



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Statement from the Office of Formation in Discipleship
re: Cancellation of 2020 St. John Paul II Camp**

CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA, May 1, 2020 – In 2006, in an effort to develop leadership growth opportunities for youth of all ages in the Diocese of Crookston, Blessed (Saint) John Paul II Camp was created. Over the years, this summer experience has touched the hearts of hundreds of middle-schoolers and has created leadership opportunities for high-schoolers and college students. As such, countless youth have had beautiful encounters with our Lord Jesus Christ at Saint John Paul II Camp. This camp is and will remain a priority for the Diocese of Crookston.

Over the past few months, we have all been challenged by a change to the rhythm of our everyday lives. We have all made sacrifices we were not anticipating two or three months ago. The COVID-19 public health crisis is causing individuals, families, churches, schools and businesses to reassess and adjust future plans.

Diocese of Crookston staff share in this challenge. We have had many conversations in the past month regarding ministry, specifically our summer youth programming. Our greatest priority is the safety and well-being of everyone, especially the students and staff participating in St. John Paul II Camp.

As difficult as it is, we believe the most prudent decision is to cancel the 2020 St. John Paul II Camp “Into the Deep”. We understand this is disappointing to all participants and families, and yet we trust in the Holy Spirit who has guided and will continue to guide this ministry moving forward. All participants will receive a full refund. Participants will also be kept updated regarding ministry, opportunities and programs moving forward.

We are committed to creating life-giving ministry to the youth of the Diocese of Crookston. Our hope and prayer is that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us as we reach out to our young Church. Although times are challenging, we trust that even greater things are to come as we move forward.

Additional Diocese of Crookston announcements pertaining to COVID-19 will continue to be published at www.crookston.org/statements.

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