

2011 Franciscan University Youth Conference Theme: Rooted



Echoing the Church's theme for World Youth Day in 2011, we are pleased to announce that this year's theme is: Rooted. We live in a culture that easily seeks identity in the things of this world, which are sending us messages of appealing false, half-truths and counterfeits that seem to promise joy in this life. With this year's theme, Rooted, we will emphasize that true identity is in Christ. To authentically live the abundant life that God calls us to, it is very important to remain "rooted and built up in Him" as a daily journey of receiving God's Truth. The image of roots denotes strength, stability, and growth. The Sacraments and prayer are a living and effective source of strengthening our roots for the Christian journey ahead.

As therefore you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so live in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.— *Colossians 2:6-7*

"Life is a journey, certainly. But it is not an uncertain journey without a fixed destiny; it leads to Christ, the end of human life and history. On this journey you will meet with Him who gave his life for love, and opens to you the doors of eternal life. I invite you, therefore, to be formed in the faith that gives meaning to your life and strengthens your convictions, so as to be able to remain firm in the difficulties of each day. Moreover, I exhort you, on your journey to Christ, to be able to attract your young friends, your study and work companions, so that they too will know him and confess him as Lord of their lives. To do this, let the force from on high, which is within you, the Holy Spirit, manifest himself with his immense attractiveness."



How much does it cost to attend?

The total cost per person (Group Leader, Adult Chaperone, and Youth) is \$170. This price includes inspiring conference programming, six meals, and housing for two nights in the dorms on campus. **We are asking for the initial \$40 deposit and will fundraise for the rest of the money.** The student must participate in the fundraiser activity to receive the fundraiser money. The student/family is responsible for paying any remaining cost after the fundraiser costs have been applied.

What should we bring to the conference?

- A sleeping bag and pillow (or **small** cot/air mattress)
- An alarm clock
- Toiletries
- A washcloth and towel
- An umbrella or other rain gear
- A backpack – to carry belongings throughout the day as all sleeping areas are off limits during the day
- A sweatshirt or jacket for the evening sessions (the Fieldhouse can get cold)

Sunblock

- A Bible, notebook and pen
- Bathing suit for showers - OPTIONAL (All showers have shower curtains, but some people opt to bring bathing suits for added modesty and/or personal preference)
- Spending money (to visit the Franciscan University Bookstore or to purchase snacks, food and drinks - water will be provided at all meals, but alternate beverages will be available for purchase)
- **If your group is bringing cameras or video cameras, please know that flash photography during the Liturgies is not allowed. In addition, the sessions and Liturgies cannot be videotaped. Videotaping of speakers is not allowed.**
- Appropriate clothing

What is the Share the Glory Project?

“Share the Glory” is a program we began five years ago that gives participants and all involved with the conferences the opportunity to make a very tangible difference in the lives of others.

Five years ago, at every Franciscan University Youth Conference across the country, we participated in a parish partnership program with Catholic Extension. With the help of everyone who attended the youth conferences, we were blessed to have been able to help 15 parishes that were devastated by the hurricanes that hit Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. The generosity of all who attended the 15 youth conferences was overwhelming as collections amounted to more than \$35,000 in monetary donations, gift cards, and countless prayer requests in the form of spiritual bouquets. Two years ago, our on-campus conference goal for “Share the Glory” was to focus on helping those in need in the local Steubenville area. With the help of over 7,000 on-campus participants, we were able to collect thousands of items that benefited the poor, needy and underprivileged based on the requests of local charities.

Last year, we guided our focus towards a missionary organization working with the people of Haiti: Moving with the Spirit. With the help of over 8,000 on campus conference participants, we were able to raise over \$29,000 for Moving with the Spirit.

This next summer, we will revert back to helping those in the local Steubenville area. We will be asking that each person bring one or more items that are requested by that organization. More info to come.

HOUSING AND MEALS

Where will we be housed?

On-campus housing is in dormitories, half of which are **not** air-conditioned. Additionally, you can expect to sleep a **minimum** of four participants per room on campus, and up to six people. Please note that there are on average two beds per room which necessitates that **at least half will have to sleep on the floor**. We may also use common areas like lounges and meeting rooms in which we will sleep 15 or more

participants. Please pack accordingly (sleeping bags, cots, air mattresses, blankets, pillows and fans). Groups will be informed of their specific housing locations at check-in on the opening day of the conference.

DOWNLOADS:

All are invited to download the theme song and other songs from artists heard during the conference weekend from the website at www.franciscanyouth.com before the conference in preparation for the weekend.

**“AS THEREFORE YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS THE
LORD, SO LIVE IN HIM, ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM
AND ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH, JUST AS YOU WERE
TAUGHT, ABOUNDING IN THANKSGIVING.”
COLOSSIANS 2:6-7(RSV)**