are not allowed. Official school and parish signs will be provided by the CYM Office.

**Service Project**

All pilgrims are asked to bring non-perishable food items to support Catholic Charities' Stock the Pantry.

## Pilgrimage Schedule of the Day

The schedule is subject to change. Blessed are the flexible.

<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Programming</b>
9:00 am	St. E Center Doors Open & Registration in Grant Hall Donations are dropped off prior to entering the St. E Center.
10:00 am	<b>Concert and Opening Prayer</b>
10:45 am	Pilgrimage Departs
11:30 am	Arrival at St. Francis Hospital for <b>Litany for the Sick</b>
11:45 am	Pilgrimage Continues
11:50 pm	Arrival at St. Anthony of Padua for <b>Reconciliation and Lunch</b>
12:50 pm	Pilgrimage Continues
1:20 pm	Arrival at Padua Academy for <b>Stations of the Cross</b>
2:00 pm	Pilgrimage Continues
2:25 pm	Arrive at St. Paul for <b>Adoration</b>
3:00 pm	Pilgrimage Continue
3:30 pm	Arrive at St. Elizabeth for the <b>Blessing of Palms</b> Palms will be distributed upon our arrival.
4:00 pm	<b>Mass for Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b>
5:15 pm	Pilgrimage Ends

## Planning to Participate

Use this checklist to put together a group from your parish or school to attend this year's Pilgrimage. The list is not exhaustive.

### Now

- Request the bulletin announcement to be placed in your Sunday bulletin or in the daily announcements at school.
- Set your own registration deadline and include the date in your bulletin announcement.
- Consider hosting the cross at your parish or school. Parish and school leaders can find more information on hosting the cross at [www.cdowcym.org/pilgrimage](http://www.cdowcym.org/pilgrimage).

### Initial Planning

- Recruit chaperones who are cleared for service in the Diocese.
- See if anyone in your group who wants to attend needs financial assistance. If so, submit the Scholarship Request found online.
- Invite your principal and pastor to attend with your group.
- Arrange buses or auto transportation for your group.
- Incorporate some of the resources in religious education classes in the weeks leading up to the Pilgrimage.

### Prior to the Event

- Confirm your group registration to meet the deadline.
- Collect Form B specific to the Pilgrimage for your 18-year-old and younger students.
- Mail check payment to CYM, 1626 N. Union Street, Wilmington, DE 19806. Payment will not be collected on the day of the event.
- Check your email regularly for updates, possible changes, and additional information pertaining to the Pilgrimage.
- Make sure your group has lunch and all other supplies needed for the day-of.