Encounter

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE

Prepare to be **ENGAGED**. All participants will engage with each other and in the experiences they will face.

Prepare to be **EXCITED**. From Day One to Day Six, new things happen every day.

Prepare to be **ENRICHED**. In every possible way.

Prepare to be **EXHAUSTED**. Physically, emotionally and even spiritually.

Basics

1. Where we will be staying.
Our host site is the University of Maryland. We will be using the Catholic Student Center, Colony Ballroom, Stamp Student Union, and UMD Dormitories, which are air-conditioned.

2. Where we will be serving.
Our many and varied service sites are in Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Baltimore, and the District of Columbia.

3. Transportation.
Cars, bus, minvans, and Metro are the main forms of transportation to service sites each day. All adults should let Encounter know if they have a car they plan to drive to and from sites, including the number of seat belts.

4. Food
UMD will provide both breakfast and dinner - check www.dining.umd.edu for food specifics, including the ability to report allergies to the dining services. Lunch is provided by parishes/groups, and generally includes pre-packaged food. Those with food allergies are also welcome to bring food, however **dorms do not have refrigeration.**

5. Paperwork
Registration: online registration is not complete until the paper form is printed, signed and returned to Encounter
Medical Form/TB Test: These are mandatory. Participants without current TB documentation are not able to participate.
Child Protection Verification: Make sure you have completed any child protection courses as dictated by your diocese. Verification form is required to be signed by the compliance person at your parish/school.

Every Adult Has a Vital Role

Parish/Group leader – responsible for all members in their group at all times, even when they are not supervising their own participants during certain activities. This means, in the event of an issue with one of the participants in an activity that is not supervised by the parish leader, the parish leader, with support from Encounter Staff and other supervising adults, will address the situation.

Parish/Adult Chaperones - primarily assist the parish leader with duties pertaining directly to their parish group. They work to safely transport (walk) their parish group between dorm and dining hall, dorm and Stamp Union, etc., at the designated times. They will also lead service sites, facilitate small group discussions, and be available to assist other adults throughout the week. Adults also assist with specific tasks that may be asked of them by parish/group leader or Encounter staff.

Adult Roles in Action

Cooperation: Adults share the responsibility, and more importantly – COMMUNICATE needs and are OPEN to working with other adults to help.

- We have a higher ratio than most camps – with more adults on hand to assist and monitor young people. We also have Young adults, 18 – 20 years of age, who can also assist with the implementation of safe practices. (Most camps are 1:15)

Walking: ***Youth must be in the presence of an adult at all times***
During movement between dorm, dining hall and Stamp Union (or any other buildings) ADULTS work cooperatively to move large groups of youth. I.E. six adults need not walk only two youth. Young Adults do not walk youth alone, but can walk with other YA's alone.

Supervision: parish groups and site groups involve different youth at different times
Parish group **–** Walking to Stamp Mass/breakfast; Dining hall/dinner; to STAMP/evening programming; from STAMP to dorms. Adults may also assist with Lights Out or other needs identified by parish/group leader.

*Site Groups***:** After Mass and Breakfast 8:30 AM meet as group in Stamp Union, go to bus/car/metro for transport; be present and supportive at service site; return to campus 3-3:30 PM

Upon Return to campus: 3:30 - 4:45 PM at the dormitories; FREE TIME will be coordinated at dormitories and we will return to Stamp Union after dinner for evening program.

Please note: In accord with our commitment to Child Protection Policies, no adult should be 1:1 with a youth. Our adult:youth ratio (1:6) allows us to work cooperatively to ensure the security of all participants!

Participation:
Adults are expected to participate in all events/activities including large group games, small group discussions, anything that the youth are invited to do –be encouraged to engage!

Take care of yourself: eat, drink, rest, talk, laugh and **above all pray.** If you can keep yourself in step with the program, and keep your emotional, physical and spiritual health in balance, the exhaustion will seem less imposing.

