Serving twenty-three counties in Southwest Iowa

January 11th, 2019

Dear Youth Ministers, Catechetical Leaders, and Pastors,

I am happy to pass along to you information regarding the 2019 National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), happening once again this fall in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The National Catholic Youth Conference is an exciting, biennial three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers and their adult chaperones. Teens and their group leaders enjoy encounters with our Lord through His Sacraments, charismatic speakers, informative workshops, excellent live music, rousing large sessions, and a beautiful closing liturgy with tens of thousands of their peers in Lucas Oil Stadium. All of this serves to remind the teens that they are not alone in choosing every day to follow Jesus Christ.

NCYC serves as a powerful experience of solidarity and emboldening in the lives of the thousands who attend. While there is no substitute for the personal mentoring in discipleship you provide throughout the rest of the year, seeing the nation-wide Church in action is something you'll be able to continue unpacking with them for months, if not years, to come. There is nothing in the life of a teen quite like a packed football stadium of passionate young Catholics from across the U.S. to bring to life the reality that being Catholic is part of something much larger than your local community.

Now is the time to start planning your group's trip for November 2019. In the months ahead, we will update you with more information regarding fundraising opportunities, t-shirts, trading items, scholarship opportunities, and more. For now, please look through and utilize the enclosed materials for your planning purposes. Please keep in mind that I would love to come and visit with your teens and their parents about NCYC. Please contact me at <a href="mailto:jwhite@dmdiocese.org">jwhite@dmdiocese.org</a> and we can set a time for a personal visit.

In Christ,

Justin White

Diocesan Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry