



24 November, 2008

Dear Young People—My Friends in Christ,

It is with tremendous joy that I invite you to join me and the *Franciscan Friars of the Renewal* for a *YOUTH 2000* Retreat the weekend of March 20-22, 2009 at our own *Bishop O'Connor Catholic Pastoral Center*, here in Madison.

*YOUTH 2000* was founded in response to Pope John Paul the Great's call for a new evangelization. For many years now, throughout the United States and the world, *YOUTH 2000* has helped thousands of young people meet Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, in a life changing way.

While the world proposes many contradictory options for young people in their natural desire for and pursuit of happiness, so often these paths lead to disappointment and disillusionment. However, as Pope Benedict reminded young people at World Youth Day in Cologne, "*The happiness you are seeking, the happiness you have a right to enjoy has a name and a face: It is Jesus of Nazareth, hidden in the Eucharist. Only He gives the fullness of life to humanity! With Mary, say your own 'yes' to God, for He wishes to give Himself to you.*"

Our Lord Jesus Christ never disappoints. And it is only Jesus Christ, who unleashes the particular gifts of greatness, beauty, and excellence within each one of us, that leads to Christian joy.

Centered around Jesus' Eucharistic Presence, the *YOUTH 2000* Retreat fosters a fruitful encounter with Our Lord through the exceptional preaching and teaching of the Franciscan Friars, time for prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, dynamic music, the Rosary, testimonies by youth, small group discussions, the opportunity for Reconciliation, and the celebration of Holy Mass. Through the action of the Holy Spirit, *YOUTH 2000* has consistently provided a lasting impact on the lives of those who participate, and therefore remains a great benefit for the broader Church in this world and in eternity.

I encourage you to attend this splendid event, and I also invite my brother priests and catechetical leaders to participate as well. I look forward to being with you at *YOUTH 2000* and am already praying for you, my brothers and sisters in Christ whom I will have the pleasure of meeting on this weekend. Please remember me in your prayers as well.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ *Robert C. Morlino*  
The Most Rev. Robert C. Morlino  
Bishop of Madison

**O F F I C E   O F   T H E   B I S H O P**

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