Dates and Times To Remember

July 6th (Saturday) – 10 AM Set up day at University of Maryland
Participants are welcome and encouraged to help set up for Encounter from 10am-4pm. Lunch should be brought or money can be brought for pizza/food court
July 6th Young Adult Retreat – mandatory for participants 18 – 20 yrs, 11:30 AM at UMD Catholic Student Center or 11:45 at RecWell – YA's will be contacted directly
July 7th (Sunday) – Meet at the Dormitories 11 AM - 12:30 PM for check in;
July 7TH (Sunday)- 1 PM Opening activities begin our program: pls arrive by 12:45 PM
July 7th (Sunday) -SUNDAY MASS will be offered at 4 PM in Memorial Chapel (fulfills obligation)
July 12th (Friday) Encounter will finish at 3:30 – 4 pm this year. Please pick up at UMD dormitories no later than 4:30 pm. Familiarize yourself with campus here

Parking

Sunday DROP OFF/Parking: Campus DOTS will direct us for unloading at the dorms. Cars need to be parked at Lot 1 or Lot 2 (nearer to dorms) on Sunday. Some lots with other numbers/letters may be open for parking on SUNDAY only – read signs.

PARTICIPANTS: All residential drivers (participating adults and YOUNG adults ONLY no YOUTH CARS) will be issued a parking permit for campus. It is valid only that week and is used primarily in Lot 1 or 2 - however, if you read the permit AND parking signs on campus you will see other areas where parking is legal.

NON-PARTICIPANT: there are valid PAY parking lots and meters, as well as several lots which allow for parking AFTER 4 PM. We do ask that you please let your adults know this so that they are prepared to pay a little something for parking. *Visitors (see Rules of Encounter below on visitors)*

UMD TICKETS ALL THE TIME and VERY QUICKLY - READ SIGNS CAREFULLY.
NOTE: EGL is not responsible for ANY parking tickets for illegal or invalid parking

Check in on Sunday

Check in/Move in at **DORMITORIES** will be **11AM - 12:30PM** - **DO NOT GO TO STAMP!**
Both UMD and ENCOUNTER staff will be at dormitories - please follow directions from our YA's

- All participants must individually check in with UMD for room keys and meal cards.
- ONLY ONE PERSON from each parish/group needs to check in with Encounter staff.
- Please bring any outstanding paperwork to the staff upon arrival.

Please eat lunch prior to arrival (brown bag recommended; UMD food court not open fully on Sunday)

ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC INFORMATION WILL BE EMAILED TO PARISH/GROUP LEADERS

PROGRAM BEGINS AT: 1PM. Earliest arrival is 12:45 pm at Stamp Union Colony Ballroom

All youth are under parish/group leader observation during check-in and prior to Program start and should be accompanied at all times by an adult.

Emergency Contact Information

Ann Gradowski, Director of Encounter – 301-704-6009 Director@eglweb.org

Rob Smith, President – 301-252-7268 president@eglweb.org

Website: www.eglweb.org

Maps and directions to University of Maryland

Camp Details

Day in the Life of an Encounter Participant

+ Items in **bold** are set times, will not change – others are subject to each day's events, and may change

7 AM – At Stamp Union ready for Mass
8 AM – Breakfast
8:30 AM – Depart for sites
9 AM – sites
3 PM – leave sites
3:30 PM – Return to Dormitories from Sites
4:45 PM – gather with Parish to move to dinner
5 PM – Dinner @ The Diner
6 PM – Leave for Stamp
6:15 PM – Parish Time @ Stamp
6:45 PM – Evening programming
8:30 PM – Adult meeting/formation in Carroll Room
9:30 PM – Night Prayer/Close programming +
9:45 PM– Depart for Dorms
10 PM – Prepare for bed
11 PM – LIGHTS OUT -later evenings will have an extended lights out

SITE INFO All Adults will lead site groups, comprised of youth and young adults from different parish groups. SITE choices will be made available a few weeks before camp begins.
Each adult chooses the site they prefer to work at so long as certain criteria is met:

- veteran adults choose sites first
- transportation needs are met for each site (car, Metro or bus will be indicated for each site)
- if bringing a large vehicle (6-8 seatbelts), it is expected adult will drive to a site
    - must have comfort with driving in DC Metro
    - if not bringing a large vehicle but comfortable with driving, a rental van may be offered
    - if bringing a large vehicle, but uncomfortable with driving in DC Metro area, potentially loaning large car for use by other adult (not required, but helpful)
- Metro experience is helpful for Metro sites
    - can be a second adult on Metro site with experienced adult or young adult leader
- non-driver/non-metro adults will be second adults in cars, or bus transports

