



St. Pius X High School
The Office of the Director for Campus Ministry

J.M.J.D.C.
December 28, 2018

Dear Junior Parent(s)/ Guardian(s),ⁱ

We are pleased to announce that the Class of 2020 will be on retreat on Thursday and Friday, January 17 & 18, 2019. The Annual Torchbearer Retreat begins with a mini-immersion service experience for all students at a local social service agency such as Casa Juan Diego, The Houston Arboretum, St. Dominic's Retirement Village, and Kids Meals, Inc., to name a few. Students will engage in direct social service to those in need of assistance or they will participate in the process of advocacy and social justice working for awareness and systemic change. Following the mini-immersion experience in the morning, the retreat continues overnight at Camp Cho-Yeh Retreat and Conference Center in Livingston, Texas. The retreat is led by a committed group of our faculty, staff, along with some outstanding senior peer leaders.

The focus of the junior retreat centers on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and serves as an introduction to the Justice Education and Service Learning Course (CSL) which is a graduation requirement for St. Pius X students. In this independent course students serve in an approved social service agency for a minimum of 100 hours of service learning and justice outreach for which they earn transcript credit. Just after retreat there will be a Justice Education and Service Learning Course orientation for all juniors along with their parents/guardians. In your initial application to attend St. Pius X and subsequent personal interview, you were asked by a St. Pius X official to acknowledge the requirements of the Christian Service Learning course. We ask that you make this one-time orientation a priority in your schedule now as it will provide a smooth transition into starting your CSL experience. The brief orientation includes a review of course requirements and expectations and provides opportunity to answer questions that you may have. The orientation is mandatory for all juniors and their parents/guardians. Please choose and mark your calendar for one of the following family orientation meetings:

Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 10:30AM **or** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 6:30PM

All junior students along with their parents/guardians are to attend the same family orientation meeting together. Once the orientation is complete and the acknowledgement form has been submitted along with a signed and completed service contract, then a student may begin accumulating CSL hours. Please note students will not earn credit for any service rendered before completing the family orientation with their parents/guardians and submitting a completed and approved contract with the Office for Campus Ministry.

The annual class retreat is a required activity for all class members and attendance is mandatory. Students will be expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen of St. Pius X High School and in accord with the directives of the current 2018-2019 Student/Parent/Guardian Handbook. Parents/guardians are asked to refrain from scheduling out of school travel/trips on retreat days. We invite you to take a moment to review with your son/daughter the following sections of the 2018-2019 Student- Parent/Guardian Handbook: *The Retreat Ministry* p.18, *Student and Parental Behavior* p.43, and *The Service Learning Course* p.18.

We ask that you complete the SPX permission agreement form and also the Camp Cho-Yeh Waiver form sent with this electronic message and return them both electronically by 12 noon Wednesday, January 9, 2019. These forms are also available on the SPX website under the Ministry page. Please call our office (713-579-7525) or e-mail us (spedalep@stpiusx.org) if you have any trouble accessing the forms or relaying them back electronically.

We would also like to ask that if your son or daughter is currently receiving professional counseling, or if there is some other concern, condition, or incident that may warrant any special consideration or observation while we are on retreat, that you advise of such. Please call and speak personally and confidentially with your student's guidance counselor, or with me, prior to the retreat. Likewise, if your son/daughter is on any prescription medication, please send written instructions indicating specific medication(s) type on the morning of retreat. We are also happy to accommodate special, medical, or religious dietary needs. These needs should be brought to our attention as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements may be made in advance. Please make all special, medical, or dietary requests in writing to spedalep@stpiusx.org at least seventy-two hours prior to the retreat.

If you have any questions or concerns remaining, may I ask you to please telephone me at school, 713-579-5725 or e-mail me at spedalep@stpiusx.org .I would be happy to address any questions or concerns you may have and to share with you more about our excellent retreat and spirituality programs. We know this retreat experience will be memorable, enriching, and life impacting for every junior student. Finally, may I ask that you keep the members of the Class of 2020 and our entire 2019 Retreat Team in your prayers on Thursday and Friday, January 17 & 18, 2019.

In the Spirit of Ss. Dominic & Catherine,



Patrick W. Spedale, Director
The Office for Campus Ministry

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ⁱ Esta carta está disponible en Español en la página web de la escuela: www.stpiusx.org presione Ministry y Retiros