

VOCATION ANIMATION COMMITTEE
Living Faith Pilgrimage

The three congregations of The Sisters of St. Joseph planned for almost a year to host the Living Faith Pilgrimage (for persons 19-30) in connection with Faith Connections of Toronto (a ministry of The Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto). This year the gathering was held in North Bay. The young people slept at San Jose Camp on the shores of Trout Lake. During the day, activities took place at St. Joseph's Motherhouse, on the shores of Lake Nipissing. We were pleased that Bishop Marcel Damphousse, Bishop for the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, was able to join us all weekend. Twenty-one youth plus Kataryna Ryba (Faith Connections) and her husband Dominic joined us for a weekend of prayer, liturgy, witness sharing and laughter. Friday evening three of the pilgrims re-enacted the Woman at the Well, as written by John Shea. These three women brought this story to life and the sharing that followed was deep and personal.



On Saturday, we participated in the Stations of the Cross, based on Development and Peace intentions and highlighting ministries of the sisters and the many justice issues that are part of our world today.

Bishop Marcel presided at our Sunday liturgy. The pilgrims participated in our procession, as readers and in the offertory.



Saturday evening, Bishop Marcel and Fr. Daniele joined us as we gathered for Taize Prayer, confessions and spiritual direction.



No gathering is complete without some snacks and laughter. We could not have a bon fire due to rain, but a make shift campfire served our purpose as we played Catch Phrase and Charades. We were happy that Fr. Daniele was able to join us for some fun.

On Sunday, morning we began with morning prayer and then heard three witness talks. The personal stories shared helped each of us to reflect on our own journey. When asked for one word to explain the experience of the weekend, we heard joy, hope, companionship, and life.



We shared in a blessing with the Kathy Triccoli song *Go Light Your World* and we all held up our candles in honour and praise of our faith and our time together. Bishop Marcel then blessed us all before we headed for lunch and then travels home.