In addition to this, **we welcome adults** to consider what they might pack in a backpack for use throughout their day. We suggest the following (truly a recommendation and NOT required: *some of these items will be available at base camp*)

- deck of cards
- bug spray
- sunscreen
- band aids
- feminine hygiene products
- gum,
- notecards/post-its
- pens
- poncho/rain jacket

Role as an adult for sites includes participating in activities at sites, transport them to and from their site, engaging in small group dynamics, and ensure the safety of all the site group members during that time. Young adults will assist adults. Site Adults will assume responsibility for their group beginning at 8:30 AM and should not dismiss or leave their site group unattended at any time*, including upon returning to Dorms after sites, unless they release the youth to other supervising adults**.
**While at a site, adults and youth may be separated at the location where the group is working – provided that the non-profit organization is self-contained. Some sites go on field trips off site – if this is offered, the entire group should either go on the field trip with Encounter adult supervising, or they should remain at the service site and do alternate assistance.*

*** When the site group returns from sites –* ***ALL groups should proceed to the dormitory.*** *Metro shuttle will drop people at Stamp, however,* ***groups do not remain at Stamp****. All groups return to the dormitory by 3:30 PM.* ***Site leaders should remain with their site youth until they have reached the dormitory and the youth have made contact with their parish leaders.***

FREE TIME All Adults will also share supervisory roles during free time 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM. This can include being at the dorms (dorm chaperone), chaperone at LaPlata Beach, or walking from place to place (walking chaperone). **All youth will initially report to their parish leader (or parish adult) at the beginning of free time.**

Activities: showering, napping or just relaxing. Pickup games: 4 square, soccer, Corn-hole, Ninja, Frisbee and more – any group type games will be centered at the dormitories/Stamp student union. *Volunteers*- Non participant adults from your home parish may assist with Free time- *please refer to Ann if you have parents willing to do this*. Cooperation will ensure that those who need to rest are able. . **See "Afternoon Free Time Informational Page"**

DINNER INFO All parish groups (Adults, YAs, and Youth) must meet and gather at the dormitory by 4:45 PM to be ready to go to dinner at 5 PM. Parishes use this time to gather and eat as a parish group, share about your sites and check in. Once your group has finished eating (30 minutes or so) – they may visit others in the dining hall, and engage in relationship building on an informal basis. At 6 PM, parish groups reconvene and then travel to STAMP by 6:15PM.

Daily Expectations

Overall - we encourage best practices with participation of each day. We invite you to be engaged in every event, from the opening Mass to small group discussions, to dancing, or interacting with the keynote presentations. We do invite you to remember that we begin and end everyday with prayer, and because we are all on a journey with our faith and relationship to God, we do hold valuable and respect each person's path without judgement or expectation other than to be present during prayer time, and respectful of the moment.

- **Sunday is our welcome and introductions day.**

The day is meant to welcome all and help folks feel comfortable. Most small group activities and discussions will be facilitated in one large room by the scheduled Facilitator (for the whole group). Adults sit with their small group and follow the direction of the large group Facilitator. A process & time frame will be specified and directions given.

Please follow the direction of the Facilitator. The Facilitator will call everyone back together at the designated time. Most discussions and activities run at a very rapid-fire pace ---thank you for being engaged!

Adults are prepared to give a Site Overview Sunday afternoon (when prompted):

Outcomes: Participants will get a basic understanding of their service site Participants share what they are concerned and excited about

1. **Site group leader(s) give a very brief (2-3 minute) overview of the site**-- this is where your excitement comes in handy!. The information covered should include the name of the site, who runs it, who will be served, the type of service done and general transportation arrangements.

2. **After that 2-3 minute presentation, open the discussion up to questions**. Answer questions as best you can.
   "I don't know" and "We'll have to see" are viable answers.

3. **At the 4 minute warning, take over and run this process:**
   -Ask your small group members to think about what they are most concerned about and most excited about - but don't let them talk, just think.
   -Then say, "With just a word or two, say what you are most concerned about." Go around the circle one person at a time.
   -Next, ask for a word or two that describes what they are most excited about and go around the circle again.

4. **With 30 seconds left, affirm how wonderful and challenging this site will be and how much you are looking forward to it**.

Be ready to rejoin the large group when the facilitator asks. If you have not reached all the goals set, wrap up anyway, for the good experience of all. Our Timing will improve as the week progresses.

All adult, young adult, and youth participants will come together for Sunday Mass at Memorial Chapel.

Sunday evening: we will have a Keynote Speaker

- **Monday - Friday a few things remain the same, and we ask that you please follow these patterns each day as it applies:**
    - **We begin everyday with Mass at 7 AM in the Ballroom - all are expected to attend**
        - *So as to enter fully into the Encounter experience (engage!), we do not purchase Starbucks or McDonald's, nor do we support our youth or young adults in doing so. Instead, we gratefully receive breakfast together after Mass- in Colony Ballroom!*
    - **Sites are 9AM- 3PM Monday - Thursday; 9AM - 12PM Friday**
        - There are several opportunities for discussions each day, facilitated in a variety of small groups: Lunch, Travel Time, Afternoon and Evening. Some discussions will be guided by Encounter – however, other times you will initiate and encourage impromptu discussions. There are tips for small group facilitation at the end of this document.
    - **When you arrive from sites back to the dorms AT 3:30, please remind everyone:**
        - Youth should check in with parish leaders
        - We all need to be at dinner at 5 PM sharp
        - Youth must be chaperoned while in transit to the dining hall (or anywhere except bed/bath).
    - **Free-time is 3:30 - 5 PM at the dorms Monday - Thursday**
        - Please PROTECT free time and resist the urge to use it for small group meetings; everyone deserves a break from the program – yourself included!
        - All adults cooperate at Free-time to monitor activities - see the info at end of doc
    - **Return to Stamp 6:30 – 6:45 PM for evening events Monday - Thursday**
        - Parish time can begin with dinner and continue anywhere before our evening programming. This time-frame may shift each day – be open to that possibility

- **Monday begins the first of several days that have the same rhythm and basic schedule.**

Monday is obviously the first day out on sites. Use lunch time and travel time to foster your small group dynamic. Alternatively, after you return to dorms, you might take a quick pulse of your group before releasing them to free time- especially if they have more to say!

Suggested Discussion Outcomes: Participants will acknowledge their feelings and reactions to the service and to the group. Participants will actively be a part of making improvements and suggestions. Participants will name how their experiences relate to the theme of the week and Catholic Social Teaching
Monday evening we will have our Keynote speaker

- **Tuesday continues the same rhythm and basic schedule.**

Tuesday should be a day to strengthen group dynamic and trust. Continue with small group discussions – maybe involve an active youth in leading prayer or topic of day.

Suggested Discussion Outcomes: Participants will continue to acknowledge their feelings and reactions to the service and to the group. Participants will actively be a part of making improvements and suggestions. Participants will name how their experiences relate to the theme of the week and Catholic Social Teaching

Tuesday evening we will have a Keynote speaker or alternate activity

- **Wednesday has a reputation for being difficult emotionally**

Be attentive and proactive here. Sleep, or lack thereof, nutrition and hydration are usually important factors in emotional moments/not feeling well. seek assistance from staff as needed and pay attention to serious issues. We are here to help.

Wednesday Evening Programming

We will offer the opportunity for reconciliation in the evening. We encourage the celebration of the sacrament, but it is **not** mandatory to go to confession. Participation in the events leading to and surrounding reconciliation are to be attended by all. Adoration will also be offered. Adults and staff work together to support emotional needs of all participants. Adults will be asked to help monitor activities during the reconciliation event.

- **Thursday is the last full day, a day of pulling things together and discovering how to live the experience.**

Small group time is for affirmation and challenge to change. It's a good time to plan for visits back to your site after Encounter ends

Suggested Discussion Outcomes: Participants will acknowledge each other participant in their site group. This is a time to share a word or two of appreciation by each participant about one person, and rotate turns. This should be done at lunch or just before free-time. If extra time allows, have participants suggest how they might plan to visit the site again or make a plan to bring their experience back to their parish/school with action plans to create opportunity for serving.

Thursday night is a wrap up of the vision and mission of the week. Partial clean up and pack up is recommended before going to bed.

