

Search for Christian Maturity & Search Follow-Up Program

Greetings in Christ! Attached you will find information (in English and Spanish) and a registration form for the **Search for Christian Maturity Retreat Program**. Search is an intensive retreat program for 11th and 12th graders. The dates and details are on the information pages.

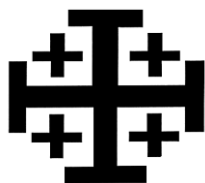
An integral part of this Retreat is the **Search Follow-Up Program**. The Follow-Up is a short-term series of meetings (approximately 8 gatherings) for Search participants, designed to give them an opportunity to process their weekend experience, to deepen their faith, and to encourage them to continue their faith journey and involvement in church.

Also attached to this packet is an explanation and sign-up form for setting up a **Search Follow-Up** in your parish or deanery. Please read over the material, complete the sign-up form and return it to the Office for Youth Ministry.

Encourage your young people to invite their friends (Catholic and non-Catholic) to attend this event with them as a guest of your parish.

If you have any questions about the program or any other Youth Ministry issues, don't hesitate to contact the Office for Youth Ministry (919/821-9770).

May God continue to bless your ministry and your life abundantly.



Search for Christian Maturity

The Search Program is an instrument through which the Holy Spirit speaks to and directs young people through the works, actions, and lives of their peers. It provides an opportunity for each young person to gain greater insight into the meaning of Christianity in their life and thoughts of those their own age who have begun already to find and discover insights and meanings". – National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry

What is it?

Search is a retreat weekend sponsored by the Diocese of Raleigh that touches people's lives because it encourages participants to seek and find Christ in them and in one another. It is a series of witness talks and activities prepared and given by a team of high school youth. The weekend gives you the opportunity to look at your faith and life in a new way.

Who is it for? Who goes to Search?

11th & 12th graders, and adults who work with them, who want to be a part of an exciting and different weekend attend a Search Retreat. People participate in the Search program for various reasons. Some go to experience something different, others to meet and spend time with people their own age. Some have a strong faith while others are questioning God's existence. Don't let nervousness stand in the way of a special weekend. Please join us for an experience that will be long remembered.

Where and when will it be held?

All Search Retreats are held at Short Journey Center in Smithfield, NC.

The weekend begins promptly at 7:30 Friday night (participants are asked to arrive no later than 7:00 pm to settle in). The weekend concludes Sunday at approximately 2:00 pm.

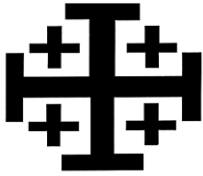
The Retreat schedule for 2009-2010 is as follows

| <u>Search #</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Registration deadline</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Search 156 | November 6-8, 2009 | October 22, 2009 |
| Search 157 | December 4-6, 2009 | November 19, 2009 |
| Search 158 | February 5-7, 2010 | January 21, 2010 |
| Search 159 | March 19-21, 2010 | March 4, 2010 |

How much does it cost?

Cost for the Search Weekend is **\$105 for youth/\$105 for adults**. No one is denied participation in our programs because of inability to pay. For more information, contact the Registrar (register@raldioc.org, 919/821-9744) for a scholarship form.

To participate, simply complete and return the registration form (attached) with your **\$15 non-refundable deposit** by the deadline above to: Registrar – Search Program, Diocese of Raleigh, 715 Nazareth St. Raleigh, NC 27606



Búsqueda de una Madurez Cristiana

"El programa Search habla a, y dirige a los jóvenes sobre las obras, acciones, y vidas de sus compañeros. Da oportunidad a cada joven para ganar mejor conocimiento a lo que significa el ser cristiano y a los pensamientos de sus compañeros quienes ya han comenzado a encontrar y descubrir conocimientos y entendimiento." --National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry

¿Que es este programa?

Search es un retiro en fin de semana patrocinado por la Diócesis de Raleigh que conmueve sus vidas por el animo que da a los participantes para buscar y encontrar a Cristo en si mismos igual que en otros. Es una serie de presentaciones y actividades preparadas y enseñadas por un equipo de jóvenes estudiantes de preparatoria. Los temas cubiertos dan la oportunidad de ver su fe, sus dudas, sus aspiraciones y ensueños, no nomás suyos, si también de sus compañeros y los de su iglesia.

?Para Quien Es? ?Quien Va a Search?

