

Dear Pro-Life Advocates,

For almost 50 years, the pro-life community has journeyed to Washington, DC to March for Life while prayerfully protesting Roe v. Wade. For over 10 years, our parishes and schools have journeyed alongside the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to Washington, DC for this same cause. All along, our goal was to defend life, be a witness to love, and pray for the overturning of Roe vs. Wade.

On June 24th of this year, our prayers and efforts paid off! However, we are already discovering that the pro-life mission still has a lot of work to be done.

Therefore, we will be returning to Washington, DC January 19-22, 2023. Our new mission is to celebrate living in a “Post-Roe” world but to keep praying for an end to abortion.

It may seem early to start thinking about January – but now is the time to register your group for the March for Life. Here is what you need to know to prepare for our trip this January:

1. Price:

1. **\$325 per person** (assuming quad occupancy)
 - a. Price Includes: \$100 for hotel and \$225 (estimate) for airfare.
 - b. Price will increase if quad occupancy is not met and/or your group books more expensive flights.

1. Flights:

1. In previous years we have booked a block of flights previous to the registration of pilgrims, that will not be the case this year. **This year, we will wait until we have received \$100 non-refundable deposits from each pilgrim in your group before booking flights.**
2. September and early October are typically the best times to book flights. You should plan to have **deposits submitted by October 15th at the latest.** It will be highly likely to get good prices on flights after October 15th; however, there are no guarantees.
3. Once we have received these deposits, we can explore flight options together to find your group the prices and times available.
4. In previous years we have averaged the price of flights across groups. This year, we **will ask your group to pay whatever the going rate is for your specific group’s flights.** This should be an added incentive to reserve your space sooner rather than later.

1. Hotels:

1. We will be returning to the Sonesta Select Arlington Rosslyn. (Formerly the Courtyard by Marriott.)
2. The rate is \$135 per room per night (\$405 total). Rooms can fit up to 4 people.
3. If rooms do not have four people in them, the difference in price is reallocated accordingly.

4. We cannot promise helping to find roommates to ensure that you rooms will have 4 people.

1. **Non-refundable balance** is due **December 7th**. Along with the balance you must submit:

1. Legal names and birthdays for all attendees.
2. Proof of Safe Environment training for chaperones
3. Preferred rooming list for your group

1. **Who to invite:**

1. In terms of the number of pilgrims you bring, less may be more. Don't feel like you need to take a large group.
2. We expect DC, as always, to be a safe and peaceful place for us to witness to the beauty of life. However, in the wake of the overturning of Roe vs. Wade, we may see an increase in counter protestors. You will want to bring students who know the importance of walking away and not engaging with counter protestors.
3. Find those young, passionate pro-life leaders and bring them for this unique year. I would advise picking a number that you feel comfortable taking and stick to that number.

1. **Weather Emergency Plan:**

1. This is not meant to scare you or any participating members of your school or parish, but instead, is meant to protect both the Diocese and your ministry. You are encouraged to share this information with your young people prior to their registration. The receipt of their **non-refundable** deposit will be an indication of their acceptance of this plan. Here is our emergency plan:

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- If snow is in the forecast, we are still going. Those participating are free to cancel their trip; however, no refund will be given.
- If a weather-related State of Emergency is declared in Washington, DC prior to our departure, we will cancel our trip. However, we cannot promise any refunds at this time. (We do have an "Act of God" clause in our hotel contract, which would most likely take effect. As far as airlines, we might be eligible for a refund or a credit on a future flight.)
- If we are in Washington, DC and snow forces us to stay an extra day or more, each person is responsible for their share of the rooming cost, which may be higher than the current price. Payment would be due two weeks upon our return.

We look forward to journeying with your group this year! Let us know how we can help. Thank you for all that you do for the Young Church and the Pro-Life Movement!

-Ryan and Melissa