- **Friday: * Some sites may not be active on Friday – alternative activities will be suggested and directed**

Sites will visit only in the morning – 9 AM – 11:30 AM – all groups will need to eat lunch and be back at Stamp by 12:30 PM. Morning time is to be productive and meaningful. If you cannot go to sites, be engaged in an activity that is reflective and purposeful. There will be time following afternoon programming to say goodbye and then return to dorms to check out and depart by 4pm.

Small group discussion will be with parish/school groups - and personal affirmations with parish will occur - directed by EGL facilitator.

Suggested Discussion Outcomes: Participants will acknowledge each other participant in their parish group. This is a time to share a word or two of appreciation by each participant about one person, and rotate turns. This is also a time to make a plan as a parish group to bring the experience of EGL back to the parish/school and continue the impact.

What To Pack

An overall rule to follow when packing for Encounter is to remember that it's 5 ***days***, not five weeks.

DORMS are air-conditioned

ESSENTIAL ITEMS – each participant MUST bring the following:

- sleeping bag or sheets/blankets
- sneakers **(ALL SITES REQUIRE CLOSED TOE/HEEL SHOES)**
- **APPROPRIATE CLOTHING*** see below
  - jeans/khaki's/capri's – many sites require this bring at least one pair
  - appropriate pajamas
  - appropriate bathing suit (no bikinis-occasionally a site may go to a pool)
  - t-shirts (Shoulders need to be covered. No low-cut or very tight shirts)
  - shorts (no short shorts please; men's shorts must sit at the waist, not below)
  - underwear/ socks
- Toiletries including: soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant (PLEASE!),
- medications **(you are responsible for your own meds, but must inform chaperones)**
- Water Bottle – to refill and use daily for personal water

SUGGESTED ITEMS

- sweatshirt (for cooler nights/AC in building)
- rain gear
- shower shoes
- flip flops (can be worn at UMD after sites and for shower)
- sunscreen
- hat
- pillow
- Personal fan for dorm (while AC available, airflow is different in each dorm room)
- money - $50-60 (Metro, snacks)

Please do not bring:

- Drugs, alcohol, smoking items of any kind, weapons (knives etc.)
- Anything of value that you would not want to lose (computers, Bluetooth speakers, etc)

*A note about appropriate/modest clothing: Encounter is not the time or experience to wear expensive summer clothes or clothes that are immodest or inappropriate for the setting. Encounter is an experience where you will work hard, most likely get dirty and sweaty during work sites, and will work with marginalized communities of people. Shorts that are too short (i.e. short jean shorts, short running shorts that are covered by oversized t-shirts), clothes that do not fit properly (i.e. shorts/pants or t-shirts that are too baggy and expose underwear or skin), or clothes that are too tight or too revealing are not appropriate for this setting. While there are clothes that may be appropriate for some settings (the pool, the beach, sports camps, summer concerts, nights out with friends, etc.), clothing at Encounter should reflect and respect the seriousness and hard work of this experience. If you are unsure or need more guidance on appropriate or modest clothing for Encounter, please reach out to your parish leader.

Rules of Encounter

We have always believed that by having **RESPECT for oneself, others and our environment,** a long list of rules was not necessary. Mutual understanding and evaluation of situations are often the guide for issues that arise. We have learned over time that transparency of expectations is both respectful and responsible to all involved.

- **SAFETY and BEHAVIOR**
  - **Parish Group leaders are responsible in full for the behavior of their youth, young adults, and adults at all times.** Parish leaders *respect* the rules of the program and foster the same from their participants.
  - **Alcohol, illegal substances, smoking, profanity, inappropriate sexual/social behavior, violent/aggressive behavior, potentially harmful pranks, :** Any activity that is deemed unsafe to oneself or to others may result in removal from the camp
  - **Nametags are worn at all times** (these will be issued on the first day). This contains permission release forms and medical information for each participant's safety.
  - **Youth are ALWAYS within visual contact of adult leader(s)** This is particularly important when walking across campus, or in town at sites
  - **Groups of 3 or more:** remain in groups of 3 or more especially when at site, walking to programming, eating in the diner
  - **Cell phones are a tool, and during Encounter we use them as such**. We encourage you to invite all participants to be *engaged* in the service, program, parish time, etc.
  - **Visitors:** We welcome family member or parish staff visitors to our opening Mass on Sunday, and to our Keynote address on Monday and Tuesday evenings ONLY. All visitors must check in with EGL staff upon arrival. Please advise all your participants that non-family member/parish staff visitors are not permitted to join events or activities at any time during the week of camp. This is a safety issue for our participants.