Los jóvenes del 11 y 12 grados quienes desean tomar parte en un fin de semana diferente y excitante. Jóvenes participan en el programa Search por diferentes razones. Algunos van porque quieren experimentar algo diferente, otros para pasar el tiempo con otros jóvenes de su edad. Unos tienen ya mucha fe, otros todavía tienen duda de la existencia de Dios. No deje que nada le impida el participar en un fin de semana especial. Venga a pasar una experiencia que jamás olvidara.

?Donde y Cuando Es?

Todos los retiros Search son asistidos en el Short Journey Center en Smithfield, NC. El retiro comienza el viernes a las 7:30 PM (se pide que los participantes lleguen a las 7:00 PM para acomodarse en su alojamiento.) Se concluye el domingo a las 2:00 PM aproximadamente.

El plan para el retiro Search para los años 2009-2010 es como se sigue:

| <u>No. de Search</u> | <u>Fecha</u> | <u>Termino de Registro</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Search 156 | 6 al 8 de noviembre 2009 | 22 de octubre 2009 |
| Search 157 | 4 al 6 de diciembre 2009 | 19 de noviembre 2009 |
| Search 158 | 5 al 7 de febrero, 2010 | 21 de enero 2010 |
| Search 159 | 19 al 21 de marzo 2010 | 4 de marzo 2010 |

¿Cuánto Cuesta?

El costo por todo el fin de semana de Search es **\$105 por cada joven y \$105 por adulto** si se registra a tiempo en el día de registro indicado. A nadie se le niega participar en nuestros programas por falta de recursos económicos. Para mas información, comunicar con la Registrar al 919-821-9744 o e-mail register@raldioc.org por scholarship form.

Para participar simplemente complete y retorne la forma de registro con su **deposito de \$15**, cual no se le devolverá, para la fecha ya dicha a: Registrar – Search Program, Diocese of Raleigh, 715 Nazareth St., Raleigh, NC 27606.

Search for Christian Maturity

Please complete this form and submit it to your parish Youth Minister with the non-refundable deposit by the deadline.

-Page 1 of 2-

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your son/daughter is eligible to participate in a diocesan activity that requires transportation to a location away from the parish site. If you give permission for your child to participate, please complete BOTH SIDES of the form below. This activity will take place under the guidance of adults from _____ (parish name) and the Diocese of Raleigh. A brief description follows:

Activity: **Search for Christian Maturity**
Location: Short Journey Center, Smithfield
Date/time of departure: 7:00 pm on Friday, _____
(date)
Date/time of return: 2:00 pm on Sunday, _____
(date)

Participant's Full Name _____ **Gender: M/F** _____

Grade (circle one) : 11th 12th

Address _____ **Zip** _____

Parent(s)' Name(s) _____

Home Number _____ **Daytime number of Parent** _____

Emergency Contact
Of person other than parent _____ **Phone** _____

Any allergies or medical, physical, or dietary restrictions/requirements:

Medications presently taking (and the condition the medication is treating):

Participant's Social Security Number _____

Medical Insurance Company _____

Policy ID Number _____

If your child may participate in this event, please complete, sign and return the following statement of consent and release of liability. As parent/guardian, you remain fully responsible for any liability, which may result from personal actions taken by your son/daughter. **If your youth brings or uses any drugs, alcohol, weapons, or tobacco products or engages in reckless or violent behavior, you will be expected to retrieve your son/daughter from the trip immediately.**

I hereby consent to the participation of my child, _____, in the event described above. I further consent to the conditions stated above regarding participation in this event, including the method of transportation.

I release the Diocese of Raleigh, _____ (parish name), _____ (parish city), and their agents and volunteers from any injuries, which may be incurred by my youth.

I give permission for my child, in case of emergency, to be taken to a physician or hospital by either an adult youth leader, diocesan or parish personnel. I understand that every effort will be made to contact me. *If I cannot be reached*, however, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the adult in charge, to hospitalize and secure proper treatment, including surgery, for my son/daughter.

I hereby grant permission to any staff person to provide the following over-the-counter drugs to my son/daughter if requested by my son/daughter (please check all that apply (Note: category of medicine and an example are listed, although a different brand may be used.) Doses are not to exceed manufacturer's recommended dosages.

Ibuprofen (Advil) Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
 Antibiotic Ointment (Neosporin) Antihistamine/Decongestant (Actifed/Sudafed/Benadryl)
 Antacids (Rolaids/Tums)

Parents/guardians of participants are advised that photographs or videotape of participants may be used in publications, websites or other materials produced from time to time by the Youth Ministry Office or the Diocese of Raleigh. Participants would not be identified unless specific written consent. Parents/guardians who do not wish their children to be photographed or filmed should so notify the Office in writing.

