



# OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

## DIOCESE OF HOUMA-THIBODAUX

December 19, 2019

Dear Administrators,

My name is Amanda Garcia, and I am a Program Specialist for the Office of Vocations and Seminarians for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. I am writing to inform you that some of your students will be participating in this year's trip to Washington, D.C. I would appreciate if you could review the following information and consider allowing these absences to be "excused absences." There will be 4 missed school days for this year. Our travel dates are January 20-25.

This educational experience/study tour is designed to help students learn:

- A sense of patriotism and civic duty as Americans
- How citizens can become involved in shaping and influencing laws and policies
- The workings of our government and the historical roots of our founding documents
- An awareness of the sacrifices made by many to permit the benefits we enjoy as Americans
- The historical development of the Holocaust and the role ordinary citizens played in allowing it

To meet these goals, our trip will include the following experiences:

- A Wreath Laying Ceremony and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery
- The Smithsonian Holocaust Museum
- The Smithsonian African American Museum of History and Culture
- The Smithsonian Museum of Natural History
- The Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean, Washington, and MLK Memorials

**GOOD GRADES / GOOD STANDING POLICY:** All trip participants must be in good academic and disciplinary standing with their school administration. We do understand that school is often a challenge for some students. If a child has registered to attend this trip and he/she is in danger of failing a class, we hope that his/her school can consider the benefits of the child's participation in this educational experience and we hope this will outweigh the challenges of missing 4 days of school. Sometimes, the students who struggle the most in school are the ones who recognize the most positive educational opportunities. It may be just what he or she needs. Nevertheless, this difficult decision rests with the school administration.

Thank you again for your involvement in our common educational mission, and please do not hesitate to call me at 985-850-3129 or email me at [agarcia@htdiocese.org](mailto:agarcia@htdiocese.org).

In the Peace of Christ,

Program Specialist

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