- **DORMITORY PROTOCOLS**
  - **Floors are gender specific, please remain on designated floors only.** Common rooms on the first floor may be used for parish group coed gatherings - PLEASE do not use upper floor common rooms - to respect the gender specific floors
  - **BATHROOMS:** each dorm floor will have designated bathrooms for YOUTH ONLY, and ADULT/YA ONLY. Please be mindful of the location of the assigned bathroom
  - **ROOMATES:** Rooms are designated by parish/school/ gender/age. PLEASE consult with staff director if room changes are necessary once camp begins
  - **LIGHTS OUT – 11 PM (for ALL participants – adults, young adults, and youth)** NOISE levels are an indicator of our respect for those around us, and therefore we strive to be reasonable so we can all be well rested
  - **Loss of KEYS result in $80+; Loss of Swipe/Meal card is $5+** - fees are set by UMD and subject to change. Please be careful with all keys and swipe cards
  - **FOOD in DORMS:** Snacks are encouraged to be brought and shared by groups from their home schools or parishes; EGL will also offer late evening snacks. Outside food deliveries to dorms or on campus is not permitted: safety in the dorms and solidarity with each other is to be respected.

Facilitation of Groups

Facilitation: As a facilitator, you will get people to share, talk, listen and be heard in a way that involves everyone. Facilitation is meant to lead others in a discussion, not a one sided lecture, or conversation between a limited few. Our youth and young adults can also help to guide group discussions. Good group dynamics will assist with good facilitation:

Take pulse of the group: This is a barometer. It's important to check in with everybody and "take the pulse" of the group. "Scale of 1-5" with a show of fingers; "Word or a Phrase" describes where you are at right now; "thumbs up/thumbs down/ in middle". Check-in regularly!

Environment: Minimize distractions. Cell phones are rarely needed during small group time. Arrange the group so everyone can sit in a circle at the same eye level.

Group Norms

1. Be on time for all large/small group sessions.
2. Participate in the group as fully as you are able.
3. Work toward the accomplishment of the group tasks.
4. Support maintaining confidentiality about what is shared in the group.
5. Be concerned with your own thoughts, feelings, attitudes and behaviors.
6. Listen to what others have to say. Accept the thought, feelings, attitudes, opinions and ideas of others as honestly being theirs. Avoid doubting what someone is saying before they explain their point.
8. Give some acknowledgement to the speaker that his/her message has been heard.
9. Remember we have two ears, and one mouth. Choose to listen first.
10. Always speak for yourself; never for someone else.
11. Speak in the present tense. Use "I think," or, "I feel."
12. When speaking of someone in the group, always speak directly to the person.
    say "John, if I heard you correctly, you said..."
13. Stay on the topic and avoid rambling.
14. Remind one another of these group norms.

Helpful Hints For Small Groups

Recognize who is struggling.

If the group is tired, try an Ice Breaker or physical expression of ideas such as a mini skit, rap, creative movement, etc.

If the group is restless and having a hard time settling down, try a Reflective Exercise [see below] or get them to do more physical expressions.

Ice Breakers: Ice breakers are a great way to get the conversation started. Be willing to go first to get the ball rolling!

- The 3 C's - Have everyone go around the circle and list their favorite Color, Cartoon, and Cereal. Get creative. You can do the whole alphabet this way!
- One time….! - Take turns going around the circle and share how you got a scar [or whatever]. Keep track of how many Big Wheel and Schwinn scars your group can come up with!
- Duck Duck Goose - An oldie but a goodie and sometimes the perfect game to boost or use up energy. (Make sure everyone in your group can and does participate fully.)

Reflective Exercises: Reflective exercises are a great way to get the group to focus. ie:

- Peace Moment: Have everyone close their eyes and ask them to think of a time during the day when they felt the most peace. Give them a minute or two to be still and think. Then ask to share and you might use the "Just a Word or a Phrase" format.
- Insta-Moments- Have everyone get comfortable and close their eyes. Ask the kids to think of the moments during the day or throughout the week that are Instagram-worthy. Invite them to share.