Parent/Guardian
Signature _____

Date _____

SEARCH FOLLOW-UP

GOAL:

Provide a safe environment for youth and adults that participate in the Diocesan Search retreat to meet with each other and:

- ❑ Share their experiences of the Search Retreat Weekend
- ❑ Deepen their faith
- ❑ Explore ways to become more involved in the life, mission, and work of the parish

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES:

- A SEARCH follow up program must emphasize the importance of participation in the larger Catholic community through participation in parish activities.
- The Follow-Up Program is a specific ministry of a parish or group of parishes. It is not to replace, substitute for, or compete with other parish ministry efforts with youth. All protocols and procedures of parish and diocesan programs will be complied with.
- Great effort will be made to emphasize the importance of inclusion of others and outreach to the community.
- It is a short-term program. Participants would be involved in the follow-up program no longer than a semester
- Youth should be encouraged to assume as much leadership in the Follow-Up Program as possible, including, leading prayers, discussions and scheduling.

Special Thanks to Dee and Jeff Sailstad and Chris Butz (Holy Infant Catholic Church) for piloting this follow-up program in the spring of 2001.

How To Conduct a Search Follow-Up Program

A. Pray

B. Participate in a Search Weekend

C. Sign Up as a Parish or Regional Search Follow-up Group

1. Notify and receive permission and guidelines from the parish(es)
2. Complete the diocesan Follow-Up Form
3. Get on Search mailing list
4. Receive suggested outlines and resource recommendations

D. Invite the Searchers to the Follow-up meetings (at Closing and personally afterward)

Specify date, place, time, frequency and duration of meetings

E. Facilitate the Meetings

1. Get outlines and Resource packet from Diocese of Raleigh
2. Involve Youth in the leadership of the meetings as much as possible
3. Focus the meetings on the 3 movements of:
 - Processing of the Search weekend
 - Deepening of the faith
 - Linking to the parish ministries

F. End the meetings, but Continue the Relationship

1. Don't let groups drag on
2. Plug them in to the parish
3. Check up with them periodically
4. Continue to pray for them

Search Follow-Up Group Formation Form

Parish Name: _____

Additional Parishes _____

Parish Contact Name: _____

Parish Staff Contact Address: _____

This is to certify that a Search Follow-Up Group is Forming at the parish(es) above.

Signature of the parish staff contact: _____

Please send a Search Follow-Up Packet* to the Search follow-up group contact below:

Follow-Up Group Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

* A Search Follow-Up packet contains: guidelines for forming a Search Follow-Up Program, sample outlines for those sessions, and a list of suggested resources. For more information, contact the Office for Youth Ministry, Diocese of Raleigh at 715 Nazareth Street, Raleigh, NC 27606, 919/821-9770 (Voice), 919/821-9712 (FAX).

Sample Search Follow-Up Meeting Format

Search Follow-Up Meeting # 8

- **Opening Prayer** (10 – 15 minutes)
 - Read Gospel from the Upcoming Sunday Scriptures
 - Reflect: What does this scripture say to my life today?

- **Personal sharing** (20 – 30 Minutes)
 - Have youth share briefly around the following questions:
 - What has been a recent “Moment close to Christ”?
 - What have been your reflections since your Search Retreat Experience
 - Can you name any struggles you have had with your spiritual relationship with Christ and his community?

- **Thematic Discussion:**
 - The thematic discussion each time we gather are designed to help you carry on your faith beyond the Search Retreat experience and into your life. The discussions will be centered around three areas we all need to develop in order to deepen our relationship with Christ: prayer, study and action
 - Use the attached Youth Update to learn a little more about your faith. This week’s topic is Action (# 2). The title of the Youth Update this week is:
 - *Find Your Place in the Parish*
 - As an alternative to this Youth Update, consider inviting the parish Youth Minister, Pastor, Volunteer Coordinator, or someone from the parish who could explain to youth what volunteer opportunities are available to them

- **Business Items**
 - Shalom letters for upcoming Retreats
 - Inviting others to experience Search
 - Going to Closings
 - Announcements & Invitations of upcoming parish ministry opportunities

- **Closing Prayer** (5 minutes)
 - Personal Shared Prayers of Thanksgiving and Petition
 - Communal Shared Prayer: Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be or other agreed upon prayer