

Greetings Saints!

I don't know about all of you, but, between an extremely long winter and schooling at home, I feel like my kids have become zombies. It has felt like Lent for a whole year. There is hope though, Spring is here, Easter is at the end of this week and thank the Lord that Camp Veritas is on the horizon.

We are all familiar with the phrase: where God shuts a door, he opens a window. The past few weeks have shown me just how true that can be. Due to COVID concerns, unfortunately, Mount Saint Mary's in Newburgh is cancelling all Summer events, including our week of Camp from July 18th – 24th (this includes cancellation of our Dance and Basketball camps). We have a very good relationship with MSMC and hope to continue that relationship in the future. But what about this Summer?

After having recovered from my initial heart attack and a lot of time in prayer, God has poured grace on our need as usual. The open window is **Lake Champion**: a beautiful, resort-quality, Christian-run camp in the Catskills. I went to see the place myself and the facilities are truly top-notch, it can easily handle 600+ participants and has everything we would want for Camp Veritas and more! (Please [click here](#) to see what this facility offers)

However, they can only offer it to us in the 3rd week of August, the same week as Lakota. So, we will run two camps almost simultaneously. What a blessing in disguise in these Covid times, as it will allow us to more easily meet state standards. **We will start Lake Champion on Sat Aug 14th and end Thursday Aug 19th while Lakota will remain the same: Sun Aug 15th to Sat Aug 21st.** Over the past few years, we have been making efforts to customize talks and worship to be better in line with age and life experiences. We now have a unique and personalized opportunity to offer two entire camps honed to those specific needs. Therefore, we will be splitting the two camps by age, **Lakota will host our 7th - 9th graders and Lake Champion will host our 10th - 12th graders!**

We hope that all our MSMC campers will choose to join us in August. The youth have never needed formation in our Truth more than now. It doesn't matter where or when. Where there is the Eucharist, there is our Lord. Also know, if those dates don't work for your family, both **MD and FL are ready for Camp this Summer and still accepting enrollments!**

Action Items:

1. All current enrollees of MSMC must fill out this form to indicate what they would like to do with their enrollment: <https://forms.gle/CkLN9kriu7XE17r77>
2. All current Lakota enrollees must acknowledge that if they are in 10th - 12th grade they will be transferred automatically to Lake Champion with this form: Acknowledgement Form: <https://forms.gle/poVKJZ94PJ9iPp4J6>
3. If your child is in 10th grade and has a roommate request who is in 9th grade, they can request to stay enrolled at Lakota. Please email admin2@campveritas.com.
4. All Volunteers: Since we will be running two camps simultaneously, we will need all the help we can get! If you signed up for MSMC, please consider volunteering in August! If you are willing to switch, please email Catherine Schembry: volunteer@campveritas.com (you can also expect a follow-up communication from us). And parents, if you haven't noticed, the world is burning around us. We have never needed you to get involved more urgently. If you can, join us. Regardless, please spread the word!

5. We are going to have decreased capacities at both sites in order to socially distance properly. Therefore, we strongly suggest you sign up now, as we expect to sell out within the next month.

COVID-19 Policies 2021

1. We will be requiring all campers to arrive with a negative covid test no older than a week (or proof of active anti-bodies from vaccination or having had Covid within 3 months). This will be handed in at registration following a health screening.
2. We will be following State guidelines at each Camp, including but not limited to, doing as much as possible outside, encouraging healthy distancing and regular sanitization, and having our nursing staff regularly screen staff and campers for symptoms.

APRIL 10th: Retreat Day (Family Day): It is not too late to sign up! Fearless Retreats is partnering with the Archdiocese to host a retreat day at Graymoor Retreat Center. We are excited to have Fr. Joseph Espailat coming to preach along with CFR Brothers and Sisters! While the talks and activities will be geared towards 7th -12th graders, the whole family is invited. Our Family Day last Summer was a huge success. We understand concerns are still present surrounding Covid. We are therefore planning the entire event to be held outside on the beautiful grounds of Graymoor. Pre-registration is required, [sign-up here](#).

God is working, sometimes in mysterious ways, but He is at work in all of this! Know that I pray for all of you. Have a blessed Holy Week.

Your Brother in Christ,

Ryan Young