- Just a Word or a Phrase: When you need to get a discussion started, or end one that seems to be scattered, try this. Ask a question but only allow folks to answer with a word or short phrase. Go around the circle in order.
- You can also use the principles of Catholic Social Teaching as prompts for discussion – for example when and where did you see solidarity in action? Dignity of the human person/dignity of work?

PARISH GROUP TIME

Parish groups gather together at dinner, before evening programming and at the end of the evening program to walk back to the dorms.

Suggested guidelines for small group discussion at the end of the evening programming.

1. Find a creative way to get all in your group to name their current feelings and overall state.
   - You can ask them to describe how they are feeling using terms from a weather forecast.
   - You can invite them to strike a pose or make a face that describes their current state.

2. Here is a suggested mini-process for every day:
   - Turn to your partner and describe the day as if they were not there, as if you were explaining it to someone at home.
   - You each have only 20 seconds.

3. Clearly state that if anyone needs to talk about something that you will be available. Be prudent. Many difficult discussions could be better handled after a good night's sleep. Do be sure to follow up in the morning!

4. Briefly review the expected dorm behavior, wake up time, gathering time and place, then say, "good night".

5. Be sure this does not take more than the designated time (about 15 minutes) – or finish with enough time to allow all to get ready for bed time and lights out at 11 PM

Afternoon Free Time Informational Page

1. Sign-up here https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4eafab2ba5fa7-afternoon

At Encounter:

Check in with an EGL staff member who will assign you a job if you have not yet signed up for one, be it as a walker to and from Stamp Student Union, LaPlata Beach or other locations, as the adult supervisor or an activity such as Frisbee, soccer, track, or rosary. These are flexible roles, can be adjusted as needed during each free-time.

1. Respect for self and others: most of our students are between the ages of fifteen and eighteen. They still need to be within sight and sound of an adult at all times. We remind them of this daily and kindly.
2. Maintain healthy and safe habits: as participants are being brought back from site, they are checking in with their parish/group leader or adult. Please remind students returning to campus from their work site that they are to check in with these adults.
3. Walking on campus: YOUTH participants are REQUIRED to WALK IN GROUPS with an ADULT at all times. They cannot be without ADULT presence unless in the privacy of their rooms, or in the bathrooms. This is a rule ALL of our participants adhere to at all times!
4. YOUNG ADULTS, ages 18-20, may walk in pairs or more, but CANNOT walk other YOUTH without an ADULT present. ADULTS walk in pairs, and will be expected to assist with walking groups of youth between building/events. Youth should never be alone with any adult.
5. Responsibility and accountability: there are only a couple of hours of free time between drop off and dinner. Please make sure that you are aware of your surroundings and holding the youth participants accountable. Please don't hesitate to ask a student with the red Encounter lanyard which adult is with them. Sometimes youth are walking ahead of the group, or they could be walking unattended. If they are walking unattended please have them join your group and inform Ann. Youth must have their name tag/release form with them at all times. (No exceptions)

UMD Facilities

Dorms: Check in will be at the dormitories assigned by the University. Details to follow.

Memorial Chapel: Opening Mass at 4 PM on Sunday.

Stamp Union: Where we are meeting on opening day at 12:45 PM and meeting every morning and evening: Building is Adele H. Stamp Student Union.

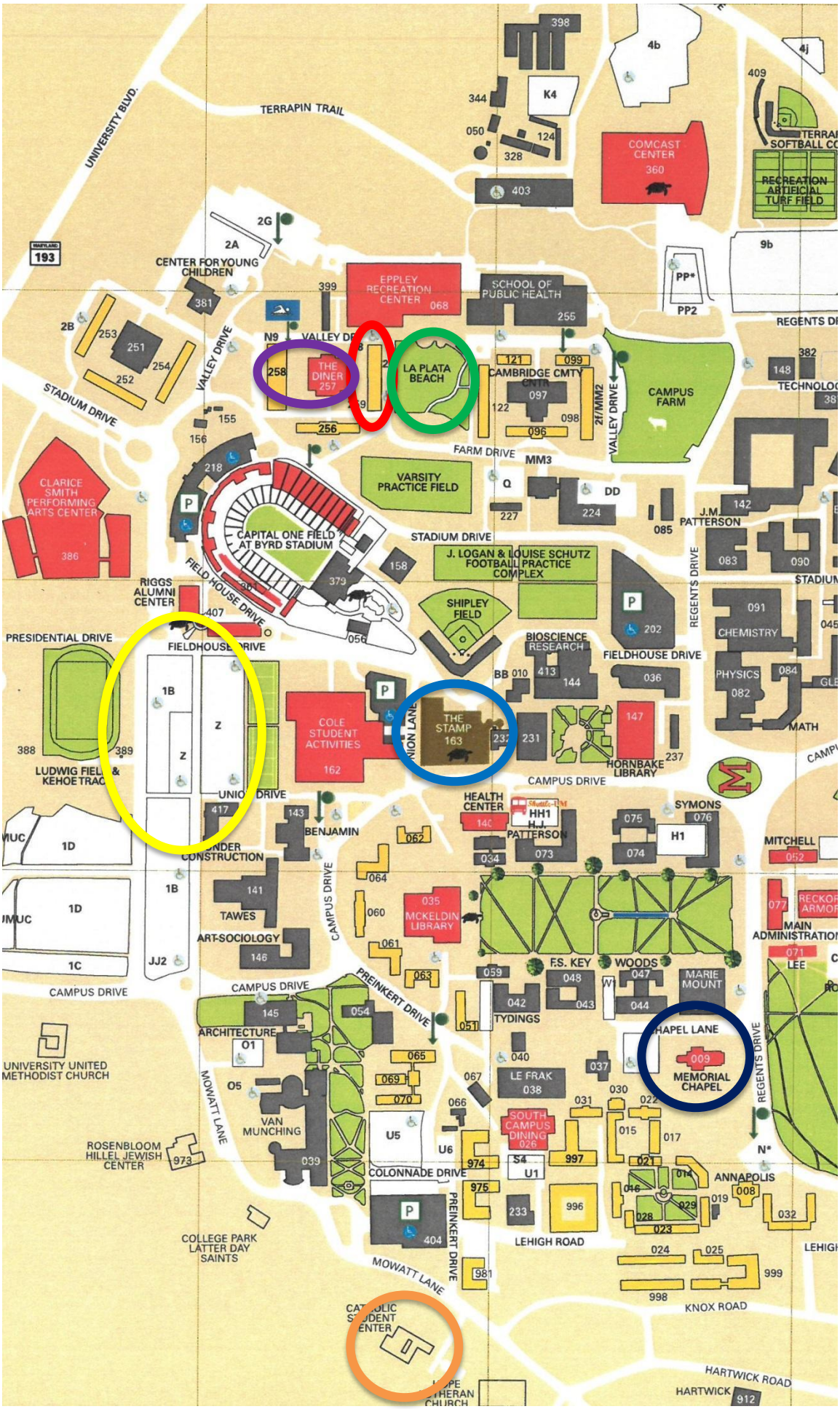
Catholic Student Center: This is where the Young Adult retreat is held on Saturday. On Mowatt Lane marked as Catholic Student Center (this is the Catholic chaplaincy for UMD)

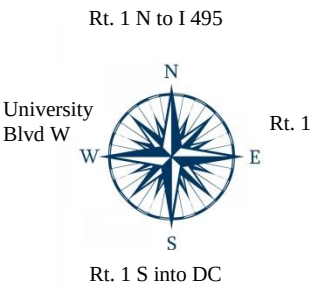
DINING HALL: We are eating in The Diner, adjacent to the dormitories.

PARKING: Lot 1 is available and free for permit holding cars all week. This is for full time – residential participants only. Please consult the interactive UMD map for more details on parking for visitors.

EMERGENCY/MEDICAL ASSISTANCE: UMD campus is a large college campus with security, medical, fire, and emergency personnel on duty 24/7. Urgent medical care is very close and takes medical insurance or individual payment as needed. Similar to an Emergency Room, they will triage a person, and can do certain medical intervention procedures as needed.

View the UMD Interactive Map maps.umd.edu)





Red Circle is Dormitory
Blue Circle is Stamp Union
Yellow Circle is Lot 1
Purple is Dining Hall
Green is La Plata Beach
Black Is Memorial Chapel
Orange is the Catholic Student Center (YA retreat)